



**Pinellas Police Standards Council
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
4000 Gateway Centre Boulevard, Suite 100
Pinellas Park, FL
Agenda: Wednesday, September 14, 2016 – 8:30 AM**

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman Jeff Undestad

2. **Approval of PPSC Minutes** –Draft Attached

3. **Guest Speakers** –

4. **PASS Update** – Director Waters

5. **Committee Reports** –
 - ❖ Legislative Committee – Chief Haworth

 - ❖ Training – SPC Dean Brian Frank

 - ❖ Standards Review Committee – Chief Rob Vincent

 - ❖ Finance – Chief Bill Sohl

 - ❖ Pinellas County Safety & Emergency Services – TBA

 - ❖ Pinellas County Justice Coordination – Operations Manager Deborah Berry

6. New Business

7. Old Business

8. Roundtable

9. Adjourn

Next Meeting
Wednesday, October 12, 2016 – 8:30 AM
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
4000 Gateway Centre Boulevard, Suite 100
Pinellas Park, FL



**Pinellas Police Standards Council
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
4000 Gateway Centre Boulevard, Suite 100
Pinellas Park, FL
Agenda: August 10, 2016 – 8:30 AM**

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman Jeff Undestad
2. **Approval of PPSC Minutes** –
 - ❖ Motion for approval by Chief Bill Sohl and Chief David Hendry – The Council unanimously approved the July 13, 2016 PPSC Minutes.
3. **Guest Speakers -**
 - ❖ Assistant County Administrator John Bennett gave a brief update of Pinellas County’s “Text-to-911” project and introduced 911 Division Director Chuck Freeman to present a PowerPoint outlining their timeline initiative (see attached handout).

The presentation was well received by the Council and they thanked Administrator Bennett and Director Freeman for their detailed presentation. The Council, while understanding the general principles of “Text-to-911”, expressed uneasiness that the public does not view “Text-to-911” as an equal or substitute for the current voice communication “911” service. The Council shared concern ranging from receiving limited unfiltered information from the person texting to the responding law enforcement officer not having critical information creating additional safety issues. An example cited for discussion was that the public commonly refers to many crimes from thefts to burglaries as robberies. The law enforcement response to an in-progress robbery will be quite different than that of an in-progress theft call for service.

Administrator Bennett and Director Freeman agreed fully and said they have placed protocols in place to support and direct voice communication with the “911” center as the preferred method during an emergency. Administrator Bennett and Director Freeman advocated that “Text-to 911” should only be used when calling “911” for voice communication is not an option. Some examples provided were at the scene of a hostage situation, an in-progress crime where the perpetrator is in close proximity and may hear the call or lastly where a cellular phone carrier service is unavailable but data service for texting is still functioning.

Chief Hendry advised that USF has instituted a private texting application that communicates directly with their communication center for the student and faculty members. He stated that while fully recognizing the limitations discussed, it has been well received as a viable alternative for incidents described by Administrator Bennett and Director Freeman. Chief Hendry mentioned the horrific incident at the Pulse Night Club in Orlando as a prime example where the “Text-to-911” emerging technology is invaluable asset as another communication tool.

4. PASS Update – Director Waters

- ❖ Director Waters reported the comparative analysis of PASS operations between July 2015 and July 2016 showed an increase of PASS applicants while displaying a decrease in Equivalency of Training applications.
- ❖ Director Waters advised the St. Petersburg College Allstate Center has offered to extend the same lease rate to PASS for the 2016/17 lease renewal agreement year. He advised that unless there is an objection, PPSC Chairman Undestad will sign the lease agreement denoting the effective date of October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017. The Council unanimously approved the lease agreement and thanked the SPC Allstate Center for their continued support.
- ❖ Director Waters advised that Council members have expressed interest toward repositioning PASS polygraph exams, currently administered at the employment interest/offer stage, back to within the core PASS investigative process. He advised that as a precursor to this consideration, a handout report titled “Credibility Assessment of Information on Police Applicants’ Personal History Questionnaires” by Wendell Rudacille and Nathan Rettig was distributed (see attached). Director Waters stated in brief the assessment took place in 2005 with the Howard County Police Department (Maryland) and “determined that over half of the applicants in this study failed to report significant information in their PHQs which was later obtained during their polygraph examinations”. He stated the report is very detailed and offers significant insight findings within the number of applicants (148), employment status (probationary police officer or police cadet), race, gender, and education level achieved.

