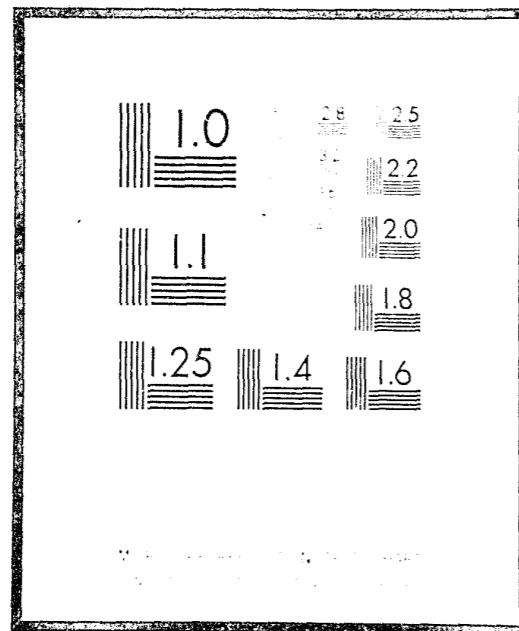


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CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY
30 Bank Street
New Britain, Connecticut 06051

POLICE LEGAL ADVISOR FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

January 1, 1971 - December 31, 1971

(LEAA Project No. #71-DF-590)

Commencing January 1, 1971, the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency instituted a Police Legal Advisor Program through a grant from the LEAA. At the outset it was thought that the Police Legal Advisor would, based largely on recommendations and guidelines from other police legal units, function as a police lawyer for the six participating Departments of the Central Connecticut Region. It was originally anticipated that case by case consultation would be offered by the Legal Advisor and significant in-service training would also be his responsibility. A memorandum dated February 16, 1971 was directed to all police chiefs detailing the anticipated functions of the Police Legal Advisor, (see attached Exhibit A). On March 25, 1971 an annual work program was also issued, (see attached Exhibit B).

Early in the year, it became apparent that the single greatest need of the 300 or more uniformed police that comprise the forces in the Region was an informational source as to current case law. A Regional Law Enforcement Bulletin was instituted, since reaching each officer on a person-to-person or department-to-department basis within the 167 square miles of the Region with sufficient information on a regular basis was totally impractical. The Bulletin is drafted on a month-to-month basis and attempts to highlight recent case law deemed relevant to police practices. Sufficient copies for every officer are distributed throughout the Region by the various Departments with two non-participating towns, Wethersfield and Newington, receiving complimentary copies as per their requests. There have been ten of these Bulletins issued since January of 1971 wherein 24 State and Federal cases were detailed along with their significance for the police. In addition the Bulletins frequently contained answers to police questions directed to the Police Legal Advisor and analysis of pertinent statutes that are creating current law enforcement problems. It is my opinion that the Regional Law Enforcement Bulletin brings to the police the immediate type of information and analysis that is becoming an ever increasing necessity if they are to constitutionally perform their duties. In effect, the police receiving this Bulletin know within one week what the Connecticut, Federal and the United States Supreme Court have to say about law enforcement practices. The Bulletins attempt to explain the effect or modification the court has made on their police procedures. These Bulletins represent the most significant achievement of the first year program, (see Bulletins 1 - 10 attached).

In conjunction with the Bulletins, various detailed memoranda were issued to each officer throughout the Region covering such topics as Search of Motor Vehicles, Children Who Leave Home After Their Sixteenth Birthday, Right to Counsel, Unnamed Informants in Warrant Affidavits, Report Writing, Petitions to Erase, Free Speech for Police Officers, Obscenity, Arrest Warrants After On-Site Liquor Violations, Calibration of Police Cars for Speeding Cases, and Who Pays When A Policeman Is Sued. These memoranda have attempted to clarify police conduct or responsibility in the subject areas as well as offer procedural guidelines.

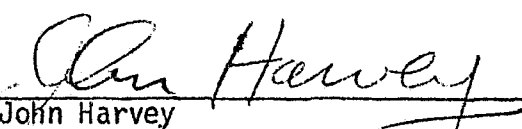
I was appointed by Commissioner Dorsey to the Subcommittee on Equal Administration of Justice in September. The Subcommittee makes recommendations to the State Planning Committee on Criminal Administration and these recommendations frequently have an impact upon the allocation of a portion of the funds received from the Federal government under the Safe Streets Act; additionally, the Subcommittee makes recommendations concerning pending legislation in the Connecticut Legislature. It is hoped that my experience with the local police will give the Subcommittee additional insight into police needs and goals.

During 1972 the Regional Law Enforcement Bulletins and legal Memoranda will again be utilized as the major in-service training tool, along with my participation in recruit schools as they develop. A documentation of the statutory functions and power of each of the local Police Commissions, along with suggested Commission by-laws and the requirements of due process in disciplining police officers are all projected Police Legal Advisor services during 1972. Additionally, it is hoped that I will be of assistance in drafting recommended State legislation for the 1973 legislative session which will facilitate oral search warrants.

While there is an ever-growing number of Police Legal Advisors throughout the country, there are few legal units that operate on a regional basis. It is my opinion that the regional approach to the sharing of services such as the Police Legal Advisor, is the only realistic way to provide such services for medium and small size Departments while keeping the costs within reason. The municipalities are literally sharing a service that they would most probably have unavailable to them absent the regional approach because of their size and sporadic needs.

