Executive Order 2015-04K

Establishing the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board

WHEREAS, trust between the citizens of Ohio and the law enforcement officers who serve us is essential for building safe communities and creating and sustaining opportunities for all Ohioans; and

WHEREAS, through Executive Order 2014-06K, I created the Ohio Task Force on Community-Police Relations ("Task Force") to explore how to strengthen the fractured relationships that exist between law enforcement and some communities and to examine strategies to strengthen trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force held a series of public forums throughout the State to listen to community and law enforcement perspectives on community-law enforcement interaction; and

WHEREAS, in those public forums, the Task Force heard from hundreds of members of the general public and nationally renowned experts about the challenges that currently exist in rebuilding trust between law enforcement and the public in some communities; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has produced a report that includes recommendations on how to improve relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve, as well as research, supporting documentation and, most importantly, the perspectives of the citizens of Ohio, Task Force members, experts, and others who provided testimony and information to the Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations, testimony, supporting documentation, and best practices outlined in the report serve as a blueprint for further action; and

WHEREAS, continuing to bring together citizens, communities and law enforcement departments to strengthen their relationships in a collaborative way will allow the work and the recommendations of the Task Force to be carried forward;

NOW THEREFORE, I, John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Ohio do hereby order and direct that:
1. The Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board ("the Collaborative") is hereby established. The Collaborative will consist of twelve (12) persons appointed by me, plus additional ex officio members as I may designate, and will include both law enforcement officers and public members. I will appoint a Chairperson from among the twelve members. Members of the Collaborative will serve three- (3-) year terms, though the initial terms will be staggered so that no more than four (4) members’ terms will end every year.

2. The purpose of the Collaborative is to advise and work with the Office of Criminal Justice Services ("OCJS") in the Ohio Department of Public Safety on implementing the Task Force’s recommendations and creating, for the first time in Ohio’s history:

   a. Statewide minimum standards for state and local law enforcement departments to follow in certain vitally important areas including, but not limited to, (i) the proper use of force, including deadly force, and (ii) the recruiting, hiring and screening of potential law enforcement officer candidates; and

   b. Model departmental policies and best practices recommendations which state and local law enforcement departments and local communities will be encouraged to adopt and then adapt to their particular communities’ needs. The model policies and best practice recommendations will address several areas including, but not limited to: (i) methods for law enforcement to involve the local community in helping officers to address safety issues in the community; (ii) educating the local community on the challenges that law enforcement officers face on a daily basis and how officers are trained to deal with those challenges; (iii) opening effective lines of communication between law enforcement officers and local citizens, particularly as it pertains to encounters between officers and citizens; and (iv) strategies for how both law enforcement and the communities the officers serve can hold each other accountable for the other’s actions.

3. Once all of the members of the Collaborative have been appointed, OCJS and the Collaborative shall immediately begin jointly developing the two statewide minimum standards referred to in paragraph 2a. above. No later than ninety (90) days after the members of the Collaborative have been appointed, the Collaborative and OCJS shall finalize the two standards referred to in paragraph 2a. above and OCJS will disseminate those two standards to all state and local law enforcement departments in Ohio.

4. Additionally, the Collaborative and OCJS shall develop the model departmental policies and best practices referred to in paragraph 2b. above. The Collaborative and OCJS shall set a deadline by which the model departmental policies and best practices will be finalized and disseminated to all state and local law enforcement departments in Ohio. In setting that deadline, the Collaborative and OCJS shall take into consideration the date of the annual report set forth in paragraph 5 below and allow state and local law enforcement departments and the communities they serve sufficient time to review and consider the adoption of those model departmental policies and best practices prior to the issuance of the first annual report.
5. The Collaborative, with the assistance of OCJS, shall monitor and evaluate all state and local law enforcement departments’ adoption and implementation of the two statewide minimum standards referred to in paragraph 2a. No later than March 31, 2017, and annually thereafter, OCJS shall publish a report listing which state and local law enforcement departments have and have not adopted and fully implemented those two statewide minimum standards. OCJS shall also note in its report which departments have also adopted one or more of the model departmental policies and best practices developed by the Collaborative and OCJS.

6. The Collaborative may also:

   a. Recommend to OCJS additional statewide minimum standards for law enforcement departments in Ohio beyond the two standards specified in paragraph 2a. above.

   b. Recommend to OCJS additional model departmental policies and best practices for law enforcement departments in Ohio beyond those specified in paragraph 2b. above.

   c. Evaluate the effectiveness of any statewide minimum standards and/or model departmental policies and best practices developed by the Collaborative and OCJS and, if necessary, recommend modifications to the same.

   d. Recommend to OCJS any other measure the Collaborative believes is necessary to implement the Task Force’s recommendations.

Any such new or modified statewide minimum standards and/or model departmental policies and best practices which the Collaborative and OCJS develop shall be disseminated by OCJS to all state and local law enforcement departments in Ohio. All annual reports published by OCJS in 2018 and thereafter shall include each law enforcement department’s compliance or noncompliance with any such new or modified statewide minimum standards.

7. The Collaborative and OCJS, in their discretion, may develop measures to encourage state and local law enforcement departments to adopt and implement any statewide minimum standards developed by the Collaborative and OCJS.

8. Any and all staff support and resources necessary for the Collaborative to fulfill its obligations as outlined in this Executive Order shall be provided by the State of Ohio through OCJS. The Chairperson and members of the Collaborative shall serve without compensation for their work on the Collaborative, but may be reimbursed for their reasonable and necessary expenses in the conduct of Collaborative business.
I signed this Executive Order on April 29, 2015, in Columbus, Ohio, and it will not expire unless rescinded.

[Seal of the State of Ohio]

John R. Kasich, Governor

ATTEST:

Jon Husted, Secretary of State

Filed on April 30, 2015
Per Kelly Huntman
In the Office of the Secretary of State at Columbus, OH
JON HUSTED
Secretary of State