Director Waters stated the PASS staff highly endorses the repositioning of the polygraph exam within the core PASS background investigative process. He advised the polygraph exam repositioning would benefit the Council as well as PASS candidates and gave some examples to include:

The reduction and/or elimination of valuable law enforcement agency time and resource allocation of selecting candidates only to have polygraph exams indicate possible deception and/or new admissions disqualifying employment. Within the candidate context, the movement of the polygraph exam enhances the comprehensiveness of PASS background investigative report thereby decreasing the potential decision making timeline of law enforcement agencies offers of employment. Additionally, the placement of the polygraph within the core investigative stages of the PASS Process will hopefully allow candidates to make well informed career and monetary decisions impacting their future.

The Council took up the discussion and all members were in agreement with the justification of the move. A final point of consideration for the Council was the budgetary

impact and Director Waters advised with the yearly contribution provided by the Council, the budget should be able to sustain the increased polygraph exams. Director Waters stated that he contacted Veri-Fact (Council approved polygraph service) and was advised there should not be an issue with receipt or timeliness fulfillment of polygraph exams. Director Waters offered the following sequence of events for PASS polygraph examinations:

Polygraph exams shall be administered within the core PASS investigative process. The initial polygraph exam cost will continue to be provided by PASS. The longevity of approved (no ineligibility issues) polygraph exam reports shall coincide with the one-year PASS Candidate Pool provisions. Candidates that disclose disqualifying information within the polygraph exam reports shall be removed from the PASS Process. Candidates that are removed may request reconsideration through the PASS Appeal Process. Candidates that receive polygraph exam reports signifying “no opinion (inconclusive)” or “significant response(s)” shall be required to complete a follow-up “specific issue” polygraph exam prior to PASS Process resumption consideration. Candidates choosing not to complete a follow-up “specific issue” polygraph exam shall be removed from the PASS Process.

Candidates electing to complete a follow-up “specific issue” polygraph exam shall be responsible for the cost of the exam but the polygraphist shall still be dictated by the PPSC. If the follow-up polygraph exam indicates no significant responses and no PPSC Standards Disqualifications are revealed, candidates will resume the PASS Process. If disqualification information or the follow-up exam still indicates no opinion (inconclusive) or significant response(s) candidates will be removed from the PASS Process. Removed candidates may request reconsideration through the PASS Appeal Process.

A motion for approval of the repositioning of the polygraph exam as stipulated was provided by State Attorney McCabe and seconded by Chief Boudreau. The Council unanimously approved the motion to take effect immediately including candidates currently going through the PASS background investigative process.

- ❖ Director Waters advised a secondary topic for Council consideration was raised by SPC Dean Frank regarding the implementation of psychological testing of PASS candidates. Director Waters stated he has performed limited research on this topic but there are several police academies, predominantly college institutions within the state, that perform some type of psychological testing as an entrance requirement. He advised there was also contrasting viewpoints from various law enforcement affiliated entities recommending psychological testing should be administered at the post-employment offer stage.

The Council took this topic up for discussion and Dean Frank made several comments denoting the relevance within the law enforcement academy setting. The Council, though understanding Dean Frank’s position, was not prepared to endorse psychological testing as part of the PASS Process. The Council recommended that any psychological testing requirement remain at the agency employment consideration stage. The Council stated they were receptive to continue dialogue on the topic but for the interim SPC could always enact psychological testing as part of their academy entrance requirement.

