

Crime Commission Update

May 2010



<http://www.ncc.ne.gov>

Dave Heineman, Governor

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

As Nebraskans and state employees, we are acutely aware of how the current recession continues to challenge all of us at our homes and in the workplace. Drawing upon information from the Governor and Budget Division, the Crime Commission was able to implement plans to reduce spending in 2008 and 2009 wherever possible.

We identified out of state travel as one area to reduce spending unless it was deemed absolutely necessary to fulfill our job responsibilities. In addition, all vacancies were examined to ensure each position was critical to the agency before filled. These plans and cooperation from all staff members allowed our agency to have carry-over funds, which has been approved to assist our budget in FY 11/12.

With the Crime Commission facing a 7% budget reduction for FY 11/12, even more drastic measures may occur in FY 12/13. With that said, the Crime Commission is committed to providing services, without cost, such as the Nebraska Criminal Justice Information System (NCJIS). This critical information source serves law enforcement agencies, Probation, Courts and many other allied service agencies. Two agencies under the umbrella of the Crime Commission are the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center and the Office of Violence Prevention, both of which will continue to serve the State of Nebraska and our citizens.

Finally, I wish to extend my appreciation to all employees of the Crime Commission for their professional commitment. Without their support and cooperation, the Crime Commission could not effectively address many of the fiscal concerns facing our agency.

In closing, I would offer the following quote from an unknown author, "*When we focus upon what we haven't done, we usually fail to see what we have done.*"

~ Michael E. Behm, Executive Director

2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

These legislative bills, which were passed during the 2010 Legislative session, affect the Crime Commission:

LB 510 (Pirsch, 12 others): Imposes a \$1 court fee for each misdemeanor or felony conviction. It also allows the Director of Correctional Services to withhold up to 5% of the net wages of inmates assigned to the work release program. The revenue from these two sources is to be deposited in the following ratio: 75% to the Crime Victim's Reparations (CVR) Program and 25% to the Department of Corrections for programs offered to inmates assigned to the incarceration work camp in McCook.

The total revenue generated as a result of LB 510 is \$172,000 per year, of which the CVR Program would receive \$129,000 per year. These funds would be matched at a rate of 60% by the federal government, so the additional federal funds are estimated to be \$77,400 per year. The effective date of LB 510 is July 15.

LB 746 (Giese, 5 others): Extends the sunset date for collecting data on motor vehicle stops and the characteristics of race or ethnicity of the person stopped from January 1, 2010 to January 1, 2014. The Crime Commission collects this data from all law enforcement agencies in Nebraska. The Commission is also required to produce an annual report.

LB 746 also adds three members to the Racial Profiling Committee, which expands the membership from 8 to 11 members. The Executive Director of the Crime Commission is the chairperson of this committee. LB 746 requires the Committee to provide an analysis of the annual report and make policy recommendations with respect to racial profiling. The effective date of LB 746 is July 15.

LB 800 (Ashford, 4 others): LB 800 is a comprehensive juvenile justice bill. Section 8 of the bill transfers \$350,000 from a Probation cash fund to the Office of Violence Prevention for FY10-11. These funds are to be awarded to violence prevention programs. The Of-

Office of Violence Prevention is housed within the Crime Commission. The effective date of LB 800 is July 15.

LB 844 (Lautenbaugh): Current statutes require the Law Enforcement Training Center to charge tuition for mandatory (basic) training beginning January 1, 2011. LB 844 removes this language from statute. The effective date of LB 844 is July 15.

LR 571 (Judiciary Committee): This is an interim study which studies the implementation of LB 63 (2009) with respect to the creation of the Office of Violence Prevention and the implementation of LB 800 (2010). This study is to be accomplished before the start of the 2011 legislative session.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE VIDEO LIBRARY

The following videos have been added to the library and are available for loan:

SURVEILLANCE, PART ONE (DVD)
15 Minutes Color Street Cop: 2009 AD

One of the most effective investigative tools available to police is surveillance. A good surveillance gives police all the information they need to make an arrest hold up in court. This program serves as an introduction to the basics of surveillance, including use of props, foot surveillance, and close quarters target acquisition.

CONDUCTING INTERROGATIONS, PART ONE (DVD)
14 Minutes Color Street Cop: 2009 AD

This program is designed to introduce the basics of interrogating criminal suspects. It illustrates successful techniques and tricks that will enable officers to get confessions that will guarantee success in court. Included are demonstrations of scenarios that can be used to play the mind-set of the criminal against himself.

LESS LETHAL (DVD)
20 Minutes Color In The Line of Duty: 2009 AD

This program demonstrates "less lethal" options that can be used by law enforcement officers to subdue a suspect with little or no harm. Options shown are bean bags, tasers, and OC spray. Included are videos where these options were used on actual suspects to subdue them quickly and safely.

DEVELOPING STREET SOURCES AND CIs, PART ONE (DVD)
14 Minutes Color Street Cop: 2009 AD

There is a definite value to law enforcement officers who can form lasting relationships with reliable street sources and confidential informants. This video describes valuable street sources that can aid in the investigations of crimes. These sources include mailmen, business owners, motel clerks, bar and restaurant staff, community leaders, and landlords. This is a good program for in-service or refresher training.

