



WASHINGTON STATE  
**CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COMMISSION**  
19010 1<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE SOUTH, BURIEN, WA 98148

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**SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING**

*Held telephonically*

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

3 PM

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Anne Kirkpatrick, Chief, Spokane Police Department  
Brenda Stonecipher, Council member, Everett City Council  
Craig Thayer (Vice Chair), Sheriff, Stevens County Sheriff's Office  
Garry Lucas, Sheriff, Clark County Sheriff's Office  
Gil Kerlikowske, Chief, Seattle Police Department  
Harold Clarke, Secretary, Washington Department of Corrections  
Karen Daniels, Chief Deputy of Corrections, Thurston County Sheriff's Office  
Rob McKenna, Attorney General, Washington State  
Shon Small, Detective, Benton County Sheriff's Office  
Thomas Metzger (Chair), Prosecuting Attorney, Pend Oreille County

**WSCJTC STAFF PRESENT:**

Al Isaac, Manager, Professional Development Division  
Brandon Rogel, Acting Manager, Corrections Division  
Carri Brezonick, Deputy Director  
Cheryl Price, Coordinator, Accreditation/Public Disclosure  
Debbie Mealey, Assistant Commander, Basic Law Enforcement Academy  
Doug Blair, Manager, Peace Officer Certification  
Michael D. Parsons, Executive Director  
Shannon Inglis, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office  
Sonja Hirsch, Confidential Secretary  
Wes Anderson, Manager, Facilities Division

## PURPOSE

The Special Commission Meeting was scheduled telephonically to discuss the current state of funding for the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA).

## INTRODUCTION

**The Chair** called the meeting to order at approximately 3:03 PM with a quorum present.

Sonja Hirsch performed roll call.

## FUNDING FOR THE BLEA

**The Director** stated that the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC) provided a decision package for the budget based upon a survey that was conducted in May and June 2006. Based on the survey, the WSCJTC anticipated the need for an additional \$5 million in the BLEA to conduct the classes that would be required.

The Governor's budget was released in December, and it was recommended that the WSCJTC receive an additional \$2 million (rounded figure) due to the shortage in the Public Safety Education Account (PSEA).

The WSCJTC contacted the Governor's office to inquire about the proper protocol for sending a letter to John Lane who is the Governor's Criminal Justice Assistant. The letter would be sent to the Governor through Mr. Lane. On January 10, 2007, the Deputy Director hand delivered the letter to Mr. Lane. The letter was asking the Governor's office to reconsider the request for the \$5 million. Given the fact that there is money in the general fund and there is no money in the PSEA, the need is still substantial and, therefore, the WSCJTC asked for the Governor's assistance.

The Director made a presentation to the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) Executive Board on January 24, 2007, to inform them that the BLEA had, at that time, a waiting list of 140 and continuing to grow. In addition, he addressed that the WSCJTC did not receive the funding that was requested. By June or July 2007, unless things change, the six-month rule will be a concern and sheriffs and chiefs will not be able to get their officers into the BLEA within six months of hire, as required.

The Director spoke to the Board on Law Enforcement Training, Standards, and Education (BLETSE) on February 1, 2007, about the situation within the BLEA. Sheriff Mike Brasfield, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, was very supportive and offered to speak to Sheriff Bill Elfo, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, and Sheriff Ken Irwin, Yakima County Sheriff's Office, to see what could be done to help the WSCJTC.

**The Deputy Director** stated that a second survey accompanied the letter to Mr. Lane. She had spoken to Mr. Lane shortly after the Governor's budget was released in December, and she asked what the WSCJTC could do to get reconsideration on the budget. He stated that an additional survey would be helpful; therefore, in January, Doug Blair, Certification Manager; Sonja Hirsch, Confidential Secretary; and Tisha Ehret, Secretary Administrative for the BLEA contacted chiefs and sheriffs a second time to obtain the information regarding the number of people that will be hired during the calendar year. The number of recruits to be trained in the second survey increased by 88 over the first survey.

Since the legislative session began, the Deputy Director has had conversations with Mr. Lane and Garry Austin of the Office Financial Management. It was discovered, throughout the process, that there is no credibility when an agency conducts their own survey. The WSCJTC has learned from conversations with Mr. Austin that the WSCJTC should never have contacted the chiefs and sheriffs even though the Legislature directed the WSCJTC to do so, which Mr. Austin was aware of. The OFM does not give any credibility to information collected by an agency.

The Deputy Director and Mr. Austin have discussed the development of a forecasting model, which will not help the WSCJTC in the short term, but will hopefully develop a methodology of collecting information that the Governor's office and others will have confidence in regarding the hiring that will be done statewide.

The conversations that the Deputy Director has had with Mr. Lane and Mr. Austin since the legislative session began have been positive. There have been continued discussions with and questions asked from Mr. Lane and Richard Ramsey, Senate Ways and Means Committee Analyst, who is assigned to criminal justice issues. She has also met with Mr. Ramsey, because he evaluates the information. Approximately one week after the session started, he sent a fairly significant list of questions to Brian Elliott, Financial Services Manager, to answer regarding issues concerning the BLEA.

The Deputy Director spoke to Mr. Ramsey last week who was very supportive of the information provided by the WSCJTC, and they are working on it.

Chiefs and sheriffs have begun calling their elected officials. The Deputy Director has received inquiries from staffers regarding what the budget was that the Governor released and what the WSCJTC asked for.

