

Testimony of Keith Sadler

Chief, Lancaster Bureau of Police

May 14, 2012

The Impact of State Police Barracks Closings

Thank you chairmen and committee members, I truly appreciate the opportunity to be here in front of you today. My name is Keith Sadler, chief of the Lancaster Bureau of Police. I was appointed to this position in April, 2008. Prior to my current position, I was a Philadelphia Police officer for 27 years. I retired with the rank of chief inspector, my last assignment was chief of detectives. I have 31 years of police experience.

During these years I have worked alongside of many law enforcement agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms and Tobacco (ATF), United States Secret Service, United States Marshalls, and the Department of Homeland Security. I have worked with many local police departments throughout our state. Lastly, I have had the pleasure of working with many state police departments throughout the United States. However, none have been more impressive than the Pennsylvania State Police. Furthermore, I believe that Troop J, **LANCASTER**, is the most impressive of all the units in the state police.

I have seen the invaluable service that Troop J provides to our department and many others in Lancaster County. During the 2008 presidential campaign Troop J provided our department with

manpower to ensure that all the candidates were provided with security and crowd control in Lancaster City. I know we will get the same support this fall during the 2012 presidential campaign.

Throughout the years Troop J has been directly involved in the detection and apprehension of many violent offenders and drug dealers in Lancaster City. We truly have an excellent relationship and we willingly share inter-agency crime data and intelligence. Unfortunately, this type of collaboration does not always occur between police agencies.

Troop J has historically been committed to the overall mission of improving the quality of life for Lancaster County residents. This has been accomplished through the networking and teamwork between all county agencies encouraged by the example set by Troop J. They are often seen at community functions and workshops in many Lancaster neighborhoods. The state police have an excellent reputation in Lancaster because of the appearance and professionalism personified by the leadership and members of Troop J.

On a very personal note, Troop J supported our bureau at a time of great loss. Two of our officers died unexpectedly (non-service-connected) within six weeks of each other in the fall of 2008. Troop J volunteered to work our city while our entire bureau attended services for these deceased officers. Members of our bureau and the families were deeply touched by this display of brotherhood for our agency from Troop J. Officers still talk about this act of decency.

Lancaster City has 60,000 residents. Lancaster County has nearly 520,000 residents, which makes it the sixth largest county in Pennsylvania. It is difficult to imagine our city and county without the presence of Troop J. They have been beacons and towers of strength in our communities. They exemplify the ideal of how a trooper should carry out his or her duties. Their mere presence encourages other agencies to “raise the bar” by emulating this proud, inspiring, professional police entity.

Over one hundred years ago President Theodore Roosevelt regarded the Pennsylvania State Police as a model for the nation. If he were alive today, I am convinced he would consider Troop J a model for the entire Pennsylvania State Police.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of our loyal friends and neighborhoods from Troop J.