Every police department in the country is subject to criticism, dictates and analysis from all sectors of our society. It is my hope that the Police Legal Advisor will help the police achieve a growing confidence in their conduct which should enable them to perform as true professionals in this age of legal complexities and societal pressures. The general public will be the ultimate beneficiary of any law enforcement improvements realized.

Respectfully submitted,


John Harvey
Police Legal Advisor
Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency


Melvin J. Schneidermeyer
Program Director

Law Enforcement Assistance Grant #71-DF-590

February 3, 1972

This program was financed through a \$15,000 U. S. Law Enforcement Assistance grant administered by the Connecticut Committee on Criminal Administration which was matched with \$10,000 from the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency municipal financial contributions provided by Berlin, Bristol, New Britain, Plainville, Plymouth, and Southington.

A P P E N D I X

EVALUATION OF 1971 POLICE LEGAL ADVISOR PROGRAM (LEAA PROJECT NUMBER 72-DF-01-0004) IN THE

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGION

Prepared by

Melvin J. Schneidermeyer, CCRPA Director

During the month of December, 1971, each police chief in the Central Connecticut Region was mailed a confidential questionnaire aimed at evaluating the Central Connecticut Region 1971 Police Legal Advisor Program as well as evaluate the services provided by John Harvey, Esq. serving in the capacity of a Regional Police Legal Advisor. Responses were received from five of the six police departments in the Region.

Without exception, all evaluations of the first year Police Legal Advisor Program were very favorable and complimentary. The Director of Security at Central Connecticut State College also submitted an unsolicited letter indicating strong support and appreciation for the services provided by John Harvey.

The complete support of the Regional Police Legal Advisor Program by police chiefs is evidenced by the fact that next year's grant requires a cash match amounting to \$4,700.00 from the departments within the Region; all departments have indicated this cash match will be provided in their next budget.

The following is a summary of the responses received in a confidential evaluation questionnaire from five of the six police departments in the Region:

1. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE POLICE LEGAL ADVISOR PROGRAM?

Responses: "Excellent program. The advice and counsel of the Police Legal Advisor was very helpful during the year".

"I think that it is very good and has been most helpful to our department on many occasions".

"I feel that the Program should be adopted in police departments in all communities".

"It has been an extremely beneficial program to this department".

"Very good".

2. SHOULD IT BE CONTINUED?

Responses: All indicated yes.

3. IF SO, WHAT CHANGES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE INSTITUTED:

Responses: "No changes".

"No changes necessary at this time".

"The program is working well and I see no need for changes".

"The program has been flexible enough so that any future requirements should not be a problem".

"No comment".

4. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE CALIBER OF SERVICE RENDERED BY THE POLICE LEGAL ADVISOR?

Responses: "Excellent service. His research and legal opinions were a great help on many occasions".

"I think that the service has been excellent".

"The attorney has been more than cooperative in all areas".

"I consider the caliber of service of our present Legal Advisor to be excellent".

"I am very much satisfied with the attitude and legal knowledge of the present Advisor".

"Excellent".

5. WAS THE SERVICE FAST ENOUGH?

Responses: All five responses indicated yes.

6. DO YOU FEEL YOUR DEPARTMENT IS BENEFITED BY THIS PROGRAM?

Responses: "Yes".

"Our department has benefited very much".

"Yes, the availability of a Legal Advisor to the Detective Division and other officers who daily seek opinions and advice in connection with their duties is a considerable benefit".

"Yes, we do".

"Yes".

7. DID THE POLICE LEGAL ADVISOR MAKE FREQUENT ENOUGH VISITS TO YOUR DEPARTMENT?

Responses: "Yes".

"Yes, he made many visits to our department".

"Yes, more than expected".

"Yes, and has come over on any occasion he was asked, as well as making periodic visits".

"Yes, and in addition to visits, he keeps in touch by phone and also attends monthly Board of Police Commissioners' meetings held in the evening, and any other meetings we have requested his attendance".

8. ARE THE LAW ENFORCEMENT BULLETINS AND MEMOS FROM THE POLICE LEGAL ADVISOR TRULY BENEFICIAL?

Responses: "Yes".

"Yes, I think so, to a great degree".

"Yes, the ones received have been very helpful as they pertain to situations that patrolmen are confronted with daily".

"Yes, they have been very helpful, and used as training guides".

"Yes".

9. DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR CRITICISMS?

Responses: "I hope the program will be continued, as I am sure we will use his legal advice to improve our services in the equal administration of justice and in enforcing the law".

"It is my opinion that the Legal Advisor has been very helpful, most cooperative, always available and has served our department in a most satisfactory manner".

"We are more than pleased with his services".

"We, in the six communities who have the services of a Police Legal Advisor, are very fortunate".

"We are happy with the services rendered".

"No comment".

The afore-mentioned summary evaluation by police chiefs is extremely favorable and very supportive of the 1971 Central Connecticut Police Legal Advisor Program as well as the Advisor himself. As the Program Director of this project, I must concur in all of the comments afore-mentioned. I have concluded that John Harvey has carried out his duties in a most professional and efficient manner. With both the verbal and financial backing of police departments throughout the Region, I have not the slightest hesitation in recommending a continuation of this Program in the Central Connecticut Region.

Respectfully submitted,

Melvin J. Schneidermeyer

Melvin J. Schneidermeyer
Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency Director
and
Police Legal Advisor Program Director

END