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June 9, 2022

Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards
927 Centennial Way
Lansing, MI 48913

Subject: Request for Commission support to designate Kellogg Community College as a Regional Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy.

Dear Commission,

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for giving me the opportunity to address the Commission on May 13, 2022, to request permission to establish a Regional Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy. Since then, we have been working diligently to finalize an operating proposal that will suit the needs of our future police officers, but more so the needs addressed by our local law enforcement agencies.

The agencies residing in our service district have expressed deep concerns that the two regional police academies in Southwest Michigan, Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC) and Lansing Community College, do not have enough seats to accommodate their needs. For instance, Battle Creek Police Department has approximately 12-15 potential new hires who will need to attend a police academy as soon as possible. Chief Jim Blocker conveyed to me that neither police academy has any openings in the fall and it appears that the spring academy will be full as well.

With your support and approval, Kellogg Community College will be in a position to provide training for these employed recruits and meet the needs of our local police agencies. In addition, adding a third Regional Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy in SW Michigan will not displace KVCC or LCC, as they are currently operating at or near full capacity. As stated by LCC Police Academy Director, Andy Lindeman, on May 13, 2022, although he may lose a few employed recruits to KCC, the need to train employed recruits is extremely high. He ended his address to you by stating that he was in support of KCC establishing a Regional Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy.

In closing, I would like to thank you for taking the time to listen to me and for reviewing our submitted operating proposal. I also look forward to addressing the Commission on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, and having the opportunity to answer any questions, comments or concerns you may have.

Thank you in advance for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Robert A. Miller'.

Robert A. Miller
Director, Public Safety Education
(269) 565-2197

Enclosures: Letters of support

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF EMMETT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

617 Cliff Street
Battle Creek, Michigan 49014
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Mr. Timothy Bourgeois,

As a graduate of the Criminal Justice program at Kellogg Community College (K.C.C.) and current Director of Public Safety with Emmett Township, I am writing you in support of the **college's current venture to** offer a full-time academy for their law enforcement students, as well as, the ability to accommodate employed recruits. The program at K.C.C. is very respected and delivers well rounded instruction, assistance and training for our local students that have chosen a law enforcement career path.

With regards to the statewide and local need for more law enforcement officers, our department contemplated a grant request with the hopes that we could hire two of our paid on-call firefighters and transition them to a position of a full time cross-trained Public Safety Officer. Part of the grant criteria was that priority is being given to projects that will be completed by a date later this year. In February of this year, while considering the grant opportunity, I spoke to Rob Miller (Director, Public Safety Education at K.C.C), about the current program status and the possibility of running a full-time Regional Academy. I feel that offering a shortened academy will not only benefit our department, but other local law enforcement departments and their employment deficiencies. It has been exceedingly difficult finding excellent quality applicants who want to take on the pursuit of a law enforcement career. Having the opportunity to attend a shortened academy will also benefit the students attending locally. Currently, recruitment of local high school students puts employment of these individuals on standby for several years until they complete their tracking classes. Given the opportunity to start the academy and finish **by year's end, could be a huge benefit to our local law enforcement job market** and gives departments like ours the opportunity to receive grant funding.

We have been very satisfied with the instruction provided by the staff at the college, and I have been involved with their mock interview process for many years. Emmett Township Public Safety will continue to be a supporter of their multi-year tracking program and we hope that Kellogg Community College is given consideration for a chance to provide a condensed and specialized academy that could be completed in as little as 21 weeks.

I thank you for your time and consideration of their endeavor and look forward to hearing back from the Michigan Commission of Law Enforcement Standards and your decision of allowing Kellogg Community College the opportunity to provide a full-time regional training academy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth Cunningham".

Kenneth Cunningham
Director of Public Safety





DALE BOULTER
CHIEF OF POLICE

Hastings City Police

201 E. STATE STREET
HASTINGS, MICHIGAN 49058
(269) 948-4800 Dispatch
(269) 945-5744 Office
(269) 945-4358 Fax



JULISSA KELLY
DEPUTY CHIEF

Mr. Bourgeois,

I am writing this letter as the Chief of Hastings Police Department and as a graduate from the Kellogg Community College police academy tracking program. I graduated from the program in 2003 and have remained in touch with the standards and curriculum being taught throughout the program. The program continues to provide excellent instruction and guidance to those choosing a law enforcement career.

In speaking with Mr. Rob Miller several months ago, I inquired about running a Regional Police Academy to facilitate the need of many agencies here in Barry County. As you are aware, the needs in Barry County and the City of Hastings mimic the needs of others. We struggle with finding qualified and professional candidates to fulfill the needs of the citizens we represent.

Kellogg Community College has been a great supporter of the needs to the surrounding departments in this area. I have great confidence in the ability of the KCC team to accommodate our needs, the concept of a Regional Police Academy would allow for them to continue great work with those who are fortunate enough to attend their program in a shorter time frame. The demand for recruits over the last two years has been the biggest I have seen in my career.

I am also confident the addition of a regional program would not take away from the current program nor would the professionalism and quality of either suffer. The Hastings Police Department will continue to support the curriculum and instruction anyway we can, along with recruitment and recommendations of attendance.

I am proud of my time spent with the KCC Team and will continue to look towards the future with excitement regarding developments they explore.

Respectfully,

Dale Boulter

Chief of Police

"We treasure the old - progress with the new"



Branch County Sheriff's Office

Undersheriff Keith Eichler

Captain Frederick Blankenship

Sheriff C. John Pollack

379 Keith Wilhelm Drive
Coldwater, MI 49036

Telephone: (517) 278-2325
Fax: (517) 278-5698

June 6, 2022

Danny Rosa
MCOLES Commission
Michigan State Police Headquarters
7150 Harris Drive
Dimondale, MI 48821

Dear Mr. Rosa:

Due to our staffing issues in Branch County, I am not able to attend this meeting with Kellogg Community College to form a regional academy.

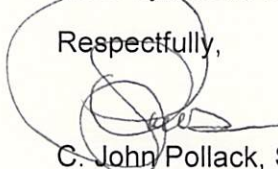
I am, however, writing this letter because, I am in full support of having such an academy located close to Branch County. Our request centers around our probable candidates and the concerns of an economically challenged community. This has become much more of an issue now that law enforcement qualified applicants are at an all-time low. We are now having to attract applicants by offering to pay to send them to academies.

Most of our applicants are local residents. Having an academy only 40 minutes away gives us the opportunity to overcome our largest economical shortfall of low wages. Almost every police department around and in our community, is able to pay more than our county can afford. We need every advantage available to offer candidates to help overcome this hurdle.

Paying to put an applicant up in a hotel for 18 weeks at a time is a very big financial hurdle, not only for us financially, but for the applicant as well. Not having to be on the road 60 minutes or more one way a day to attend an academy for 18 weeks is another advantage.

It is my hope that in some small way, this letter will help convince you that for smaller departments, we need every advantage we can get to attract candidates. Having an academy close by, would be a very big advantage.

Respectfully,


C. John Pollack, Sheriff

Cc: Robert Miller