DEVELOPING STREET SOURCES AND CIs, PART TWO (DVD)
18 Minutes Color Street Cop: 2009 AD

This video demonstrates how law enforcement officers can get the maximum benefits from street sources and confidential informants. It includes techniques that can spin the bad guys so they will be on your side and help you with your investigation. There are also cautionary rules that officers need to know to avoid pitfalls inherent in the process of working with confidential informants. This is a good video to view in conjunction with Part One of this topic.

WRESTLE AT WALGREENS (DVD)
33 Minutes Color In The Line of Duty: 2009 AD

This program documents an incident involving an off-duty officer who wrestled a robbery suspect to the floor at a Walgreens store in Nevada. He was trying to protect the cashier. The incident was caught on the in-store video system. The officer explains what he was thinking during the incident and describes his "survival instinct". He successfully held the robber on the floor until police arrived to make the arrest. A segment called "lessons learned" includes valuable tips on what can be taught from this incident.

AMBER ALERT VICTIM AND SUSPECT PURSUIT (DVD)
33 Minutes Color In The Line of Duty: 2009 AD

This video documents a high speed pursuit conducted by an Illinois law enforcement officer, who followed a kidnapping suspect for 15 minutes on the interstate, downtown St. Louis, and a residential neighborhood before making the arrest. The entire pursuit was captured on his in-car video system. An Amber Alert had been issued on the car he was pursuing. The "lessons learned" segment of this program includes (1) know your agency pursuit policy, (2) know your own personal limits, (3) be aware of your surroundings, (4) communicate with other officers, and (5) you will default to the level of your training.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS

The month of April was designated as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). The goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence (focusing on sexual assault and rape) and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence. Last year, President Obama issued a Presidential Proclamation for Sexual Assault Awareness Month for the very first time, and because of recent attention on the issue by the media, government and society, it is anticipated that national, state and local participation will be even greater this year. Statistics indicated that over 18% of women in this country have been raped in their lifetime. Further, rates of sexual assault remain alarmingly high for students from high school to college. Sexual Assault has lasting effects on victims, which in turn affects families and communities.

The Nebraska Governor's Office designated the Nebraska Crime Commission as the state agency to receive and distribute the Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program (SASP) funds. At the first indication that the Sexual Assault Services would be authorized and funded at the federal level, the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition (NDVSAC) and Nebraska Crime Commission came together to develop a process for distribution of funds. SASP is focused on rape crisis center services for sexual assault victims.

NDVSAC is comprised of a network of 22 programs that provide services to sexual assault victims. These programs respond to the post-sexual assault needs of women, men and children to their best ability. While these programs respond to all victims who seek services, resources are extremely limited throughout the state to provide a comprehensive sexual assault response. Many hospitals throughout the state of Nebraska provide sexual assault forensic exams for victims of sexual assault; however, there are limitations to access. In some areas of the state, victims must travel for several hours to reach a provider who can provide adequate service. In many areas throughout the state, there are no trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners.

For more information on SASP funds or the Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition, please contact Amanda Hanner, Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition, at 402-476-6256 or Lisa Stamm, Nebraska Crime Commission at 402-471-3416.

NOTES

- May 15 was designated as Peace Officers' Memorial Day in remembrance of the more than 19,000 law enforcement officers who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. In Nebraska, **131 officers have been killed in the line of duty**. The Nebraska Law Enforcement Memorial is located at the entrance to Fonner Park in Grand Island.
- We have limited copies available of the 2010 Nebraska Criminal Justice Directory. The cost is \$7.50 plus sales tax if applicable. Contact Sarah Schoen at (402) 471-2195 if you would like to order a directory.
- The Crime Commission's 2009 Annual Report is now available on our website at www.ncc.state.ne.us.
- On April 23, the Governor's website featured an article entitled "Know the Nebraska Crime Commission" which describes the duties and activities of the Crime Commission. The Governor's website is www.governor.nebraska.gov.

NEBRASKA AT A GLANCE

- Nebraska is the 16th largest state in area and the 38th largest state in population. The estimated population in 2007 was 1,774,571.
- Everyone knows the meadowlark is the state bird and the goldenrod is the state flower, but did you know...
 - * The state tree is the cottonwood.
 - * The state insect is the honeybee (more than three million pounds of honey were produced in Nebraska in 2006).
 - * The state mammal is the white-tailed deer.
- Ninety-three percent of Nebraska's land is farm and ranch land. In 2006, Nebraska had 47,300 farms. Nebraska is a national leader in crop and livestock production and has the western hemisphere's largest area of sandhill grasslands. More than six million cattle are either raised, finished, or marketed in Nebraska each year.
- Four Nebraska-based businesses are ranked in Fortune magazines Fortune 500. In 2008, their rankings were: Berkshire Hathaway (11), Union Pacific (154), ConAgra (210), and Peter Kiewit Sons (385).

Source: Nebraska Blue Book. Access online at www.nebraskalegislature.gov.