

Law Enforcement Advisory Program Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Time: 11:00am-12:00pm

Location: Room 3201

1. Call to Order

A. The meeting was called to order at 11:10am by Chief Jimmy Duran

Present:

Gail Warner, Dean for Health & Public Safety
Brett Houser, Director POST Programs
Michelle Velovich, Coordinator POST Programs
Jeff Mason, POST Academy Instructor
Robert Benavidez, Chief Deputy-Correctional Facilities for Imperial County Sherriff's Office
Jimmy Duran, Chief of Police for Brawley Police Department
Perry Monita, Chief of Police for Westmorland Police Department
Jesus Serrano, Interim Chief of Police for Calexico Police Department
Max Sheffield, Captain for Imperial Police Department
James Thompson, Lieutenant for El Centro Police Department
Brandon Shipwash, Captain for the California Highway Patrol
Ernesto Ruedas, Lieutenant for the California Highway Patrol
Justin Matus, Assistant Chief Investigator, Office of District Attorney Imperial County
Victor Dominguez, DA Investigator, Office of District Attorney Imperial County
Jessica Prock, IVC Administrative Secretary for Health & Public Safety
Diana Sandoval, IVC, Student Success Specialist
Rhonda Ruiz, IVC Support Staff, Law Enforcement Programs

2. Approval of Minutes

A. Review & Approval of Minutes for September 7th, 2022

M/S/C Assistant Chief Investigator, Justin Matus/ Chief Perry Monita approved the minutes from September 7th, 2022 meeting as submitted.

3. FTO and Hiring update

A. Past Graduates

Director Brett Houser reported that fifteen recruits cleared FTO with local agencies and that the feed back has been good, recruits are progressing as expected and are on their way to become officers.

B. Open positions

Director Brett Houser asked the Committee members how many open police officer positions they plan on having for the future around June. Captain Max Sheffield from Imperial Police Department stated his department would have two positions open up. Lieutenant James Thompson from El Centro Police Department said he's projecting around twelve open positions given that some become unfrozen. He further stated that his department has opened enrollment to hire Reserve Officers. Captain Brandon Shipwash from CHP informed the committee that his department has had a lot of retirements. Chief Perry Monita from Westmorland said he was down one position. Interim Chief Jesus Serrano said he had two opening and possibly an additional three. Chief Deputy Robert Benavidez from the Imperial County Sheriff's Office said he was estimated to have six to eight openings depending on how many people are leaving. He also told the committee that the Imperial County Sheriff's Office has zero Reserve Officers but is looking to hire Reserve Officers as long as a student has completed the Level III academy. Chief Jimmy Duran projected eight current openings but stated he was looking into filling three in a few days. Director Brett Houser informed the committee he would let students know which agencies have openings so there is no confusion with that topic.

C. Recruits in process

Captain Max Sheffield from Imperial Police Department informed the committee that his department interviewed two recruits in the morning to be Reserve Officers.

4. Presentations

Coordinator Michelle Velovich introduced herself. She told the committee members that she has been with Imperial Valley College for a year. She retired from San Diego Police Department after twenty six years and retired as a Lieutenant. She worked in patrol for nine years, investigations for nine years and worked at a supervisor for the last portion of her career. She stated she is enjoying working in the civilian aspect with the academy with her law enforcement experience. Her background includes education in Administration of Justice. She came here as a faculty member and POST Coordinator for the police academy. She told the committee that she found it challenging understanding the dynamics of a smaller community and it's hiring pools but after talking to the Chief's, hiring Commanders and Lieutenants she feels she has a good idea of what our community is looking for in the Imperial Valley. She told the committee that she enjoys working with Brett and added that he's open to new ideas on making better police officers for the local agencies.

A. Personal History Statement

Coordinator Michelle Velovich told the committee that Director Brett Houser requested to discuss the Personal History Statement with students. He told Coordinator Michelle Velovich that he noticed that students were holding off completing the Personal History Statements due to lack of knowledge of what the document is. Coordinator Michelle Velovich had Instructor Morales give a three hour lecture of how to fill out the Personal History Statement. She felt this helped students understand the gravity of what should be put in the Personal History Statement and how to talk to background investigators. Coordinator Michelle Velovich asked the committee for feedback if they feel there is anything else that can be incorporated in this process.

5. POST Update

Director Brett Houser told the committee that he was able to sit through the videos of the POST Commission Meeting and the Advisory Meeting in Sacramento and said there are new changes coming.

A. 1070- 4 -year requirement

Effective July 1st, 2023, 1070- specialized trainings will need a four hour refresher every four years.

B. LD 43-Terrorism

LD 43-Terrorism has changed greatly since 911. The requirements are no longer POST provided. Instructor Jeff Mason worked on that subject matter to get it approved.

6. In-service training updates

The Imperial Valley College Public Safety Department has had twenty nine students on it's roster for getting updates. Director Brett Houser anticipates that this is something that will continue to grow. The POST training cycle ends December 31st then the next one starts up. He told the committee that he will work with their training managers to work on a schedule. He further stated that he has a core training team for the In-service training but is looking to add more instructors so he can offer more flexibility.

A. Brawley

Scheduled to do Defensive Tactics updates.

B. El Centro

Scheduled to do Defensive Tactics updates.

C. Learning Portal Media CPT Facilitation

CPT Facilitator has been added to the POST Learning Portal. Director Brett Houser will start working with Brawley Police Department to start obtaining the CPT credit.

7. Train-the-trainer

Director Brett Houser is looking to obtain certifications to hold train-the-trainer updates. These classes will be POST reimbursable.

A. AICC

Director Brett Houser reported that he was able to obtain certification to hold an Academy Instructor Certification Course (AICC) here at the Imperial Valley College. He is looking at a flexible 40 hour schedule to accommodate potential instructors. This class will be POST reimbursable.

B. Physical Training Instructor

We are down to one instructor. IVC needs to grow the number of instructors available to work with. Director Brett Houser reported that he is currently working to obtain certification to hold that training.

C. Range Instructor

D. Cultural Diversity

Director Brett House commented that this certification is tough because this training is only offered through the Museum of Tolerance.

E. Use of Force

POST Instructor Jeff Mason is going to the train-the-trainer course. Once he comes back, he will be able to deliver this training to our local agencies.

8. Recruit Status

Director Brett Houser gave the committee updates on each module.

A. Module III

The class started with forty one student. More training equipment needed to be ordered to accommodate the class size. Our certification with POST is capped with a class size of 45. IVC's curriculum is capped with a class size of 35. The goal is to obtain students in-between those numbers. Towards the end of the class, five students failed testing so the academy ended up with thirty six students.

B. Module II

The class is currently at twenty nine students.

C. Module I

It looks like there are about thirty students that are eligible to enter. A few students need to fix registration errors so the Level I should end up with thirty five students.

9. Regional Public Safety Training Center

A. Update

Dean Gail Warner informed the committee that at sixty percent the bond passed. She thanked the committee members for their support and told them that there would be a meeting in February for police and fire departments to provide their input into the project since their departments will be the end users, she strongly advised them to attend so they could tell IVC what their wants and needs are.

10. Adjournment

M/S/C POST Instructor Mason/Chief Deputy Benavidez to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 am.