

BOARD ACTION

Policy:	NA
Title:	Approval to Create the Edison State Community College Police Department

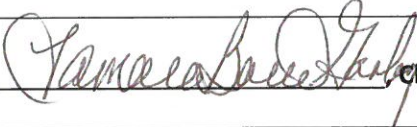
Background of Issue:

For some time, Edison State has relied on unarmed, contracted security personal, often assisted by Edison State's facilities staff, to police and secure the College. We now live in a very different security environment, which calls for a different security infrastructure. After much research, the logical alternative is to create an Edison State Community College Police Department. Doing so provides the following advantages for the College:

- **Legitimizing the Armed Personnel philosophy**
 - Standards are clear and well-established for arming police officers and maintaining certification with ongoing minimum training
 - Standards are lower, but clear and well-established for arming security guards contracted through an external private agency
 - Standards applied by a propriety agency hiring their own staff will need to be justified any time they are legally questioned, such as after a use-of-force incident
- **Expanded officer/campus safety**
 - Arming officers in order to respond to an active shooter is expected by our community
 - Several officer safety options only become available (for low or no cost) if we are a police department
 - Best example – ballistic vests – our armed officers are only affective if we can keep them alive long enough to neutralize the active shooter threat – we need to keep them safe in ballistic vest protection which has options for helping with the expense if we are sworn police officers
- **Professionalism**
 - Ongoing, relevant training and education is more readily available and frequently very low-cost
 - Police officers are generally regarded by citizens as more professional than security
 - More oppourtunities exist for low-cost continuing education for officers to achieve professional status
- **Accountability**
 - Laws relating to police expectations and behavior
 - Ohio Collaborative
 - Pursue certification for our department as a professional law enforcement agency through this voluntary statewide program that may become mandatory – similar to accreditation – achieved by proving we are meeting certain important standards
 - Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission – Professional Standards Division
 - Required to maintain standards to become and to remain a law enforcement agency employing peace officers

- **Access to Resources**
 - Live intelligence on potential threats to campus
 - Immediate notification (911) to campus emergencies
 - Force multiplication on incidents less intense than an active shooter but still dangerous
 - Grants and free-training intended for LE agencies only
 - Shared communications and records management systems (BCI or Miami County Communications Center)
 - Shared resources (firearms simulator, training opportunities, community education events)
- **Networking**
 - Law enforcement agencies/databases/personnel
 - Campus law enforcement groups (attending regional campus law enforcement meetings)
- **Recruitment**
 - Highly trained and experienced officers post-retirement
 - Highly motivated and enthusiastic students or apprentices
- **More efficient and accurate crime reporting**
 - Cleary Act advantages for police reporting that are not available to security-only institutions

The creation of an Edison State Police Department has been coordinated with the State's Attorney General's Office, who provided the attached Resolution for Edison State Community College's Board of Trustees to approve.

Impact on Student Success:	Students, and their parents, will see Edison State as a safer and more secure college.	
Impact on Budget:	Possible slight impact in FY 2020, as we curtail the contracted security guard contract.	
Recommendation: Approve the attached Resolution.		
Does this replace an existing policy? NA		
Approved: YES/NO	Signature:  Chairman	Date: 1/15/2020