

Capitol Police Department

Vermont State House

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MEMORANDUM

To: Francis Brooks, Sgt. at Arms

From: Leslie Dimick, Chief Of police

Date: February 10, 2014

Subject: Additional Officer

In reference to your request for justification of a 4th Officer. Before 2008 the Capitol Police was Authorized 4 Police Officers. After the death of Chief Janawicz it was decided due to the low pay scale and using the saving of not having a 4th Officer to raise the salaries at that time also due to recession the decided to not rehire a 4th Officer but to hire part-time officers to fill in. This has worked to a point with our decision to only use Fully Certified Officers to work in the part-time slots. This is due to a better more Experienced and knowledgeable Officer. The down side to this is that these Officers do have a to give priority to their Full-Time Jobs and this causes conflicts at times so an officer that has been on duty has to stay at overtime rates or work shorthanded for those time.

Full-time officers are more familiar with, Legislators, staff and Lobbyists and the day to day operations of the State House.

When we have an Officer out with an illness, vacation or training if the part-time Officers are not available to cover these shift are covered by only one Officer. If emergencies arise this could become a dangerous situation by only having one officer respond to a disturbance or panic alarm. It is policy with most police departments for officer safety that two Officers should respond to any type of emergency call. Is a standard training policy at the Vt. Police Academy to respond with two Officers Having two Officers on duty at the same time will make for a more positive outcome to Emergency situations and safer for all.

This return to 4 officers would return the Capitol Police to the authorized level we had before the passing of the former Chief. We have attempted to cover shifts with 3 part-time Officers and at times it has produced less than satisfactory results. This is due to their understandable priority to work at their primary Job. Having an Officer that his primary employment with the Capitol Police Dept. makes for a more reliable employee.

All the Studies that have been done here for Security at the State House had suggested that the Police force should be increased. Several were done right before 9/11 or after have all stated we should have a larger force. These were done by Secret Service and ManTech Systems.