

LAW ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

September 17, 2019 – 1:00 pm

PRESENT: Jim Mork, Fridley Police Department
Charlie Adams, Minneapolis Police Department
Andy Thelen, State Patrol
Jeff Swiatkewicz, Plymouth Police Department
Pete Underthun, Crystal Police Department
Justin Malone, Airport Police Department
Scott Crocker, New Hope Police Department
Ambrose Russell, The Inner Hero
Mark Holden, Hennepin Technical College
Tom Draper, Hennepin Technical College
Anna Haider, Hennepin Technical College

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 28, 2020; 1:00 pm

Jeff Swiatkewicz called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

UPDATE ON THE NEW SEMESTER

There are 3 Theory cohorts (Morning, Afternoon, Evening), and 2 Skills cohorts (Morning and Evening) for Fall Semester 2019. Summer Session was busy with 2 Metro State cohorts (Day and Evening), 1 HTC cohort (Day), and MPD Cadets finished their program.

NEW QUALIFICATION TARGET

Tom Draper met with firearms instructors. A new qualification target is being used this semester, and students must score 80% to qualify. The hit zone is more visible. The students shoot at an index card, 8x11 paper (both horizontal and vertical), and 25 1-inch circles prior to shooting the target.

FIREARM RETAKES

Fifteen students are retaking Firearms: 3 Metro State; 1 MPD; and the rest are HTC students. Students have opportunities to qualify on Day 9, 11, and 13. Students who do not pass Firearms have a limit of three times to retake the class.

BASIC FIREARMS CLASS

HTC Customized Training is offering a Basic Firearms class to first semester students who do not have experience handling guns as a way to prepare them for Skills. The class consists of five 4-hour sessions. A summer class was canceled due to no enrollment. An afternoon session will be offered in October, and an evening session in November.

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MILO/VirTra SYSTEM

The Law Enforcement program's MILO system is 10 years old. A portable simulator is being considered so it could be moved to other rooms and the range. MILO costs \$14,000 plus \$1200-\$1400 yearly maintenance fee. The VirTra system costs \$30,000 with \$10,000 off for trade, plus \$3,000 yearly maintenance fee. The North Metro Range is going with VirTra. Pete Underthun said VirTra better because of hardware and software updates. He suggested contacting Columbia Height PD regarding their portable system. Jeff Swiatkewicz has looked at various systems, and recommends VirTra. VirTra has real actors, and periodically updates scenarios. The qualifications course could be run through the simulator.

NEW TRAINING SQUAD NEEDED

Is there a squad available for the Law Enforcement Program to use as a training squad? Tom Draper reported that metal targets and ammunition are on List Serve as a way to pay for a squad.

NEW CUSTOMIZED TRAINING REPRESENTATIVE

Tom Engels was introduced as the new Customized Training Representative – Law Enforcement. Tom has 28 years of service at Maple Grove PD, and 32 years in law enforcement. Tom did an assessment of the LECJEC, and is readjusting facility fees so there is more consistency and the fees are more in line with competitors. Annandale PD's Customized Training has an online schedule, and it was suggested to check out their website and perhaps do the same.

ROWING PERCENTAGE HAS BEEN MOVED UP TO 60%

Early assessment of the current students indicate a couple students need to practice more to meet the standards. Andy Thelen reported that entry level State Patrol candidates must pass the physical readiness test on the Concept2 Rower at the 60 percentile, and staff officers must meet at the higher rate of 80 percentile.

NEW SEXUAL ASSAULT OBJECTIVES

A copy of the Current Learning Objectives Related to Sexual Assault Response and Investigation, and a draft of the New PPOE Objectives Related to Sexual Assault were distributed. HTC is looking to add the new Sexual Assault objectives into the classes starting in Spring or Fall of 2020. Any changes to curriculum must be brought in front of AASC to be approved. Mark Holden will check if it is a requirement as the majority of the objectives are currently being covered in a first-semester theory lecture. In addition, second semester students receive a "refresher" and write a domestic report and a CSC report.

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OPEN HOUSE AND SUMMIT

Hennepin Technical College along with a consortium of 5 schools (Century College, Inver Hills Community College, Minneapolis College, Normandale Community College, and North Hennepin Community College) received a grant from MinnState to hold a summit to increase interest in law enforcement as a career. Ambrose Russell, Founder and Chairman of The Inner Hero, spoke about the necessity to bring community, community leaders and police together for dialog and the opportunity to strengthen relationships. Mr. Russell expressed that these events need to occur more than one time. This led to more discussions about the need to educate communities about HTC's Law Enforcement Program and what is done in "Skills," marketing, and recruiting diverse populations. Hennepin Technical College will hold an open house.

SCHOOL VISITS

Tom Draper visited Mankato State University recently. Upcoming visits include Hamline University, Concordia University, St. Thomas University, other 4-year colleges, and the consortium colleges.

UPDATE ON METRO STATE & ST. PAUL PD

St. Paul is in discussion with Metropolitan State University about providing their own Skills Program for their new cadets/officers. The program would use St. Paul PD officers as the instructors. St. Paul believes that by running their own Skills program, this would save time, possibly eliminating 6 months of training.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Nobody knows what "Skills" is. Do we need a different term?

Police need to do things for more community partnership.

Ramsey County's week-long Women's Academy

Hennepin County's 1-day academy

Open up lectures geared to officers, so students could listen to speaker for free.

Formalized training, so students know what to expect about the profession (shootings, stress, relationships, etc.)