5. **Committee Reports –**

- ❖ Legislative Committee – Chief Haworth

- N/A
- ❖ Training – SPC Dean Brian Frank
 - N/A
- ❖ Standards Review Committee – Chief Rob Vincent
 - Chief Vincent advised that although not a formal review, there is a candidate file requiring the SRC consideration.
- ❖ Finance – Chief Bill Sohl
 - N/A
- ❖ Pinellas County Safety & Emergency Services – Director Jackie Weinreich
 - Director Weinreich advised that the fifth and final tower (located at Ft. Desoto Park) of the 5 tower replacement project has been constructed. She stated Motorola is preparing to install/move all radio equipment over to this new site. In the interim, she advised they are completing NEPA studies for all five sites to include contacting all federally recognized Indian tribes to ensure they are not impacting any geographic areas of concern. Director Weinreich stated they are also working with the commercial cellular vendors that had equipment attached to the old towers to relocate their equipment and deconstruct the old towers. No loss in radio service is anticipated.

Director Weinreich stated she has established a contact with FDOT to obtain live video stream for their camera feeds. If any agency communications center is interested in this contact information, please e-mail her at jweinrei@co.pinellas.fl.us

- ❖ Pinellas County Justice and Coordination – Operations Manager Deborah Berry
 - Manger Berry advised the St. Petersburg Police Department recently initiated a digital mapping system that is not currently linked to Pinellas County’s Crimeview. She advised that they are working to resolve capability issues.

6. **New Business**

- ❖ Chief Vincent asked Council’s consideration toward amending the PASS candidate eligibility requirement that waives the 60 credit hour college requirement for certified law enforcement officers and honorably discharged military personnel to certified corrections officers. The Council was not prepared to render a decision and asked that the SRC take this up for consideration during the scheduled AIP revision review starting in November.
- ❖ Chief Vincent provided a brief update to the recent FPC Board meeting and some of the highlights were as follows:
 - The Department of Juvenile Justice will not ask for the mandatory implementation of civil citations.
 - FDLE is creating a seizure report form that is scheduled for implementation in October 2017.
 - New federal grant requirements are forthcoming requiring agencies to have training on topics such as bias recognition, de-escalation, etc...

- NOBLE has community training on how to interact with the police “The Law in Your Community”.
- The Florida Highway Patrol is starting a road safety audit initiative and will be seeking local agency input for dangerous sites.
- The Florida Police Chiefs Association is diligently seeking input and feedback of FPCA performed training and training opportunity to advance the Florida law enforcement profession.

7. Old Business

- ❖ Chief Holloway reminded everyone of the nationally mandated crime reporting transition from UCR (Uniform Crime Reporting) to NIBRS (National Incident Based Reporting System) set to occur in 2021. He reiterated the previously shared comments of Sheriff Gualtieri at the May 2016 PPSC meeting that NIBRS goes into far greater detail than UCR and will suggest to the untrained eye that crime has significantly risen. Chief Holloway said the St. Petersburg Police Department has implemented a procedure to start backing up their reporting data in 2018 to be able to show the difference between the two systems.

Sheriff Gualtieri advised his office has been working closely with FDLE on the NIBRS transition. He stated that although a four-year dual reporting period leading up to the NIBRS transition would have been preferred, FDLE has agreed to perform a four-year dual reporting period after the implementation of NIBRS. Sheriff Gualtieri stated FDLE is constructing a planning grant for the readiness of law enforcement agency NIBRS data to be automatically electronically transferred to FDLE’s record management system.

8. Roundtable

- ❖ Chief Stelljes advised that Pinellas County Schools are back in session today and it appears the advanced preparations by school officials and law enforcement agencies have provided a smooth start for the school year.
- ❖ Major Jeff Young gave a brief reminder presentation of the upcoming “First Annual Tampa Bay Area Chiefs of Police Foundation Gala” set for September 10, 2016 at the Tradewinds Island Resort, St. Pete Beach.
- ❖ Chief Holloway advised that Sheriff Gualtieri will present the Adult Pre-Arrest Diversion Program initiative to the St. Petersburg City Council on Thursday, August 11, 2016.
- ❖ Chief Boudreau advised that his department is participating in a CJIS technology audit administered by FDLE. He stated valuable information and insight has been gleaned from the audit. Chief Boudreau advised he would share the aspects of the audit with the Council and made arrangements for e-mail dissemination through Director Waters.
- ❖ Chief Hendry advised that the Tampa Bay Times is performing a follow-up report of law enforcement’s official use of DAVID and the report should be published in the near future.

9. Adjourn

Chief Sohl and Chief Vincent

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