

House Bill 3097 – Establishes a Task Force on DPSST to Study Feasibility of Establishing Facility at MHCC.

Chief Deputy Drew Brosh, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office      March 20, 2013

I am Chief Deputy Drew Brosh of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and I come to you today to provide information regarding the proposal to establish a task force to study the feasibility of establishing a public safety training facility at MHCC.

I believe there would be a number of benefits to Law Enforcement officers in the region, and in particular agencies in east Multnomah County, to have a training facility under the umbrella of DPSST located at the MHCC campus. From my perspective these benefits are primarily in regard to the ongoing reduction of certification academies offered by DPSST to maintain basic certification and obtain advanced certification for police and corrections, but also law enforcement training in general, and in particular, law enforcement training that would be conducted under a single standard – creating a continuity of knowledge and practice that would benefit emergency operations between agencies in the region.

I would like to first address the officer certification issue. As you may know, all police and corrections officers employed by public agencies in Oregon are required to achieve, and for police and multi-disciplinary officers maintain, certification in their job classification. This certification requires officers complete training hours in specific areas, with calendar requirements attached to completion of the training hours. It may be best to describe the current certification issue by describing my own experience, relative to what is available today. I was hired as a Corrections Officer by Multnomah County in 1988. I attended basic corrections academy #50, sponsored by DPSST (BPST then) and completed the necessary local probationary checkout at my home agency to obtain my basic certification at the end of my probationary year. I had a bachelor's degree at that time which allowed me to progress through intermediate and advanced certifications for corrections officer without further training. In 1995 I was promoted to the rank of sergeant and attended a two week academy sponsored by DPSST and attained the 80 hours necessary to complete my supervisory certification through DPSST. In 2004 I was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and again attended a two week academy sponsored by DPSST where I gained 80 of the 100 hours necessary to complete my mid-management certification through DPSST. Required hours for my last certification (the highest for my discipline) were attained through local and regional training apart from DPSST sponsored academy.

Currently, DPSST does not offer academy classes for supervisory, mid-management or executive certification, placing a burden on local law enforcement agencies to find appropriate and qualifying training that meets the timelines required for attaining the certifications necessary at

those ranks. These trainings are often scattered between local colleges, conventions and local sponsoring agencies, and may vary in subject matter and direction, not offering the continuity of a curriculum under one organization. A training center at MHCC under a curriculum developed by DPSST would offer local agencies a single location for their staff to meet advanced certification requirements, and add the benefit of a consistent curriculum. In particular, a consistent curriculum has the general public safety benefit of training first responders the same way when they respond to emergency events, with regard to radio calls, vehicle pursuit policy, active shooter response, hazardous materials response, multi-vehicle accident response and investigation and so on.

It is also a challenge for local agencies to provide the ongoing training necessary for *maintenance* of police and multi-disciplinary certification. The police certification alone requires 84 hours in specific categories every 3 years to maintain the necessary certification to work in Oregon as a police officer. A training facility at MHCC would provide a straightaway opportunity to address certification maintenance issues.

Another possibility exists regarding a DPSST facility comingled on the MHCC campus, and that is an expansion of the MHCC criminal justice program and potential college credit for law enforcement attendees, and a connection to prospective recruitment of currently enrolled students. It would appear on its face that a comingled campus would offer a number of possibilities and potential benefits for both MHCC students and law enforcement personnel.

Finally, I would reiterate the opinion expressed by OACP President and Fairview Police Chief Ken Johnson in a letter submitted to this committee dated March 18, where he identified the need to identify and secure stable funding for law enforcement training moving forward. I am confident the possibilities of identifying ongoing revenue sources appropriate for levying funds exist, and that the Task Force can adopt a plan to assure adequate appropriation moving forward.

Thank you.