An order establishing the New Hampshire Commission on Law Enforcement Accountability, Community, and Transparency

WHEREAS, in the wake of the tragic murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, MN, our country is engaged in a nationwide conversation regarding law enforcement, social justice, and the need for reforms to enhance transparency, accountability, and community relations in law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement in New Hampshire make daily sacrifices, serve our State admirably, and are a necessary and pivotal part of our communities; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Hampshire has an obligation to participate in the national conversation and engage in self-examination to identify any opportunities to improve the state of our law enforcement and the relationship between law enforcement and the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire finds itself in a pivotal moment that demands prompt action to initiate important conversations and develop recommendations for reform.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, by the authority vested in me pursuant to part II, article 41 of the New Hampshire Constitution, do hereby order, effective immediately, that:

1. There is established the New Hampshire Commission on Law Enforcement Accountability, Community and Transparency (the “Commission”). The Commission shall consist of the following members:

   (a) The Attorney General, or designee, who shall chair the Commission
   (b) The Commissioner of the Department of Safety, or designee
   (c) The Executive Director of the New Hampshire Commission for Human Rights
   (d) The Director of the Police Standards and Training Council
   (e) The Chair of the Governor’s Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion
   (f) The President of the Manchester, NH NAACP

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(g) A current justice of the New Hampshire Superior or Circuit Court, appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor
(h) A representative of the New Hampshire Police Association, appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor
(i) The President of the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police
(j) The Executive Director of the New Hampshire Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness
(k) A representative from the New Hampshire ACLU, appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor
(l) Two members of the public, appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor

2. If any of the members named in Paragraph 1 become unable to serve for any reason, then the Governor shall appoint a new member to serve in their place.

3. The Commission shall engage all interested and relevant public, private, and community stakeholders and develop recommendations for reforms that the Commission deems necessary to enhance transparency, accountability, and community relations in law enforcement. To fulfill this charge, the Commission shall examine the following:

(a) Training curriculum, procedures and policies developed by State Police, local police departments, and the Police Standards and Training Council, and potential options for improving the same to better address certain areas which may include, but are not limited to, (i) de-escalation, (ii) use of deadly and non-deadly force force, and (iii) diversity training;

(b) State and local procedures related to the reporting and investigation of police misconduct, and potential reforms which may include, but are not limited to, development of a uniform statewide system for the reporting, investigation, and punishment of police misconduct;

(c) The current state of relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve, and potential steps that can be taken to enhance these relationships; and

(d) Any other subject matter which the Commission deems relevant to the overall mission of enhancing transparency, accountability, and community relations in law enforcement.

4. For the purpose of this Order, the term “law enforcement” is intended to refer to individuals who are employed by a municipal, county, or state governmental agency in the State of New Hampshire; certified by the Police Standards and Training Council; responsible for the prevention, detection, or prosecution of crimes and the enforcement of the laws of the state and of its political subdivisions; and have full general arrest powers. Such individuals may include, but not necessarily be limited to, chiefs, police officers, sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, colonels, troopers, conservation officers, liquor commission inspectors, fire investigators/marshals, state troopers, forest rangers, and marine patrol officers.

5. The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chair, and as often as necessary to complete its work. A majority of the appointed Commission members shall constitute a quorum, and all official actions of the Commission shall require a majority vote of those present and voting.
6. All meetings and proceedings of the Commission shall comply with the requirements of RSA 91-A.

7. No later than 45 days from the date of this Order, the Commission shall submit a report containing its recommendations to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the President of the Senate. The Commission’s report shall be posted publicly on the Governor’s Office website.

Given under my hand and seal at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this 16th day of June, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and twenty, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and forty-four.

[Signature]

GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE