

Sheriff, DA to co-chair "deadly force" planning authority

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

The 2007 Legislature has required every county in Oregon to create a deadly physical force planning authority to develop and adopt a plan that addresses the use of deadly physical force by a police officer. As required by the law, SB 111, Sheriff Larry Blanton and district attorney Michael Dugan are co-chairpersons of the planning authority. Other members appointed were Redmond Chief of Police Ron Roberts, citizen member Tom York of Eagle Crest, Bend Police officer Mike Tabor, and Oregon State Police Sergeant Tom Kipp. Also assisting the planning authority are Captain Tim Edwards and Lieutenant Gary Decker of the Deschutes County Sheriff's office and Captain Gary DeKorte of the Redmond Police Department.

The planning authority created a timeline for the adoption of the plan as required by SB 111. The planning authority will meet on December 20, 2007 and January 31, 2008 in preparing the plan for a public hearing. The public hearing will be held on January 31, 2008 before the plan is submitted to the governing bodies of each law enforcement agency in the county. It is expected that the Deschutes County plan will be submitted to the Attorney General for approval by May 1, 2008. All plans in the state must be approved on or before July 1, 2008 in order to qualify for reimbursement of expenses incurred in the formation and adoption of the plan.

District attorney Michael Dugan was appointed the public information officer for the planning authority.

"Deschutes County and the law enforcement agencies in the county are light years ahead of many agencies in the state," Dugan said. "We created the Major Incident Response Team several years ago and the protocols for investigations for that team address almost all of the concerns raised in SB 111."

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