



# FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OF OHIO, INC.

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June 14, 2010

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**Mr. Peter Tobin**  
**Superintendent**  
**Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigations**  
**1560 State Route 56 SW**  
**London, Ohio 43140**

Dear Chairman Tobin:

I received a copy of the letter that had been submitted by Senator Buehrer regarding the recent direction of the Ohio State Highway Patrol Mission Review Task Force. Due to a previous commitment, I knew I would be late in arriving to the last meeting so I had Jason Pappas attend on my behalf. It was my understanding that no voting would take place until at least the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. I was surprised when I was notified that the committee was voting to remove items from the list of recommendations to be considered. It is my hope that discussions on many of these items will continue and that the full committee will have the opportunity to put forth the recommendations that have been discussed during the last several months.

When this committee was established, its directive was to "review the operations and functions of the State Highway Patrol to explore opportunities to improve operational efficiency, identify overlapping services and consolidate current operations". It was NOT charged with establishing a funding source for the OSHP. In fact, a separate task force (State Highway Patrol Funding Task Force) was established in 2008, comprised of members with the background and financial expertise to make such recommendations. They specifically reviewed the history and cash analysis of the highway safety fund, the gas tax, the biennium budget, the transportation budget and fee based funding sources. After a careful analysis, the funding task force issued a recommendation (see attached information).

This mission review task force has not received such detailed financial information and should not make such a specific funding recommendation as either of the two that are currently placed before us. The FOP firmly believes that all legislative bodies should place public safety funding as one of their highest priorities. However, since this committee was not charged with the funding mandate and since this committee certainly has not been provided the detailed financial analysis that was provided to the funding task force, I believe our recommendation to the legislature should not focus on a specific funding source for the OSHP.

I believe we should provide the legislature a recommendation that states "*The General Assembly should regularly review the current funding for the OSHP and*

***should take measures, including increased fee based options or alternative funding sources to maintain an adequate funding of the Highway safety fund and the services provided by the OSHP.”***

Another recommendation that was removed from consideration during the voting at the last meeting pertained to LEADS. If LEADS was consolidated within Public Safety or the Attorney General’s Office, it was estimated to save over \$4 million. Earlier this year a detailed analysis of the information technologies within the ODPS, including LEADS, was conducted. Just a few months ago, SEARCH (the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics) issued its report. The report was titled, “Information Technology Assessment: Making More Efficient Use of IT Resources”. (See attached report.)

Efficiency is one of this committee’s primary mandates. I would suggest that this committee review this report and incorporate the appropriate recommendations from SEARCH as a recommendation for implementation by the legislature. SEARCH is purported to be experts at analyzing justice information systems and I believe their recommendations should be given great weight.

Also, two of the recommendations under operational efficiency include the Colonel working to establish better communications between OSHP and local law enforcement as well as developing a questionnaire for all 88 counties to improve the sheriffs’ working relationships with OSHP. Having a background from a local law enforcement agency, I wanted to identify that relationships with the post commanders is an intricate part that makes these collaborative law enforcement efforts successful. I certainly believe that these post commanders should be a part of, or maybe even included in, the compiling of these questionnaires.

I look forward to the June 16 meeting where we can consider these attached reports/studies and continue our mission.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Drum  
Treasurer/Legislative Chairman  
Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio