Commission on Racial Equity and Justice
Listening Session #3: Law Enforcement

Ed Klumpp
July 29, 2020

Held virtually via Zoom

Participants

Members of the Kansas Sheriffs Association, Kansas Peace Officers Association, and Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police

Commissioners Attending

• Shannon Portillo
• Brandon Davis
• Judge Monique Centeno
• Catalina Velarde
• John Nave
• Chris Howell
• David Jordan

Topics Discussed

KLETC Training and Screening

• KLETC as a progressive training academy that oversees all academy training, most states don’t have a centralized training academy
• “Integrity is the basis for community trust” motto
• Violations can result in dismissal or other disciplinary action, KLETC stays in close contact with the dept head at the student’s home agency if there are issues
• High standards for KLETC instructors
• Soft skill/hard skill training includes first response, communication, de-escalation, mechanics of arrest, constitutional policing, vehicle stops, defensive tactics, stress management, and high-risk, low frequency tactics like use of force, use of force simulations, officer survival
• Officers then team up with another officer to learn for a year, then 40 hours of training annually as continuing education

CPOST Functions

• CPOST established by KS Law Enforcement Training Act, which lists felonies and misdemeanors as disqualifying from service
• CPOST has a registry of people who have been decertified
• “Wandering officer” clause allows hiring agencies to check with CPOST if a candidate was terminated from another department
• Crisis intervention training is long, not feasible as standard training
• Qualified immunity protects law abiding officers from frivolous or harassing lawsuits
• If an officer has a change in their status – rank change, military deployment, leaves an agency for any reason, reported to CPOST
• Conviction for a crime is automatic decertification, CPOST can choose to take disciplinary action against officers if no conviction
• Open misconduct records can have consequences for hiring and maintaining personnel
• Serious violations are mandated to be reported to CPOST, if action is taken, that is public
• If a deputy resigns under investigation, that is reported to CPOST

Other Policing Topics
• Policy is to use the minimum amount of force needed, discipline and termination can happen when the policy is violated
• PSU and internal affairs conduct investigations
• Small agencies cannot afford expensive software to track stops/violations ($10,000/yr)
• School Resource Officers fulfill a community policing mission, involved in the community and proactive not reactive
• There’s not a department in the state that’s fully staffed, recruiting and retention is difficult
• Money generated out of tickets or fines goes to the county or municipality, CPOST and other entities are funded out of ticket revenue