

COUNCIL OF REGENTS LAW ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORS

Joint Committee on Kansas Security, 10 November 2016

Expected to be present:

- Chief Ed Howell, Director of University Police, Parking Services and Security, Fort Hays State University
- Chief Mike McCracken, Director of University Police and Parking Services, Pittsburg State University
- Ronnie Grice, Assistant Vice President/Chief, Kansas State University Police
- Sara Morris, Chief of University Police, Wichita State University
- Chris Hoover, Director of Emporia State University Police and Safety
- Chris Keary, Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police, KU-Lawrence
- Chris Enos, Interim Director of Police, Washburn University Police Department

Outline of presentation:

- Introduction
- Department collaboration
- Staffing issues
- Community crime prevention/personal safety
- Safety apps for smart phones
- Community support and participation
- Questions

Remarks:

Good afternoon, my name is Chris Keary and I am the Chief of Police of the KU-Lawrence campus. I am here representing the Council of Regents Law Enforcement Directors which consists of police chiefs from all Regents universities. Joining me today are [Introduce Chiefs].

We appreciate the opportunity to come before you today to discuss a topic that is important to all of us – the security of the universities in Kansas. The departments we represent are as diverse as the Universities they serve. Some include Parking. Some include Emergency Management. Some include keys and access control. But all of them provide law enforcement, security and emergency communication services to their communities.

Our Council of Regents Law Enforcement Directors reflects a collaborative approach. We meet regularly and discuss problems and issues common to all universities in Kansas. We brainstorm solutions, learn from each other and promote cooperation. One example of this cooperation was the purchase of a firearms simulator several years ago. The simulator, which uses firearms fitted with a laser instead of bullets, allows us to train our officers in shoot/don't shoot scenarios. The firearms simulator was too expensive for just one department to buy, but when we got together we were able to fund it. It now travels from campus to campus training our officers.

The cooperation between our departments extends beyond the police chiefs. Firearms instructors from each department have met to share innovative training and cost saving ideas. Emergency Managers have spoken about their efforts to better prepare each campus for emergencies. Investigators are sharing case information to develop leads and solve cases. We will continue to encourage this information sharing to promote efficiency and cost savings for all departments.

Hiring good people to fill each of these important areas is a continuing struggle. The police officer positions, in particular, require extensive training. It can take nearly a year for an officer to be fully trained and operating on their own in a patrol car. We are concerned about retention of trained officers and providing the university communities with a highly visible police presence, especially with the upcoming loss of exemption for concealed carry in public buildings.

All departments provide education to their communities about personal safety and crime prevention. Several departments have seen an increase in requests specifically for training in active shooter response. We are providing that training, which includes a discussion of how law enforcement will respond. All law enforcement officers at the Regents universities have attended active shooter response training, which includes coordination with municipal and county law enforcement agencies.

We are also responding to requests from the students for safety apps for their smart phones. Several university police departments have implemented, or are in process of implementing, either Rave Guardian or LiveSafe apps. These apps provide a communication method to the departments and also allows students to ask their friends to follow them, virtually on a map, as they walk home.

All of our departments strive to provide a safe and secure environment where students, staff and faculty can learn and grow. University administrations have supported our efforts and we continue to work with our communities to make them understand that everyone needs to do their part to make our campuses safe.

Thank you again for the opportunity to discuss this important topic with you today. We are open to any questions you may have.