

Law Enforcement Advisory Board
DPS Headquarters, 3rd Floor Large Conference Room, Waterbury VT
Minutes of Meeting
September 8, 2017

- Commissioner Thomas Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm with the following present: Gwynn Zakov, Vermont League of Cities & Towns; Sheriff Bill Bohnyak, Vermont Sheriffs' Association; John Treadwell, Attorney General's Office; Rick Gauthier, Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council; Colonel Matt Birmingham, Vermont State Police; Captain James Whitcomb, Vermont State Police; and Suellen Royea, DPS/CJS present and phone participants: Jennifer Morrison, Colchester Police Department. George Scribner, Fish and Wildlife and Jake Elovirta, Department of Motor Vehicles joined the meeting shortly after it was called to order.
- **Roundtable Discussion of LEAB Goals and Mission:** The history and work of the Board was reviewed. It was thought that this Board could review issues that affect law enforcement statewide. There was a brief review of the members. It was noted that there is a Legislature bill coming up this session to add representatives from the Department of Motor Vehicles and Fish and Wildlife as members. The consensus was there was a benefit to continue this Board.
- **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair:** After seeking volunteers, Rick Gauthier volunteered to be chair and Bill Bohnyak volunteered to be vice-chair.
- **2017 Priorities:** Some issues suggested to review included:
 - **License Plate Readers:** Some issues with the current legislation included the limited use of LPRs, the retention of the data, and the reporting requirements. It was noted that the license plate readers are a good investigative tool. The difference in mobile and fixed sites was discussed. A suggestion was made to lay the ground work for fixed sites and have someone monitoring the activity.
 - **Regionalization of Services:** It was reported that Senator Jeanette White is hosting some meetings around the state in September. Rick reviewed some of the issues and recommendations for agencies. The proposed meeting schedule and sites was reviewed. It was thought representatives should attend the meetings.
 - **Dispatching:** It was shared that there are efforts underway in Chittenden County to create a regional dispatch center. The current plan is to start with Colchester and South Burlington and then add towns as they are ready. Some concerns about regional dispatching expressed included that agencies are already receiving services from Vermont State Police, why should they pay for services, etc. Public Safety is reviewing whether to continue what we are doing now, start charging towns, or stop dispatching. It was thought it would be helpful to know what the towns feel/want.
 - **Seatbelts:** A question was asked if it was time to push for seatbelt use as a primary cause for being stopped. It was thought that the increase in deaths on Vermont roadways may be a topic in the Legislature. The purpose is to save lives. One argument noted was "If I don't wear my seatbelt, I hurt someone else." It was thought this was an opportunity for law enforcement to speak as one voice.
 - **Gender Identification:** Another suggested topic was allowing X as a gender. Chief Morrison noted she has done some research and thought law enforcement could show a united front. It was noted that the Department of Motor Vehicle would like some

input from law enforcement on this as they are getting ready to update their system. Chief Morrison was asked to present this topic at the next meeting.

- **Next Meeting:** The consensus was to meet in about a month to get in as many meetings as possible.
- **Facial Recognition:** Jake Elovirta reviewed a recent situation regarding a driver's license request. They are looking to improve their process when issuing licenses using facial recognition; however, there are some issues. It was thought there was a problem with the statute and this would be a hot topic in Legislature.
- **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 2:16 pm.