



**MINUTES OF THE  
POLICE RISK MANGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
FEBRUARY 5, 2015**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

John Ruffcorn, City of Auburn  
Art Olson, City of Elk Grove  
Jim Ramsey, City of Elk Grove  
Jason Browning, City of Folsom  
Sharon Blackburn, City of Folsom  
Dean Price, City of Gridley  
Jason Garringer, City of Marysville

Aaron Easton, City of Marysville  
Tim Foley, City of Nevada City  
Elizabeth Ehrenstrom, City of Oroville  
Paul Nanfite, City of Red Bluff  
Greg Bowman, City of Rio Vista  
Russ Hildebrand, City of Rocklin  
Forrest Richardson, City of Rocklin

**GUESTS & CONSULTANTS**

Michelle Minnick, Alliant Insurance Services  
Tom Kline, Bickmore Risk Services  
Henri Castro, Bickmore Risk Services

Jeff Johnston, Bickmore Risk Services  
Dr. Felicia Gomez, Pinnacle Training Systems

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

**B. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**C. RISK MANAGEMENT**

**C1. Body Camera Update**

The Committee was asked to share any anecdotal evidence for the VieVu Body Cameras and it was mentioned that NCCSIF will eventually begin tracking claims to determine if there has been an impact since the implementation of the VieVu Body Cameras approximately three months ago on August 27, 2014.

The City of Rocklin noted that a woman had claimed that she was hit in the eye when the officer presented the ticket to her. However, when the video was reviewed it clearly showed that the woman was not hit by the ticket – the addition of the VieVu Body Cameras has had a positive effect on reducing potential claims in the City of Rocklin.

In the City of Folsom there was an Internal Affairs complaint from a family who alleged their son was being targeted by one officer. The video from the VieVu Body Cameras was reviewed by Internal Affairs and clearly showed that the son was not being truthful about his complaint



and so the video was also shown to the family who after review apologized and withdrew their complaint.

On average there have been two to three angst stories shared each meeting and the video taken from the VieVu Body Cameras has been used to reduce potential claims. It was also noted that the company has been great and very responsive to any server issues that have arisen.

## **C2. Outer Carrier Vests**

The Committee was given a handout which included information provided by the Chief of Central Marin Police Authority regarding the implementation of Outer Carrier Vests into their law enforcement. The Committee then discussed the information presented in the handout which reported the Central Marin Police Authority used a multi-pronged approach to implement the Outer Carrier Vests. This approach required buy-in from three sources: the employees, the community and local officials (government). The first step was to create a survey to identify what the potential issues are that create Workers' Compensation claims and the main issue identified was the weight of the duty belt. The second step was to identify possible solutions to remedy the weight of the duty belt issue and the Outer Carrier Vest was a possible solution. The third step taken by Central Marin Police Authority was to create a training and pilot program (using the parameters of comfort, ROM, ease of access, public perception). Each Outer Carrier Vest costs approximately \$300-500 and it was noted that the Outer Carrier Vests reduce stress to the neck, back and hips. There were also concerns about the militarist look of the Outer Carrier Vests and so the Central Marin Police Authority then reached out to municipalities, councils and public forums and to ensure transparency the vests were brought to the meetings and gained overwhelming support due to the motivation to use the Outer Carrier Vests (by providing a low cost Outer Carrier Vest to officers the city could reduce potential injury costs due to use of the duty belt only). After a three month trial period of use the Outer Carrier Vests were made a voluntary item but it should be noted that more than 90% of officers chose to continue wearing Outer Carrier Vests and there have been no claims reported at this time by Officers wearing those vests. The committee was also provided with Chief Todd Cusimano contact information in the event there are any follow up questions regarding the materials presented at the meeting.

It was also noted that one of the cities had implemented the Outer Carrier Vests approximately four years ago and there has been a recent shift of Officers transitioning back to using the duty belt due to complaints of hunching forward due to the weight of the vests. It was noted that the cities who have recently implemented the use of Outer Carrier Vests have not reported any complaints as a result of using the Outer Carrier Vests.

## **C3. Round Table Discussion**

Henri Castro reminded the committee that there is a Risk Control Website through Bickmore and they are in the process of getting a website set up that is customized specifically for Law Enforcement. It was noted that since Law Enforcement has the highest risk for exposure it is



important for Law Enforcement to share best practices to help bridge the gap between risk management and police. The committee was asked to provide information regarding what type of information should be listed on the website specific to Law Enforcement. The following topics were recommended to be included in the website:

- Sample Policy's from other cities that have been successful
- Training information (Safety Communications via email)
- Best Practices for Law Enforcement (fatigue, return to work)
- Creation of a "Near Miss System" for Law Enforcement (similar to what Fire Departments use)
- Creation of an alert when information has been posted to the Law Enforcement website
- Forum for questions (similar to CSAC)

It was also noted that CSAC-EIA started an Employment Law hotline which includes free unlimited calls for all CSAC-EIA members. It was also requested that Henri Castro from Bickmore send out an email to all NCCSIF members with CSAC-EIA contact information and also to send out an email to PRMC regarding the next topic for speaker at the next meeting.

#### **C4. Wellness and Fitness in Law Enforcement - "The Tactical Athlete"**

Dr. Felicia Gomez provided a presentation which included her experience working with law enforcement agencies on how to best use science principles to maximize physical performance of "tactical athletes".

#### **D. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.