



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **OHIO COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY-POLICE ADVISORY BOARD ESTABLISHES BIAS FREE POLICING STANDARD**

**COLUMBUS** – Today, the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board (Ohio Collaborative) established a new statewide standard on Bias Free Policing during its meeting at the Ohio Department of Public Safety. This is the seventh standard adopted by the Ohio Collaborative, and states:

*Bias Free Policing:* Agencies shall establish a written policy governing biased based profiling that includes the following provisions:

- A prohibition against biased based profiling in traffic contacts, field contacts, and in asset seizure and forfeiture efforts;
- Training all agency enforcement personnel in biased based profiling issues and the relevant legal aspects;
- Corrective measures if biased based profiling occurs;
- The collection of data on all self-initiated traffic contacts to include, at a minimum, the race and gender of the driver of the vehicle stopped. For agencies that employ fewer than 35 sworn full time police officers, the collection of data does not have to occur until the year 2020; and
- A documented annual administrative review of agency practices, data collected and citizens' concerns. This review shall be made available to the public.

“The establishment of the bias free policing standard is another significant step in our effort to strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and the communities they serve,” said John Born, Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, who co-chairs the Board with former state Senator Nina Turner.

More than 450 agencies employing over 24,000 officers (more than 70 percent of all law enforcement officers in Ohio, including agencies and officers in most of Ohio’s metropolitan areas) are either certified or in the process of becoming certified by meeting standards for the use of force, including deadly force, and agency recruitment and hiring.

The first list of all Ohio compliant agencies will be published in March 2017.

The state has partnered with the Buckeye State Sheriffs’ Association and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police to help certify Ohio’s nearly 1,000 law enforcement agencies on a process to ensure that they are in compliance with Ohio’s new standards.

Gov. John R. Kasich established the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory board to oversee implementation of recommendations from the Ohio Task Force on Community-Police Relations.

For more information on the Ohio Collaborative and the new standards, visit: <http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/ohiocollaborative/>

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