

# Attorney General's Advisory Group on Law Enforcement Training 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting (12-18-2014)

The meeting ran from about 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The meeting began with an address from Attorney General Mike Dewine in which he welcomed us, introduced the Chairperson (Dr. Reggie Wilkinson), gave an overview of the *Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission* (which is responsible for recommending rules to the attorney general with respect to peace officer training), and the job of the assembled group: to report back to the attorney general and the commission with recommendations for training.

The term "peace officer" means a deputy sheriff, marshal, member of a township police or municipal corporation, member of a township police district or joint police force, member of a police force employed by a metropolitan housing authority, and whose primary duties are to preserve the peace, to protect life and property, and to enforce the laws of this state, ordinances of a municipal corporation, resolutions of a township trustee, or any of those laws, ordinances, resolution, or regulations.

There are 34,000 peace officers in the state of Ohio.

Mr. Dewine suggested some questions that we might entertain, which included:

Is the current training for Ohio peace officers appropriate and adequate? Are the requirements to become a peace officer the right ones?

Currently the Ohio Revised Code says that in order to be a peace officer, an individual must complete a basic training program and not have a felony conviction. Are these statutory requirements to become a police officer sufficient?

Additionally, are 605 hours of basic training that the Commission requires enough to become a qualified officer in this state? Should there be more? Should they be different?

Are peace officer candidates getting enough hands-on, in-the-field training? Are students being tested for the right set of skills?

Are the 66 police academies across Ohio doing a good enough job training officers? How do we know? Is there consistency in training among the academies? Are the academies demonstrating fidelity to the curriculum the Commission has set for basic training?

Once basic training is completed, is the current exam process the best way to measure competencies and preparedness to be an officer? The final written test requires only 70 percent to pass. Is a 70 percent good enough? And, are officers who become certified actually putting into practice the skills and techniques they learned in their basic training?

Is enough of the basic curriculum directly applicable to training in use-of-force, as well as training in interpersonal relations, diversity, and gender and racial bias?

Do officers receive enough of the appropriate training in the use of force and active shooter situations? Does the current basic training adequately prepare an officer with the tools necessary to define when an "active shooter" situation exists?

Is there enough training for critical decision-making under stress? Can more be done to train law enforcement personnel in making split-second, life-or-death decisions?

Is every peace officer in Ohio receiving enough continuing education and advanced training?

Are officers getting appropriate training in the basic curriculum to deal with these kinds of situations? Is there enough appropriate advanced training, as well?

Are the right questions being asked when local police agencies hire newly certified peace officers? How well and how much are local agencies doing to recruit women and minorities?

Mr. Dewine stated that this process is a conversation and that affirmed one of my present callings and mottoes: "I no longer wish to be the hero of anyone's organization, but I prefer to be a host of conversations." I feel led by the Spirit to participate in this important conversation about peace officer training, especially in the light of the recent national outcry over police brutality with the African American community.

We spent the majority of our time listening to two presentations that were designed to help us understand the current system of training that's in place. We listened to a great deal of information.

Future meetings were set for January 8<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup>.