

Public Safety Changes
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Background

On July 25, 2011, the Board of Trustees approved the adoption of Education Code 72330 which establishes a police department at a community college district. Since that time, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) has been moving toward becoming a full-service police department certified by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST).

Accomplishments

In the past two years, several significant steps have been taken to accomplish the goal of becoming a POST certified police department.

- Two sergeant positions were created and filled to provide additional management, direction, and training to DPS personnel.
- Mobile Data Computers were purchased and installed in the Public Safety Officer patrol cars to facilitate officers remaining available on campus while writing activity logs and reports.
- A Computer Aided Dispatch system was purchased and installed in order to standardize reporting and provide more accurate record keeping.
- The Lexipol online policy manual was purchased and made available to DPS personnel in order to provide daily training and standardized law enforcement policies. The manual is still being reviewed and is pending full implementation.
- An online scheduling program was purchased in order to provide more accurate recording of scheduled work hours.
- The College has held one Town Hall meeting, with two more planned, to discuss with all campus members, in detail, the transition to a police department.
- The College has agreed to create a Public Safety Officer II position that will allow selected personnel to carry a firearm once they have completed training and a full POST background, including a psychological examination. This will allow DPS to be more prepared to address a person or persons who may seek to harm anyone on our campus.
- The College has agreed to create a Dispatcher classification that will allow for standardized POST training and certification for a police dispatch center.
- The College has approved funding and positions for two Police Officers. The job description is still being reviewed and is pending approval.

Projected Impact

As progress continues to be made, additional funding will be needed for more police officers and the required POST training for department personnel. The existence of a well-trained, full service police department will serve to provide a safer campus environment for everyone here. The College will benefit from selecting personnel who understand and embrace the nuances of policing at an institute of higher education.