



BOROUGH OF STATE COLLEGE

243 South Allen Street, State College, PA 16801-4806

Questions from the May 13th Special Council Meeting along with the staff responses:

Are police officers trained to not use a Taser under seven (7) feet? A speaker indicated that according to an NPR report on May 12, 2019, an expert indicated that to use a Taser closer than 7 feet is ineffective and is only going to antagonize a person who is the target of the Taser. He asked whether the police department has been trained not to use a Taser under seven (7) feet.

Response: According to the police department's Taser instructor, his instruction from AXON (the manufacture and the company who provided the instructor training) did NOT include any instruction about not using the Taser under seven (7) feet. It is an acceptable practice to deploy a Taser under seven (7) feet but realizing it could result in a lack of probe spread resulting in less Neuromuscular Incapacitation (NMI) and only localized pain from the probes than if deployed at a greater distance. Additionally, there are numerous other factors that impact the effectiveness of Tasers. Some of those include clothing thickness, body make-up, and location of probes on the body.

A speaker suggested the formation of a Community Oversight Board that was not toothless and has authority to take formal action against police officers.

Response: A Community Review Board (or Community Oversight Board) was listed as a lower priority in the Task Force on Police and Communities of Color report. A Community Review Board is still under consideration but currently there has not been a decision to proceed with a CRB.

A speaker requested the release of the 911 calls of the March 20th shooting from Centre County and requests the name of and firing of Officer #1 for conduct unbecoming. The speaker also stated that neither Officer #1 nor Officer #2 should be working in the State College community.

Response: A response to this question is not available at this time pending the internal inquiry.

Was officer #3 in charge when the 3 officers arrived at the scene?

Response: A response to this question is not available at this time and will be part of the internal inquiry.

Who developed the plan?

Response: A response to this question is not available at this time and will be part of the internal inquiry.

Did Officer #3 come up with the plan and was the plan consistent with the FBI training received?

Response: A response to this question is not available at this time and will be part of the internal inquiry.



What will Council do to make sure someone with mental illness with suicidal ideations or mental disabilities will not be subjected to deadly force by the police?

Response: The Borough is unable to make this or any other similar guarantee. The Borough is fully committed to doing all we can put processes in place that would minimize the risk of a person with suicidal ideations from being killed or even seriously injured by police or anyone else. We will also encourage the broader community to do the same.

What will Council do to move this discussion to the state and federal level?

Response: To be determined.

What police reform will you require?

Response: The Borough is unable to specify at this time what, if any, police reforms are needed. A thorough review of this incident and other details regarding the police profession in general, and the State College Police Department more specifically, must be undertaken before determining what reform, if any, is needed.

The new Task Force will work on goals but what is going to happen right now if the police receive a mental health call?

Response: The State College Police Department and all other Centre County Police Departments continue to respond to mental health calls for service as required by Pennsylvania law. Between March 20, 2019 and May 31, 2019, the State College Police Department has responded to at least 136 calls that involved mental health. At least 18 of these calls involved serving a 302 mental health warrant.

How/Why have the number of mental health calls increased so significantly from 2017 and 2018?

Response: We do not know the reason for the increase in mental health calls over 2017 and 2018. This question has been forwarded to the Centre County Mental Health Intellectual Disabilities Office for any response they may be able to provide.

How are other cities handling MH/ID 302 warrant service calls?

Response: All cities or police departments in Centre County follow the same process or protocol for responding to MH/ID 302 warrant service calls as State College does. We have contacted the Centre County Administrator and the Centre County Mental Health Intellectual Disabilities Director to request for information on other ways communities in Pennsylvania and other states are responding to these types of calls.



How many African-American police officers are employed by the State College Borough?

Response: None

What do police do for translation services?

Response: Following are Interpreter services available to SCPD:

1. **Global Connections** (PSU) (814) 863-3927- Access through Google Drive to obtain list of current interpreters (This is our primary service as we have an MOU).
2. Centre County Communications Center has an account with **VOIANCE**. The communications center can connect officers via conference call with an interpreter.
3. Centre Safe has an account with **Language Line** (1-800-311-1232) primarily used for victims.
4. **PIRC** (Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center), also accessed through Centre Safe and primarily used for victims of domestic violence.
5. Centre County Courts- **Court Administration** arranges interpreters- Linda Weaver (814) 355-6727.

What is the timeline for implementation of body cameras?

Response: Chief Gardner provided the following timeline to implement the police department's Body Worn Camera (BWC) program

BWC Policy Finalized and Adopted - no later than **June 10, 2019**

BWC On-Line Training for all Officers Completed - no later than **July 15, 2019**

All BWC Technology Needs set up and Finalized (Docking / Charging Stations, Storage) - **July 29, 2019**

BWC Rollout and Program Implementation – no later than **August 12, 2019**

What is the status of implementing a Community Review Board?

Response: This was listed as a lower priority in the Task Force on Police and Communities of Color report. A Community Review Board (CRB) is still under consideration but currently there has not been a decision to proceed with a CRB.



Other Questions that have been asked since the Officer-Involved Shooting

1) What is the total personnel count of the State College Police Department? 2a) How many of those are civilian/administrative personnel?

Response: There are 70 employees in the State College Police Department broken down as follows:

Three (3) sworn administrative officers (1- Chief of Police and 2 – Captains

58 sworn police officers

Nine (9) civilian/non-sworn employees

2) How many of the total personnel have received bias training?

Response: All 61 sworn officers have received anti-bias and other social justice trainings broken down by rank as listed in 3a) and 3b) below.

3a) How many of that number are officers?

Response: 46 sworn police officers

3b) How many are supervisory personnel (Sgt., Lt., Captain, Chief)?

Response: One (1) Chief, Two (2) Captains, Seven (7) Lieutenants, and Four (4) Sergeants

4) How many of the total personnel have received Crisis Intervention Training (CIT)?

Response: 45 sworn personnel have received Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) as broken down in 4a) and 4b) below.

4a) How many of that number are officers?

Response: 36 sworn police officers have received CIT training

4b) How many are supervisory personnel (Sgt., Lt., Captain, Chief)?

Response: Nine (9) sworn supervisory personnel have received CIT



5) When were the body cams purchased for the department?

Response: In September and October 2018, the State College Police Department (SCPD) conducted a two-month Body Worn Camera (BWC) pilot program to determine the feasibility of implementing a BWC program long-term in the police department. Based on a successful pilot program, the police department budgeted for BWC's in the 2019 operating budget. Borough Council approved this budget request on December 21, 2019 and the BWC equipment was purchased during the first quarter of 2019.

6) What are the reasons for the delay in the implementation of body cam use by the department?

Response: There has not been a delay in the implementation of body cameras by the department. The implementation schedule of body cameras called for procurement of the equipment in the 1st quarter of 2019, research model BWC policies, and draft and adopt a BWC policy during the 2nd quarter, and then set up servers and IT related work, complete officer training, and roll-out (officers begin to use) the BWC Program on or before August 12, 2019.