



City of
BROOKVILLE
POLICE
Chief Douglas Jerome



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HB 167 Proponent Testimony
Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Chairman Ghanbari, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and Members of the House Homeland Security Committee – thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 167.

My name is Douglas Jerome and I have served as the Chief of Police for the City of Brookville Police Department since 2012. Additionally, I have served as a full-time police officer with the City of Brookville Police Department since 1995. I started my career at the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office where I served as a full-time corrections officer from 1990 to 1995. Overall, I have served as a full-time law enforcement officer for more than 33 years. I have a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration, Master of Public Administration, and have completed my Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy and Administration course work but remain ABD.

I would strongly urge you to support the proposed change of 109.804 (E) of the Revised Code as it relates to defining “Newly appointed chief of police,” which directly affects requirements set forth in 109.804 (A)(1) requiring “newly appointed chiefs’ to complete a forty-hour training course. The proposed change would read “has never held the full-time position” of Chief of Police.

I was promoted to Chief of Police in May 2012. I voluntarily attended the 40-hour Effective Leadership Tools for New Chief’s course which was sponsored and instructed by the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. On November 21, 2020, I retired as the Chief of Police at the City of Brookville on November 22, 2020, I was rehired in the same position. In response to these actions, I completed the Ohio SF401 Notice of Peace Officer Separation from Service form and the Ohio SF 400 Notice of Peace Officer Appointment form, which are both required by Revised Code.

I was later notified by the Professional Standards of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission that I was required to attend the 40-hour New Chief’s Training because of the current legislation passed in 2018, which required the said training. The legislation

provided NO exceptions for a Chief of Police which retired and rehired or a Chief of Police retiring from one agency and taking the same position at another agency within the State of Ohio. I even provided the certificate from the class which I attended in 2012, and was told “the curriculum has changed,” and the law does not provide for an exception to this clause.

I agree, a “newly appointed chief” who has NEVER held the full-time position of Chief of Police should attend the required 40-hour course. The State of Ohio has approximately 900 police agencies in 88 counties. The current version of Section 109.804 (A)(1) requires these courses to be held at “the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy” located in London, Ohio. The proposed change would include “locations determined by the commission,” hence allowing the training to be instructed regionally which we currently allow for most other courses sanctioned by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy.

Lastly, I truly believe these proposed changes would benefit all police agencies within the State of Ohio. Thank you again for allowing me to provide testimony, I will now stand for questions.

Sincerely,

**Douglas Jerome, M.S., MPA
Chief of Police**