

WHO IS THE POST BOARD AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING THAT IS SO WRONG?

The POST (Peace Officers Standards and Training) Board is the licensing agency for law enforcement officers in Minnesota and is responsible for ensuring the professionalism of law enforcement departments and licensees in the state of Minnesota. If they did their job, they could significantly reduce police brutality in Minnesota, BUT THEY DON'T. Their ongoing failure to enforce appropriate standards for their licensees or hold them accountable for misconduct has turned the agency into a rubber stamp for brutal policing. These are our demands for change:

COMPLAINT HANDLING

Situation: The POST Board accepts complaints and even has a complaint form on their website but fails to address these complaints in a meaningful way.

Our Demand: The POST Board has a mandate and procedures for addressing complaints. Effective immediately, the POST Board must stop throwing out complaints from community members and must address those complaints in a meaningful way, including taking action on the licenses of licensees.

Situation: The POST Board has specific requirements enshrined in state statute and their administrative rules on how they are to address complaints. These include assigning an independent investigator, holding a hearing, providing 30 days' notice of the hearing to the complainant and subject officer so they may attend, providing the complainant with the opportunity to submit additional evidence, and notifying the complainant of the outcome of the hearing. None of this happened with any of the 32 complaints we filed on behalf of victims of the Metro Gang Strike Force or the many other complaints filed by community members who have contacted us.

Our Demand: The POST Board must immediately begin following their own statutes and administrative rules in the handling of complaints. The POST Board must provide a rehearing on our complaints as well as for any complainants who request it.

Situation: The POST Board is the only venue for filing complaints against the chief law enforcement officer (CLEO) of each agency and is required by statute to accept and address these complaints. However, multiple complaints filed by our organization and others against CLEOs have been ignored.

Our Demand: The POST Board is to reconsider all complaints received on CLEOs in the past five years, including our complaints.

Situation: The POST Board's model policy on addressing complaints requires police agencies to notify individuals of the outcome of their complaints. However, the POST Board fails to follow its own policy as it has failed (and in some cases refused) to notify complainants of the outcome of complaints filed with the POST Board.

Our Demand: The POST Board must follow the mandates of the model policy it requires law enforcement agencies to adopt. This includes immediate notification to the complainant of any extensions in the investigation as well as the final outcome of the complaint process.

Situation: Local agencies are required to adopt procedures for handling complaints, and the POST Board enforces that such policies be in place. But the POST Board does nothing to require that local agencies actually follow their written policies.

Our Demand: The POST Board must monitor local agency compliance with the rules for handling complaints, including investigating those agencies which sustain hardly any complaints (such as Minneapolis – see our data on the OPCR). The POST Board must especially investigate complaints from the public which allege the failure of a local agency to follow the mandated procedures for handling complaints of misconduct.

REFUSAL TO ENFORCE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Situation: The POST Board has insisted that it can only take action against a peace officer's license if that officer has been convicted of a gross misdemeanor or a felony, despite the enumeration of several other causes in its Rule 6700.1600.

Our Demand: The POST Board must take action in the full range of standards of conduct in its rules. The POST Board should amend its rules, particularly the Standards of Conduct, in order to enforce professional behavior by licensees.

Situation: The POST Board claims it has very limited power to discipline peace officers who engage in misconduct.

Our Demand: Where the POST Board feels its powers are too limited to adequately enforce professional standards, it should lobby the legislature for the necessary authority.

LACK OF TRANSPARENCY

Situation: Other licensing boards address complaints, take action on the licenses of licensees, and publish information on these actions on their websites. The POST Board is totally lacking in transparency.

Our Demand: The POST Board must provide information on the handling of complaints and all actions taken against licensees on their website.

Situation: The POST Board refuses to abide by the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, in violation of the law. The POST Board has failed to fulfill our January 2014 request for information on complaints received from members of the public. Information Policy Analysis Division has affirmed that this data is public.

Our Demand: The POST Board must immediately fulfill our data request, which is over 21 months old. The POST Board must consistently fulfill data requests in accordance with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act.

These people think they can just sit in their little office and ignore the damage their licensees are unleashing on the community. We are here to let them know this ends NOW! We will not let up—we will keep coming back until they start doing their job!

This information provided by Communities United Against Police Brutality. For more information or for help with a police brutality incident, call our 24-hour hotline: **612-874-STOP** or website: **www.CUAPB.org**