

STATE OF UTAH
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



SEAN D. REYES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Spencer E. Austin
Chief Criminal Deputy

Ric Cantrell
Chief of Staff

Tyler R. Green
Solicitor General

Brian L. Tarbet
Chief Civil Deputy

March 18, 2019

Dear law enforcement partners:

Utah experienced a record number of officer-involved shootings in 2018. All of us in law enforcement have taken note of this increase and the impact it has on our officers and on the public. I believe this warrants a cooperative in-depth study to see what actions we might take to reduce the number of shootings, increase the safety of our officers, and maintain a high level of public trust.

We hope the study will provide answers to the following questions:

- What changes, if any, should we make in our training curriculum or our policies and procedures?
- Can we improve our after-incident response to positively influence the outcome of these events (both short and long-term) and improve the safety and well-being of our officers?
- Is this spike a trend or an anomaly?
- What other factors may be driving the numbers up?

It is important to note that this analysis will not be a review of the justification of the shootings. Nothing in the process will look at that. I invite all administrators of law enforcement agencies, to partner with us and support this very important study. The proposed process is attached. You will see that to be successful, it requires your assistance.

Thank you, in advance, for your support. The results will benefit law enforcement, the citizens we serve, and the entire state of Utah.

With deepest personal respect,

Sean D. Reyes
Utah Attorney General

1. The study as proposed will be a comparison of 2016, 2017, and 2018 OIS incidents. We will first enlist your data units to pull together the needed data.
2. Our efforts in law enforcement training is to keep our officers and the public safe. What we expect to learn from this study:
 - Is the increase an anomaly or a trend?
 - What are the driving factors that have pushed the numbers up?
 - Does “suicide by cop” play a role?
 - Do mental health issues play a role?
 - Is it a function of population increase?
 - Is there an “anti-law enforcement sentiment” factor?
 - What changes to policy, training or budgets are needed?
 - Is our pre-escalation/de-escalation training sufficient?
 - How can we improve the safety of our officers and the public?
 - Review training curriculum.
 - Are the stress reduction measures adequate?

This is not a re-investigation of the OIS events.

3. How will this study be conducted?
 - We will gather information from:
 - Officers who have been involved in an OIS.
 - Protocol teams that have investigated OIS.
 - Collect information from data bases that currently collect data.
 - U of U criminal justice group.
4. Expected outcomes:
 - An understanding of the driving factors so that an interdiction plan can be developed.
 - Improved training for the safety of officers.
 - Recommendations to agency policy and procedures.
 - Respond to public inquiry.
 - Maintain public trust and confidence in law enforcement.

After compiling the data, we will meet together to analyze what we have found. We would like to enlist any appropriate members of your agencies that you approve to be a part of this analysis and participate in the creation of the final report. The report will be distributed to any Utah law enforcement agency that would like one. Pertinent information will also be provided to the public through the media.

AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS REQUESTED TO PARTNER

Utah Chiefs of Police

Utah Sheriffs Association

Need access to the involved officers, help from their data units, and invite their training officers

CCJJ

Need access to their data and analysts. Possibly UCJC

POST

As a training organization

UDC

Criminal histories on offenders

Union Attorneys

Advise of the project and support their client officer's involvement