

# Support for Executive Budget Proposal

## INVESTING in Ohio's FUTURE

### Criminal Justice and Public Safety Initiatives



#### Ohio Mayors Alliance

Body-worn cameras have proven to be a critically important transparency and accountability tool for law enforcement professionals and the communities they serve. We appreciate the Governor's proposal to provide grant funding to help our cities implement this costly, but important technology. We look forward to working on this proposal and finding additional ways for state and local leaders to work together to restore trust and strengthen public safety in our communities.

— Keary McCarthy, Executive Director, Ohio Mayors Alliance



#### Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP)

The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police welcomes Governor DeWine's efforts to financially support the purchase of body-worn cameras for law enforcement. As the Chief of the Zanesville Police Department, I have experienced first-hand the financial obstacle of attempting to purchase body-worn cameras, so having state assistance would greatly improve our ability to add this valuable resource to our community.

— OACP Member and Zanesville Police Chief Tony Coury



#### Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association (BSSA)

Body-worn cameras come with very high costs associated not only with the purchase but with storage. The Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association fully supports this funding request, and if funding is secured, this will be a huge win for law enforcement.

— BSSA President and Hardin County Sheriff Keith Everhart



#### Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)

ATF continually seeks to build upon our working relationships with our local and state partners to investigate access to crime guns and prevent violent crime. These proposed grants for local departments can be used to expand and enhance the use of existing programs, like the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) and firearms tracing through ATF's National Tracing Center. This, in turn, aids our partners in their efforts to reduce gun violence using intelligence-led policing to root out the most violent offenders. That is a winning situation for all Ohioans.

— Roland H. Herndon, Jr., Special Agent in Charge of ATF's Columbus Field Division



#### Cuyahoga County Crime Gun Intelligence Center

There is a serious violent crime problem in Ohio centered around guns. Crime gun intelligence center grant funding would be instrumental in tackling this issue as it would enhance current efforts of prosecutors and law enforcement to look at gun crimes as a whole and identify the trigger pullers and gun traffickers. There is not enough money from the federal or state level focused on this issue. We welcome this assistance which will help expand our efforts in combating this crisis.

— Eleina K. Thomas, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Cuyahoga County Crime Gun Intelligence Center



#### Aurora Police Department

The law enforcement profession is under more scrutiny today than ever before in the history of our great nation. Now, more than ever, there is a need for enhanced professionalism and integrity in law enforcement. The Ohio Office of Law Enforcement Recruitment is exactly what we need right now to ensure accountability, to guarantee transparency, and to maximize the quality of service provided by our law enforcement professionals to the communities which they serve.

— Dan Kalk, Detective Sergeant, Aurora Police Department

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#### **Hamilton County Quick Response Team (QRT)**

We have shelves of overdose victims' cell phones that have sat idle due to the fact that we have not been able to access them with our current technology. Cell phones and the forensic analysis of them are key evidence that lead back to the supplier in many overdose death investigations. By enhancing our relationship with the ONIC, we will be able to obtain more investigative leads on cases and get the telephonic evidence collection we need to identify and ultimately get the suppliers off the streets and the justice deserved for the victims.

*– Thomas M. Fallon, Investigative Commander, Hamilton County Heroin Task Force, Hamilton County Quick Response Team (QRT)*

#### **Ohio Task Force Commanders Association (OTFCA)**

Since its inception, Ohio's multi-jurisdictional law enforcement task forces have come to depend on the Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center and its skilled team of intelligence analysts and forensic specialists to assist us in our investigative work. Their ability to gain access and forensically analyze digital evidence, has allowed us to exploit technology used every day by drug traffickers and criminal organizations that seek to harm Ohio communities. Their work has led to large scale seizures of drugs and currency, disrupted theft rings, dismantled criminal organizations, and significant convictions throughout the state. Quite literally, the ONIC has been a game changer for local law enforcement and we look forward to our continued collaboration.

*– President Dennis Lowe, OTFCA*

#### **Greene County ACE Task Force**

The Greene County ACE Task Force has used ONIC several times since its inception. This intelligence center provided by the Ohio Department of Public Safety has been very beneficial to our organization and its participating Greene County agencies. This free assistance is especially welcomed in an age of dwindling budgets and grants. The ACE Task Force is excited to continue its partnership with ONIC to combat the drug trafficking and overdose problems within Greene County.

*– Detective Adam Kempf, Greene County ACE Task Force*

#### **Washington County Sheriff**

Agents from the Washington County Major Crimes Task Force under my command have been investigating several large narcotics organizations with suspected Mexican Cartel origins engaged in the transportation and sale of illegal drugs in our area. We seized numerous cell phones during traffic interdiction stops and the execution of search warrants at key locations. Utilizing sophisticated equipment, the Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center was able to successfully extract information from these devices which aided greatly in the development of significant intelligence information. The success of our investigation would have not been possible without the outstanding cooperation from the ONIC team.

*– Larry Mincks, Washington County Sheriff*

#### **Grove City Division of Police**

The Grove City Division of Police has utilized the services provided by the Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center on multiple narcotics-related cases including overdose deaths. The comprehensive analysis conducted by the ONIC team has enhanced our investigative capabilities and generated new leads. ONIC's ability to parse out an extensive amount of data into a decipherable presentation has been beneficial to investigators and prosecutors alike. ONIC has quickly built a strong reputation with narcotics investigators and will continue to be an important resource.

*– Sergeant Michael Weaver, Grove City Division of Police, Special Operations Bureau*