

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE POLICE
TRAINING INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**

WHEREAS, the Police Training Institute at the University of Illinois (PTI) was established by state law in 1955 and has earned a reputation for excellence among cities, villages and counties throughout Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the creation of PTI at the University of Illinois by the Illinois Legislature is consistent with the Morrill Act of 1862, signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln, which created land grant universities in the United States, the mission of which is:

"...without excluding other scientific and classical studies and including military tactic, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the States may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life." (*Title 7 of the United States Code, Section 304*)

and

WHEREAS, the state of Illinois played a critical role in establishing land grant universities in the United States of America when Jonathan Baldwin Turner persuaded the Illinois legislature to pass a resolution encouraging the Illinois Congressional delegation to support land grant legislation and U.S. Senator Lyman Turnbull of Illinois persuaded Senator Justin Morrill of Vermont to sponsor the bill; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) created by the Illinois Legislature in 1965 has "decertified" classes at PTI, not because the classes failed to meet standards, but because ILETSB desires to open a new "elite" academy under its control at Western Illinois University by diverting state funds which would normally go to PTI; and

WHEREAS, ILETSB in March 2012 abruptly decertified a PTI basic training class with 55 students enrolled shortly before classes were scheduled to begin and after assuring legislators and University administrators that PTI would remain open, creating great havoc and extra expense for all the local governments who had chosen PTI for basic training; and

WHEREAS, ILETSB a few weeks later decertified an advanced firearms training class **in progress**, again causing great inconvenience and extra expense for all the local governments involved; and

WHEREAS, our local legislators and University of Illinois administrators have been repeatedly misled by ILETSB; and

WHEREAS, the ILETSB has in past years "decertified" classes at the Illinois State Police Academy; and

WHEREAS, such action against both major academies in each case appears to be more about money and petty politics rather than the quality of instruction; and

WHEREAS, decertifying educational institutions without clear standards and due process is undermining law enforcement training in Illinois, and

WHEREAS, the action of the ILETSB undermines the legislative intent of the law establishing PTI in 1955 and the law establishing ILETSB in 1965 which specified that the Director of PTI be one of the statutory members of the ILETSB; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois and the cities and counties that rely on PTI are in dire financial straits and cannot afford to waste public money to create a new police academy by closing PTI thereby forcing local governments to spend more to train police.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

1. That the City of Urbana, which has relied on PTI for training of its excellent police department, calls on the Illinois Legislature to keep PTI open.
2. That the City of Urbana calls on the Illinois Legislature for the following actions:
 - a. to ensure that the ILETSB adopt clear performance-based standards and stop abusing its authority by using the threat of decertification as intimidation in disputes
 - b. to clarify that ILETSB, a standards setting board, should not expand its legislative mandate without the legislature having an opportunity to decide if managing an academy would be appropriate and understanding the fiscal ramifications.
 - c. to specify that no new academy should be created until additional capacity is needed
 - d. to allocate a portion of the Criminal Surcharge fund to PTI, just as the State Police Academy was permitted a specific allocation after it was decertified by ILETSB.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Governor, all legislators, the Chancellor of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the President, the President designate and the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois.

PASSED by the City Council this _____ day of _____,
_____.

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of _____,
_____.

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor