

To: All GACP Members
From: GACP's 1st Vice President Dwayne Orrick
Reference: GACP's 2007/2008 Goals
Date: May 31, 2007

During the recent 2007-2008 Goals Conference held at the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, we had a very productive meeting with active participation from police chiefs across the State. Pursuant to this meeting, I have selected four goals for the upcoming year.

GOAL # 1

Appoint a committee to examine the impact of persons with mental health problems on criminal justice agencies.

It is obvious this is a very serious problem for all criminal justice agencies in Georgia and across the nation. The magnitude of the issue has been demonstrated with recent incident across the nation including Virginia Tech shootings and other homicides. I feel this project will likely bring nationwide attention to the State of Georgia.

GOAL #2

Support the development of a Center of Police Leadership Excellence at the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education. This Center will be developing a cadre of leadership instructors and begin teaching the IACP Leadership in Police Organizations curriculum in 2008.

The most pressing issue for law enforcement agencies in the near future will be leadership development of all their officers. Based upon the premise that "every officer is a leader", this is the most comprehensive training course in law enforcement today. It enhances individuals' leadership skills to better work with individuals, small groups, the entire department, and outside agencies. Chiefs failing to become involved in leadership development for themselves and their officers are severely handicapping their ability to address future challenges and are limiting their future professional success. Athens Clarke County Police Chief, Jack Lumpkin, has already started work on this project and will be sending information out regarding the program in the near future.

GOAL # 3

Appoint a committee to study the impact of the ongoing issues relating to illegal immigration.

This is a very hot issue across the nation and the proposed legislation has many hidden requirements for local law enforcement agencies. We must prepare our chiefs and officers for these requirements. I expect there will be attention placed on our efforts from local governing bodies and other states.

GOAL #4

Enhance the chiefs' ability to interact in a more positive and productive manner with elected officials.

To effectively draw the resources we need as an association and as police chiefs of our departments, we must be able to maneuver in the political environment. The Georgia Police Chiefs have a great reputation of integrity and leadership with the State Legislature. However, to fulfill our obligations of training and supporting local police chiefs, we must continue to lobby for much needed financial support and legislation.

At the same time every police chief in the State of Georgia runs for re-election every two weeks during every meeting of the City Council. We are held to a very high standard by the governing authorities. We must continue to train and prepare chiefs to develop positive and supportive relationships with their governing boards. Ignoring this reality guarantees the chief will not be able to sufficiently address the needs of his officers to serve their community. In some cases, it ensures the chief will have a short, painful, and colorful career as a law enforcement executive.

In addition to the aforementioned goals, the Recruitment and Retention Ad-hoc Committee is scheduled to have their final report available for presentation at the 2008 Winter Conference.

I will be asking the By-Laws and Constitution Committee to examine the proposal of making the Mentoring Committee a Standing Committee. I am also asking them to examine the proposal of an internal ethics review panel for police chiefs who violate ethical standards.

I have asked incoming 3rd Vice President Chief Woody Blue to continue working with his ad-hoc committee on retirement issues.

Finally, I have asked Chief Blue to work with Chief Mike Jones to develop a study committee to review the issues relating to equity in traffic enforcement and propose recommendations to address these concerns.

I look forward to a productive and positive year. Anyone who wishes to be assigned to a particular committee or participate in any of these programs should contact Executive Director Frank V. Rotondo or me.