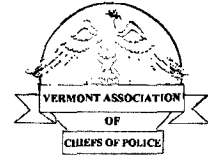


VERMONT ASSOCIATION
OF
CHIEFS OF POLICE



VACOP PRIORITIES FOR FY18:

President

Chief Jennifer Morrison
Colchester P.D.
802-264-5540

1st Vice President

Chief Frank Koss
Hinesburg P.D.
802-482-3397

2nd Vice President

Chief Seth Disanto
Newport P.D.
802-334-6733

3rd Vice President

Chief George Merkel
Vergennes P.D.
802-877-2201

Northern Directors

Chief Christopher Brickell
Brandon P.D.
802-247-5723

Chief Gary Taylor
St. Albans P.D.
802-524-2167

Chief Donald Hull
Stowe P.D.
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Southern Directors

Chief Doug Johnston
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Chief Paul Doucette
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Brian A. Kilcullen
Rutland City P.D.
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Past President

Chief Robbie Blish
Woodstock P.D.
802-457-1420

Treasurer

Chief Trevor Whipple
South Burlington P.D.
802-846-4111

Secretary

Nicole Dernier
Winhall P.D.
802-688-3895

Our overarching goal for FY18 is for the VACOP to speak with one voice on matters of concern to our communities. We will strive to collaborate and coordinate with the Vermont Police Association, the VT Association of State's Attorneys & Sheriffs, the VT Troopers' Association, and the Department of Public Safety to ensure that Vermont law enforcement is consistent and united in our approach to major public safety concerns.

Issues that we anticipate working on include:

1. VACOP continues to oppose legalization of marijuana, but realizes that it may be inevitable. Our goal is to be at the table to continue the discussion of potentially legalizing marijuana so that relevant public safety concerns are fully vetted prior to legalization taking place.

2. VACOP supports efforts to combat the ongoing opioid epidemic in Vermont. We look forward to being involved in initiatives to address all public safety issues related to opioid misuse/addiction and other drug-related issues in our communities. We recognize this as a public health crisis with a strong nexus to the work of law enforcement and first responders. We will advocate for multi-disciplinary approaches to address this egregious public safety threat.

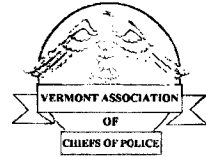
3. To increase the number of resources available in our communities to assist persons living with mental health challenges and to move law enforcement away from being the primary responders to incidents involving mental health issues. ***VACOP supports the addition of more inpatient psychiatric beds throughout the State and the separation of forensic patients from non-forensic patients.***

4. To strongly advocate for no new unfunded mandates from the legislature or any other entity.

5. To continue to address the ongoing challenges of recruitment and retention of qualified police officers to serve across the State.

6. To advocate for a change in VT law to move the enforcement of seatbelt violations from a secondary to a primary offense.

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VACOP benchmarks pre-legalization of marijuana:

1. No less than a two-year statistically significant reversal and decline in the number of major crashes due to marijuana-impaired drivers.
 2. No less than a two-year statistically significant reversal and decline in the number of DUIs related to marijuana.
 3. 100% capacity in state for analysis and toxicology testing related to cannabis.
 4. Adoption of legislation and standards for saliva-based testing for the presence of marijuana that are accepted by the courts **and** passage of a law indicating the DUI (drug) standard of impairment as the person is "impaired to the slightest degree" **and** abandonment of any attempt to quantify nanograms per milliliter as a new standard.
 5. Increased public service announcement to educate the driving public about the dangers of driving while impaired by marijuana or poly-substance use.
 6. No less than two-years of statistically significant reversal and decline of under-age use, after the creation, implementation and full funding of school-based education/prevention programs with evidence based strategies and messaging.
 7. Legislation creating felony crimes for **any** processing or manufacturing of concentrated extracts, such as BHO or similar derivations and/or substances.
- VACOP continues to have other serious concerns that do not lend themselves to benchmarks or measurement:**
8. Sale/labeling/distribution of edibles/drinkables. Easy accessibility will increase the ingestion/consumption of THC by juveniles, whether intentional or unintentional.
 9. Black market sales – legalization will not make the black market for marijuana go away.

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