



**DAVE YOST**  
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Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission  
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**IN STAYING WITHIN THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE OF OHIO PER HB197**

**The Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission**

will hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

**via conference call 1-888-407-5039 with participation pin 13410750#**

**THE PUBLIC MAY EMAIL ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS TO DONNA LONG NO LATER THAN 3:00 P.M. ON FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2020 [DONNA.LONG@OHIOATTORNEYGENERAL.GOV](mailto:DONNA.LONG@OHIOATTORNEYGENERAL.GOV)**

**Agenda**

- |            |  |                               |
|------------|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Opening</b>   | <b>Chair Vernon Stanforth</b> |
|            | 1.1 Pledge of Allegiance   |                               |
|            | 1.2 Roll Call  |                               |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>New Business</b>  | <b>Chair Vernon Stanforth</b> |
|            | 2.1 Discuss COVID-19 matters                                       |                               |
|            | 2.2 Resolution 2020-01   |                               |
|            | 2.3 Public Questions and Comments – previously submitted by email. |                               |
|            | 2.4 Financial Update   |                               |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Adjournment</b>   | <b>Chair Vernon Stanforth</b> |

CC: All Commission Members  
Mr. Jeff Boucher, Associate Assistant Attorney General  
OPOTA/C Public Notice Recipients

Attachment: Resolution 2020-01

## OHIO PEACE OFFICER TRAINING COMMISSION

### RESOLUTION 2020-01

#### COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY

**Whereas** on March 9, 2020, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, declared a State of Emergency in Executive Order 2020-01D in order to protect the well-being of the citizens of Ohio from the dangerous effects of COVID-19, to justify the authorization of personnel of State departments and agencies as are necessary, to coordinate the State response to COVID-19, and to assist in protecting the lives, safety, and health of the citizens of Ohio;

**Whereas** Executive Order 2020-01D included that State agencies shall develop and implement procedures, including suspending or adopting temporary rules within an agency's authority, consistent with recommendations from the Department of Health designed to prevent or alleviate this public health threat;

**Whereas** on March 10, 2020, Governor DeWine recommended colleges and universities suspend face-to-face learning and move to online distance learning;

**Whereas** the closing of college and university campuses significantly impacted Peace Officer Basic Training Academies, as well as other types of basic academies, many of which are housed on college and university campuses;

**Whereas** on March 17, 2020, Amy Acton, Director of the Department of Health, issued an Order prohibiting mass gatherings in the State of Ohio. Mass gatherings were defined as any event or convening that brings together fifty (50) or more persons in a single room or single space at the same time, such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space. Additionally, this order strongly encouraged avoiding unnecessary non-family social gatherings of more than ten (10) people in compliance with President Trump's coronavirus guidelines issued March 16, 2020. Lastly, this order urged social distancing of 6 feet between persons whenever possible;

**Whereas** on March 23, 2020, Amy Acton, Director of the Department of Health, issued a Stay at Home Order for all citizens of the State of Ohio and a further limitation on mass gatherings to no more than ten (10) persons with exceptions for Essential Activities, Essential Businesses, and Essential Government Functions;

**Whereas** both the March 17 and March 23, 2020 Orders by Dr Acton limited the Peace Officer Basic Training Academies ability to present their coursework in group settings and had a significant negative impact on the ability to conduct the hands-on skill-based courses that are part of the OPOTC approved curriculum;

**Whereas** HB197 signed on March 27, 2020, allowed for the extension of license and certification deadlines, excusing both state agencies and individuals from actions needed to maintain those license and certificates until 90 days past the declared end of the emergency or December 1, 2020, whichever is sooner, with those licenses and certificates remaining valid in the interim;

**Whereas** the COVID-19 State of Emergency and the Governor and Director's Orders have impacted the ability of statewide Peace Officer Basic Training Academies, as well as other types of Basic Academies, to function as they normally would. This inability is a result of campus closings, social distancing requirements, and safety concerns;

**Whereas** the COVID-19 State of Emergency has created a statewide need for more available law enforcement officers in order to fortify police agency manpower as officers are exposed to COVID-19 and potentially become ill and/or must be quarantined;

**Whereas** to fulfill the Attorney General and OPOTC's mission to address the need for additional law enforcement officers on the street, an academy-by-academy, and sometimes cadet-by-cadet, training determination by the Executive Director will be required to analyze completed coursework, testing readiness, and potential provisional certification;

**Whereas** the need for additional law enforcement officers on the streets will necessitate a case-by-case, officer-by-officer training determination by the Executive Director for any returning retired peace officers;

**Whereas** to help facilitate the statewide agencies' needs for additional available law enforcement officers and in order to react to the extremely fluid and time sensitive issues created by COVID-19; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC):

1. grants the Executive Director, Dwight Holcomb, the power to make decisions regarding temporary policies, procedures, and statutory application necessary due to the rapidly evolving impact of COVID-19 on the responsibilities and mission of OPOTC;
2. grants the Executive Director, Dwight Holcomb, the power in appropriate circumstances to allow the delay of Academy instruction, including, but not limited to, Unit 10-8 Standardized Field Sobriety Testing, a 40 hour segment, and Unit 10-6 Electronic Speed Measuring, a 40 hour segment, in order to test and provisionally certify cadets who have completed all other requirements, with an understanding that completion of those units is required post-COVID-19 state of emergency in order to gain full certification;
3. grants that this resolution takes immediate effect and terminates upon the Governor's declaration of the end of the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2020.

OHIO PEACE OFFICER TRAINING COMMISSION

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Sheriff Vernon Stanforth, Chair

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Chief Clayton Harris, Vice-Chair