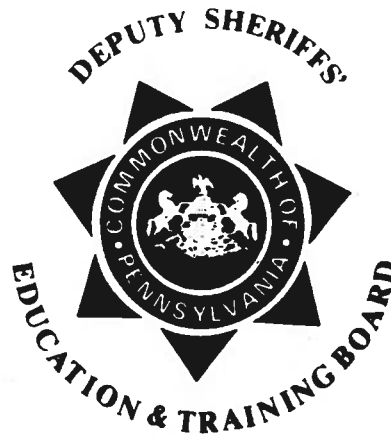


# PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

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## HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARING REVIEW OF THE DEPUTY SHERIFFS' EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD SEPTEMBER 10, 1991

### TESTIMONY OF ROBERT MICHEL, BOARD CHAIRMAN

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, MY NAME IS ROBERT MICHEL. I AM THE SHERIFF OF ERIE COUNTY AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DEPUTY SHERIFFS' EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD. WITH ME TODAY ARE JAMES THOMAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY, AND STEVE SPANGENBERG, OUR PROGRAM MANAGER FOR DEPUTY SHERIFFS' TRAINING. WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM YOU OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD. I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN WITH AN OVERVIEW OF THE BOARD'S STRUCTURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES. MR. THOMAS WILL THEN PROVIDE FURTHER DETAIL CONCERNING THE TRAINING PROGRAMS OF THE BOARD AND SEVERAL ISSUES WHICH ARE CURRENTLY BEFORE THE HOUSE.

THE DEPUTY SHERIFFS' EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD WAS APPOINTED IN AUGUST 1984 SUBSEQUENT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ACT 1984-2, THE DEPUTY SHERIFFS' EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACT. THE NINE MEMBER BOARD IS COMPOSED OF TWO COMMON PLEAS COURT JUDGES, TWO SHERIFFS, THREE DEPUTY SHERIFFS, ONE EDUCATOR, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. ACT 1984-2 DIRECTED THE BOARD TO

ESTABLISH, IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER A PROGRAM OF BASIC TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION, AND A PROGRAM OF CONTINUING EDUCATION TRAINING, FOR DEPUTY SHERIFFS. IN CARRYING OUT THIS MANDATE, THE BOARD OPERATES WITH THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY WHICH PROVIDES ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF SUPPORT TO THE BOARD.

BASIC TRAINING IS MANDATED FOR ALL NEWLY HIRED DEPUTY SHERIFFS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH'S 67 SHERIFFS' DEPARTMENTS. IN ADDITION, THE ACT ESTABLISHES THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF BASIC TRAINING AS A REQUIREMENT FOR A DEPUTY'S CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT. BASIC TRAINING CONSISTS OF 160 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION WHICH IS ACCOMPLISHED DURING A FOUR-WEEK COURSE. BASIC TRAINING COURSE CONTENT IS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD. DEPUTIES WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE BASIC TRAINING ARE CERTIFIED BY THE BOARD THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE WHICH ASSIGNS A CERTIFICATION NUMBER TO EACH DEPUTY.

THE TRAINING ACT GIVES THE BOARD THE DISCRETION TO WAIVE BASIC TRAINING ON THE BASIS OF A DEPUTY SHERIFF'S PRIOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, OR EXPERIENCE. BECAUSE OF THE UNIQUE NATURE OF A DEPUTY SHERIFF'S DUTIES, WHICH ARE NOT COVERED IN ANY OTHER TRAINING PROGRAM, THE BOARD REQUIRES THAT DEPUTIES GRANTED A WAIVER ATTEND A ONE-WEEK COURSE OF TRAINING WHICH IS BASED UPON BASIC TRAINING CONTENT.

IN ADDITION TO THE BASIC TRAINING, ALL DEPUTIES ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE BOARD'S CONTINUING EDUCATION TRAINING EVERY TWO YEARS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THEIR CERTIFICATION. THIS TRAINING CONSISTS OF 16 TO 20 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION WITH CONTENT DETERMINED BY THE BOARD.

THE BOARD AND ITS ACTIVITIES ARE EXCLUSIVELY SUPPORTED BY A \$2.00 SURCHARGE COLLECTED BY EACH SHERIFF ON ANY FEE FOR THE SERVICE OF COMPLAINTS, SUMMONS, WRITS OR OTHER LEGAL PAPERS. THE SURCHARGE COLLECTIONS ARE MAINTAINED IN A RESTRICTED RECEIPTS ACCOUNT BY THE OFFICE OF STATE TREASURER. AS AN INCENTIVE TO TRAINING, THE ACT PROVIDES TOTAL FUNDING OF EACH DEPUTY'S TUITION, AND LIVING AND TRAVEL EXPENSES. EACH COUNTY IS ALSO REIMBURSED 50% OF A DEPUTY'S SALARY WHILE IN TRAINING. THE COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DISBURSEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF TRAINING DELIVERY AND ADMINISTRATION, THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD, AND REIMBURSEMENTS TO COUNTIES.

THIS OVERVIEW OF THE DEPUTY SHERIFFS' EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD CONCLUDES MY TESTIMONY. JAMES THOMAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY, WILL NOW PROVIDE A MORE DETAILED VIEW OF THE BOARD'S TRAINING. WE WILL THEN BE HAPPY TO RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS.