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Arnold L. Randall

October 19, 2023

To: President Toni Preckwinkle and the Board of Commissioners  
From: Theresa Odum, Chief of Police  
cc: Arnold Randall, Eileen Figel, Delio Calzolari  
Date: October 19, 2023

**Re: Agenda Item 23-0554, Law Enforcement Training**

The **Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity-Today Act**, commonly known as the SAFE-T Act, is an Illinois statute enacted in 2021 that makes a number of reforms to the criminal justice system, affecting policing, pretrial detention and bail, sentencing, and corrections. Some of the new mandates may impose additional and unforeseen financial requirements for police departments. For example, all law enforcement agencies are required to use body worn cameras by 2025. Fortunately, the Forest Preserves of Cook County Police is already in compliance – at significant expense to the Forest Preserves (See Agenda Item 19-0491). Effective July 1, 2022, the SAFE-T Act includes a host of [new training requirements](#) for sworn law enforcement officers including:

**Annually**, the Forest Preserves Police Department must provide officers training on the following topics:

- Crisis intervention training (CIT response)
- Emergency medical response training and certification
- Law updates
- Officer wellness and mental health
- Firearms Restraining Order Act (“Red Flag Law” training)
- Firearms Qualification

**Every three (3) years**, the Forest Preserves must provide officers with a minimum of thirty (30) hours training on the following topics:

- Sexual Assault /Trauma informed response
- Constitutional and proper use of law enforcement authority
- Cultural competency (including implicit bias along with ethnic & racial sensitivity training)

- Civil rights, human rights, and procedural justice
- Reporting child abuse and neglect
- Sexual Assault/Abuse Investigator Training (for those who investigate sexual assault crimes)
- Use of Force
- At least 12-hours of hands-on, scenario-based role-playing scenarios regarding use of force
- At least 6-hours of instruction on use of force techniques, including the use of de-escalation techniques to prevent or reduce the need for force whenever safe and feasible or when force must be used, to use force that is objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional under the totality of the circumstances; and to ensure appropriate supervision and accountability
- At least 6-hours of training focused on high-risk traffic stops
- Specific training on officer safety techniques, including cover, concealment, and time
- Specific training on the law concerning stops, searches and use of force under the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution

**Every five (5) years**, officers must be trained on the psychology of domestic violence.

In addition to the training requirements for existing officers, the Law Enforcement Department has a shortage of Nineteen (19) police officers and will be on a continuous cycle of hiring and will have to utilize the available training academies, It is hard to predict the exact cost as academy pricing varies. The Forest Preserves Police Department already has eight (8) recruits in the Sheriff's Academy and will be sending ten (10) more in the next available class.