



MEDIA RELEASE

Department of Public Safety

Ohio Department of Public Safety • Cathy Collins-Taylor, Director
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FIVE-MEMBER PANEL TO OVERSEE SELECTION PROCESS FOR 16th OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL SUPERINTENDENT

(COLUMBUS) – Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Cathy Collins-Taylor today announced the selection of a five-member review panel to initiate the process of selecting the 16th Superintendent of the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP).

The OSHP Leadership Review panel was established by Director Collins-Taylor to assist in the selection of the Patrol's next leader. Under Ohio law, the Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety holds the authority to fill the position. Panel members will evaluate the qualifications of applicants for the superintendent's position and then make non-binding recommendations to the Director based on their evaluations.

Chairing the OSHP Leadership Review panel will be veteran attorney and former City of Columbus Public Safety Director Larry H. James. A senior partner in the Columbus-based firm Crabbe, Brown and James, Mr. James has more than 30 years of experience working with legal issues impacting law enforcement and public safety. He currently serves as General Counsel to the National Fraternal Order of Police, representing more than 325,000 police officers across the nation.

"I am very pleased that Larry James has agreed to contribute his talent and expertise in leading this important selection process. He is very well-respected nationally in the law enforcement and legal communities, and we are fortunate to have him overseeing this effort," Director Collins-Taylor said.

From 1990 – 1992, James served as Columbus City Director of Public Safety under the administration of Mayor Dana G. Rinehart, providing management and oversight for 1,440 police officers, 1,208 fire fighters and 400 civilian employees. He is a graduate of Wittenberg University and the Cleveland State University Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

"We want to make sure that the process is transparent, fair and open, and that we produce the best candidates that the Director can select from," James said. "I look forward to working with the members of the panel and the Ohio State Highway Patrol's key stakeholders as we evaluate a diverse group of candidates for one of our state's top law enforcement leadership positions."

Other members of the OSHP Leadership Review Panel include Sarah Ellis, Senior Corporate Learning & Development Consultant, Nationwide Insurance; J. Randall Van Dyne, Assistant Vice President, University of Findlay; Robert J. Young, Human Resources Administrator, Ohio Department of Public Safety; and, Sgt. Jeremy Mendenhall, representing the Ohio State Troopers Association and the Ohio Troopers Coalition.

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"This is a diverse group of individuals who each bring a unique perspective to this review and selection process. I look forward to their input, as well as their consideration of input from a various group of stakeholders as we embark upon the work ahead of us," James said.

About the members of the OSHP Leadership Review Panel:

Sarah Ellis, Senior Corporate Learning & Development Consultant, Nationwide Insurance:

Prior to joining Nationwide in 2005, Ellis formerly served in criminal justice management positions with the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, U.S. Department of Justice, and the U.S. Office of Court Services. As a civilian employee of the Columbus Division of Police, she was instrumental in providing technical assistance and oversight in the Department's first accreditation by The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., (CALEA®). She is a graduate of The Ohio State University, where she earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees.

J. Randall Van Dyne, Assistant Vice President/Executive Director, University of Findlay:

Van Dyne is responsible for the overall management and development of programs that comprise The All Hazards Training Center at the University of Findlay. He has served as a Governor's appointee to the State Emergency Response Commission since 2002, and currently chairs the Internal Control Board for the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium, a U.S. Department of Homeland Security-funded consortium created to deliver DHS-approved training to rural First Responders and other important rural community constituents. He is a former board member of the U.S. Hazardous Materials Advisory Council and past president of the Ohio Society of Hazardous Materials Managers. He is a graduate of Ohio Northern University and Eastern New Mexico University.

Robert J. Young, Human Resources Administrator, Ohio Department of Public Safety:

Young is a senior executive and licensed attorney with more than 15 years of human resource experience. He retired in 2006 as Major and Commander of Human Resources with the Ohio State Highway Patrol following a 23-year career with the law enforcement agency. He is a graduate of The Ohio State University and Capital University School of Law.

Sgt. Jeremy Mendenhall, Ohio State Troopers Association/Ohio Troopers Coalition:

Sgt. Mendenhall is an 18-year veteran of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, currently assigned to the Zanesville Post. In 2008, Sgt. Mendenhall received the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Robert M. Chiaramonte Award for dedication to humanitarian efforts for his leadership in the development of "Project Impact," an annual educational program geared toward high school students addressing the dangers of drugs and alcohol, poor driving habits and peer pressure. He has previously served in assignments at the Marietta, Jackson, Athens and Gallipolis Posts, and is a member of the 121st Cadet Class of the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy.

A division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, the Ohio State Highway Patrol is an internationally accredited agency dedicated to professional law enforcement service. The Patrol provides statewide traffic services to keep our roadways safe; statewide emergency response services and support services to the public and the criminal justice community; investigation of criminal activities on state-owned and leased property throughout Ohio, and security for the Governor and other dignitaries. For more information, visit www.statepatrol.ohio.gov.

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