

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

**OF**

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PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE**

**SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD OF THE  
HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

**OCTOBER 13, 2000**

**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE**  
**TESTIMONY ON POLICE TRAINING**

GOOD MORNING. I AM MAJOR RICHARD C. MOONEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS' EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION IS THE STATE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTING TRAINING STANDARDS FOR MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS IN THE COMMONWEALTH. ON BEHALF OF THE MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS' EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMISSION, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK CHAIRMAN GANNON FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY TODAY REGARDING TRAINING STANDARDS FOR MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS.

THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 22,000 MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS IN 1,215 MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS. I WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH AN OVERVIEW OF TRAINING STANDARDS FOR MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS AND THEN ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS HIRED BY MUNICIPALITIES IN PENNSYLVANIA MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM STANDARDS PRIOR TO ENFORCING THE CRIMES CODE, MOVING VIOLATIONS OF THE VEHICLE CODE OR BEING AUTHORIZED TO CARRY A FIREARM:

- (1) BE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER
- (2) POSSESS A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GED EQUIVALENCY

- (3) BE A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES
- (4) BE FREE FROM CONVICTIONS OF DISQUALIFYING CRIMINAL OFFENSES (MISDEMEANOR 1, 2 AND ALL FELONIES)
- (5) BE PERSONALLY EXAMINED BY A PENNSYLVANIA LICENSED PHYSICIAN
- (6) BE PERSONALLY EXAMINED BY A PENNSYLVANIA LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST AND FOUND TO BE PSYCHOLOGICALLY CAPABLE TO EXERCISE APPROPRIATE JUDGEMENT OR RESTRAINT IN PERFORMING THE DUTIES OF A POLICE OFFICER.
- (7) BE SUBJECT TO A THOROUGH BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY THE APPLICANT'S EMPLOYING POLICE DEPARTMENT.
- (8) SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE A BASIC POLICE TRAINING COURSE GIVEN AT A COMMISSION-CERTIFIED SCHOOL OR OBTAIN A WAIVER OF TRAINING.

THERE ARE SEVENTEEN SCHOOLS THAT ARE CERTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE THE BASIC POLICE TRAINING COURSE REQUIRED FOR ACT 120 CERTIFICATION. THE BASIC POLICE TRAINING COURSE REQUIRES 520 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION IN THE FOLLOWING TOPICAL AREAS:

LAW ENFORCEMENT ORIENTATION

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

LAW

MOTOR VEHICLE CODE

PATROL PROCEDURES AND OPERATION

INVESTIGATION

COMMUNICATION

HANDLING VIOLENT OR DANGEROUS PEOPLE

CUSTODY

FIRST AID AND CPR

FIREARMS

OPERATION OF PATROL VEHICLES

AN ACT 120 CANDIDATE RECEIVES CERTIFICATION UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE POLICE TRAINING COURSE AND EMPLOYMENT WITH A MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENT. TO MAINTAIN THE CERTIFICATION A MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICER MUST COMPLETE 12 HOURS OF MANDATORY IN-SERVICE TRAINING ANNUALLY. IN ADDITION AN OFFICER MUST ALSO MAINTAIN CPR AND FIRST AID CERTIFICATIONS AS WELL AS WEAPONS QUALIFICATIONS.

THE DE-CERTIFICATION OF AN OFFICER CAN ONLY TAKE PLACE UNDER THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:

- (1) FAILURE TO MAINTAIN EMPLOYMENT AS A POLICE OFFICER UNDER THE ACT.
- (2) FAILURE TO MAINTAIN FIRST AID OR CPR CERTIFICATION.
- (3) FAILURE TO QUALIFY WITH FIREARMS.
- (4) FAILURE TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE ANNUAL MANDATORY IN-SERVICE TRAINING.
- (5) PHYSICAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPAIRMENT WHICH RENDERS THE OFFICER PERMANENTLY UNABLE TO PERFORM HIS DUTIES.

- (6) SUBMISSION TO THE COMMISSION OF A DOCUMENT THAT THE POLICE OFFICER KNOWS CONTAINS FALSE INFORMATION INCLUDING FRAUDULENT APPLICATION.
- (7) CHEATING.
- (8) A CERTIFICATION ISSUED IN ERROR.
- (9) CONVICTION OF A CRIME GRADED AS A MISDEMEANOR 2 OR GREATER.

I WOULD LIKE TO CONCLUDE BY ONCE AGAIN THANKING THE CHAIRMAN AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY TODAY CONCERNING TRAINING STANDARDS. I WOULD BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU OR THE COMMITTEE MAY HAVE.