

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Dear Chief Roudebush:

Thank you for your willingness to provide answers to questions the deans had as a follow-up to the discussion at the President's Council meeting. I have listed some questions below that I was hoping you could address so myself, the faculty, and students of James Madison College have a better understanding of the provisioning of public safety here on MSU's campus. I want to express the college's appreciation for your service to the campus and community. We understand that providing public safety for a campus as large as Michigan State University is a daunting task and that you also have a personal responsibility to ensure the safety of the officers under your command. Given this, all the questions posed are asked in the spirit of acknowledging that service and the responsibilities you have.

## **Questions Regarding Determination of Credible Complaints Received**

- Please provide an understanding of the process (from intake to determination of credibility) how complaints filed against MSU Police Officers are deemed credible?
  - There are some concerns that the committee's procedures to determine whether a complaint is credible or not are not transparent and seems to rest solely on the authority of chairperson of the committee. In addition, there are strong feelings that the committee should review all complaints and make a decision on their credibility with established procedures that are publicly available.



### **James Madison College**

Case Hall  
842 Chestnut Rd Rm S369L  
East Lansing, MI 48825

517-353-6750  
Fax: 517-432-1804  
jmc.msu.edu

## **Questions Regarding Use of Force**

- Can you provide the number of the following incidents involving MSU Police Officers for the 2018-2019 academic year:
  - Number of complaints filed against MSU police officers for that year. Please include a description of the type of complaint filed (use of force, racial bias, etc.)
  - Number of filed complaints determined credible and current status of those complaints for that year.
    - Many of us feel that a university campus is a unique institution that operates on values rooted in factual analysis and transparency. Increasing transparency by making data on complaints filed against the MSU Police Department publicly available can enhance accountability mechanisms and increase trust in public safety authorities consistent with a community policing model.

## **Questions Regarding Militarized Equipment**

- Please address the following questions regarding the equipment of the MSU Police Department:

- Has the MSU Police Department received any equipment from the Defense Logistics Agency 1033 Program? If so, what equipment has it received?
- What was the annual cost for the fiscal year 2019 of maintaining the special response vehicle (armored car)?
- Does the MSU Police Department have a “special response”/SWAT unit? If so, how many members are there?
- What is the current inventory of assault rifles (fully or semi-automatic), sniper rifles, and sub-machines guns in the possession of the MSU Police Department?
- Are MSU Police Patrol Cars equipped with these weapons during regular duties?
- What is the training officers must undergo to be considered certified to use these weapons and maintain qualifications?
  - Many of my faculty members have observed that the law enforcement activities that occur on campus are much different than those that occur in a typical community. In particular, there is a lack of specific types of law enforcement activities that require militarized equipment (forced entry, felony-suspect apprehension, hostage rescue, etc.). More often, university police forces are presented with situations that require de-escalation and the non-lethal use of force. Many feel that the possession and use of militarized equipment in law enforcement capacities can engender an adversarial attitude in police officers towards the communities they patrol, which can negatively impact the civil liberties of the citizens whose neighborhoods they police.