



Memorandum

To: Gary Sears, City Manager

CC:

From: John Collins, Chief of Police

Date: July 1, 2014

Re: Drug Task Force and Personnel Justification

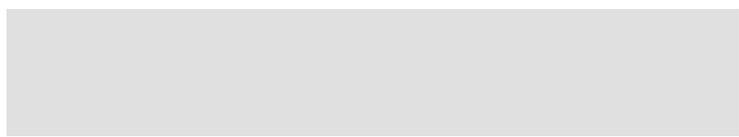


In the latter part of 2012, The South Metro Drug Task Force was disbanded in part due to staffing and safety concerns. Subsequent to this dissolution, the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office established an Impact Team and the vision was to address pattern crimes and at the same time to conduct drug investigations throughout Arapahoe County. The Englewood, Littleton and Greenwood Village Police Departments each provided personnel to the Impact Team. Although it was initially suggested that oversight of the unit would be by an Executive Board of all participating agencies, this never materialized. The Impact Team is managed solely by the Arapahoe County Sheriff and day to day operations are managed by Sheriff's Department Supervisors.

The City of Englewood realized some successes with its participation with the Impact Team. However, we have learned that drug investigations do not get the required attention that a stand-alone drug task force would be able to address. This is not a criticism of the Impact Team but a consequence of being a multi-purpose unit.

The District Attorney, George Brauchler, recently suggested that 18th Judicial law enforcement agencies needed to refine their efforts in combating illicit drug activity throughout the county citing the number of heroin overdose cases that are rampant throughout the country. These comments came at a time when law enforcement executives were beginning to re-think the current approach to drug investigations in Arapahoe County.

The newly elected Sheriff of Arapahoe County and the Chiefs of Police in Englewood, Littleton, Sheridan, Greenwood Village and Glendale have concluded that a yet to be named multi-jurisdictional task be reestablished for the purpose of



conducting drug investigations within Arapahoe County. It is anticipated that the task force will begin operations on August 1, 2014 where I intend to provide a Sergeant and Investigator to this new unit. The Investigator will be transferred from his current position with the Sheriff's Department Impact Team.

The City of Englewood has a much greater need of drug enforcement than it is currently receiving. I believe that this approach will be the appropriate step forward to relieve those needs. I strongly believe that each participating agency should have a voice in the direction of the unit which is why I will be sending a Sergeant there. I would like to begin the process of promoting a new Sergeant (to replace the sergeant assigned to the task force) and then a police officer to back-fill the new Sergeants former position.

I believe that the process of promoting a Sergeant and backfilling the vacant Police Officer is cost neutral. The reason is because of our participation with the East Metro Auto Theft Task Force where we are reimbursed nearly \$90,000.00 per year for our participation. I intend to maintain this position with EMATT for the long-term so this funding is sustainable.