



## TOWN OF COLORADO CITY

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March 9, 2007

Rich Townsend, Director  
Utah Department of Public Safety  
Peace Officer Standards and Training  
4501 South 2700 West  
Salt lake City, UT 84114-1775

RE: Certification Investigations

Dear Mr. Townsend:

The Town of Colorado City is a small rural community situated in north-west Mohave County, adjacent to the City of Hildale, Utah. As is the case in most small communities, the ability to provide services and facilities is quite an effort with a small amount of funding to compete with the needs. The two communities have cooperatively worked together in many instances for the benefit of health and safety for the citizens of the community.

Providing peace officer protection for the community has been a cooperative effort and has proved to be very efficient for incidents involving people or property located in both communities. Citizens are always complimenting the timely and efficient response of the officers. Other agencies rely on our officers for backup, or in the case of Mohave County, to initially respond to most incidents in the County.

It is somewhat amazing to see Utah POST place the entire Hildale Police Department under a blanket investigation, as it pre-supposes a political motive. One of the answers given for doing so, was failure to answer questions in an Arizona Grand Jury. This indicates a mistaken assumption by the fact that the grand jury testimony is sealed!

The complaints from the UEP fiduciary originally stem from the transition phase when the fiduciary was appointed. Many people did not even realize the situation. The officers were placed in awkward situations many times and their performance has been very commendable. At times the fiduciary demanded of them to get involved in a civil contest, or to run at his bidding beyond their scope as a peace officer, when they were only there to keep the peace. I have not seen any complaints filed by the fiduciary, but from our review, the officers have acted in the line of their duty with professionalism and respect to all parties involved.

Police work is often thankless and many times those involved can fabricate sensational allegations that are simply false or blown out of proportion.

I'm sure you can see through the guise of police officers being dragged into a deposition over a petty civil issue and then enduring questioning only construed to be related, and yet totally disregarding the constitutional rights granted to all U.S. citizens.

The implications to provide peace officer protection to the community, and the costs involved, denote a cautious and proper oversight to your investigation, that it is not carried away with the political motives of those on a crusade, but rather, to provide the service to the citizens of the community.

The effort of the Town is to provide services for our community and we hope that you will see our perspective in that effort. Thank you for inviting us to offer information/comments for your investigation.

Sincerely,



Terrill Johnson,  
Mayor Pro-Tem  
Town of Colorado City

cc: Steve Horton  
Wayne Caldwell  
David Zitting