**The Director** stated that the WSCJTC has looked at options in terms of what the WSCJTC would do, should do, or could do regarding the money.

One of the options suggested is that the WSCJTC use the \$2 million to hold as many training classes as it can and ask for a supplemental budget, which would be submitted in August 2007 and would not be approved until the end of the next year's legislative session in March or April 2008. This would put the WSCJTC behind in terms of potential planning for the next fiscal year.

The Director's suggestion is to continue with what the WSCJTC is currently doing and wait for the Governor to say whether or not she will support the \$5 million request. In the meantime, the Deputy Director has been answering questions from legislators regarding our needs; however, she has not been soliciting them for their support.

By March 1, if the WSCJTC has not heard from the Governor's office, the Director will ask Mr. Lane specifically what is going to happen and when. Secondly, a member of the Commission will be asked to contact the Governor directly and inform her that if she cannot support the request for \$5 million, the WSCJTC would like to ask the Legislature for the funding and assure her that it is not against her, but it is important that the funding is received. At that time, the WSCJTC would contact the Legislature and ask for the funding. The Commissioners would be called upon to individually contact legislators, chiefs, sheriffs, and others for their support.

**The Chair** stated that he is having a hard time understanding why the WSCJTC is having difficulty in terms of getting the funding.

**The Director** stated that he did not have an answer for his question. He stated that the waiting list in the BLEA is growing and is the largest it has been in over ten years, which supports the fact that the information from the survey is correct.

**Commissioner Kerlikowske** questioned the WSCJTC's relationship with the OFM. He does not understand how there can be no credibility for the WSCJTC to survey the chiefs and sheriffs and simply ask how many openings they have, how many they plan to fill, and the timeline. The underlying concern is that the OFM should be working with the WSCJTC to get the needed funding to train law enforcement officers. What is the relationship with the OFM?

**The Director** agreed with Commissioner Kerlikowske in that the OFM should be working with the WSCJTC to get through the process.

**Commissioner Thayer** asked that, in the long run, if the WSCJTC works with the OFM on the forecasting model and develops a methodology, is there any indication that the credibility level that the surveys are correct will be fulfilled?

**The Director** believes so as they will be initiating the survey and the forecasting model; therefore, it will help the credibility.

In the future the WSCJTC will do a forecasting model and use an outside resource to conduct the survey, but the WSCJTC was not aware when it entered the process.

**Commissioner Stonecipher** asked if there is something the Commissioners could do at the lobbying level to put more pressure on the issue.

**The Director** stated that the Governor needs time to give her decision. If she says no, the WSCJTC has a responsibility to its customers to go to the Legislature.

**Commissioner Kirkpatrick** asked what the conversations have been with WASPC.

**The Director** attended WASPC's Executive Board Meeting on January 24. He went prepared to answer questions, not to ask for anything. The survey was questioned by an attendee who doubted the numbers and said they could not be that high. The Chair of WASPC asked where the Commission was and why they were not present. Sheriff Craig Thayer, Commission Vice Chair, was present and stated that he was there to help answer questions.

The Board then went into an executive session.

Following the executive session, the Director was contacted by the Commission Chair regarding concerns he had from discussions that occurred during the executive session. The Director contacted Chief Randall Carroll, WASPC Chair, and Don Pierce, WASPC Executive Director, to discuss and resolve the concerns.

**Commissioner Lucas** stated that he is currently down nine deputies and has eight new vacancies; therefore, he has to get 17 recruits into the academy this year and an

additional eight next year. He will be contacting the Governor, and he has an appointment with Senator Dale Brandland. In addition, he stated that he has four new hires that were denied entry into the March and April academies, and it unknown when they will be accepted. He stated that he cannot afford to sit around and wait.

**The Director** stated that the WSCJTC understands and that is why the plan was sent to chiefs and sheriffs regarding the WSCJTC's intent to use the money available to hold as many academies as possible beginning in June 2007. Once the new funding is received, the WSCJTC will double the number of academies to help eliminate the waiting list.

**The Director** asked the Chair for the Commission to support his plan, which is to continue to wait and have the Deputy Director continue to dialogue with Mr. Lane and Mr. Austin. Then, on March 1, the Commissioners designate a member to contact the Governor and inform her that the WSCJTC is going to the Legislature absent her ascent or otherwise. The Commissioners will then explain the WSCJTC's needs to each legislator, and the WASPC, the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO), and others to get their support and assistance.

**Commissioner Daniels** wanted to confirm that the Director was asking for professional courtesy for someone to formally ask the Governor if the WSCJTC can approach the Legislature. The money has already been denied, so it is a sort of appeal to the Legislature. She asked if the contact should be done by letter or in person.

**The Director** stated that he would prefer that a Commissioner call the Governor and speak with her directly.

**Commissioner Clarke** stated that it is appropriate to ask the question. In addition, he will meet with Tom Fitzsimmons and Mr. Lane this afternoon and will discuss the WSCJTC's funding issue with them.

**The Director** asked what the Commission would like to do if the Governor's office does not go forward with the request.

**The Chair** agreed to follow the strategy outlined by the Director.

The Chair would like to schedule a meeting to discuss these issues and to assure that the Commission is not faced with this issue in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:45 PM.

Written by:

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Sonja Hirsch, Confidential Secretary

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Date

Reviewed by:

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Michael D. Parsons, Executive Director

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Date

Approved by:

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Thomas Metzger, Commission Chair

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Date