MEMORANDUM REGARDING PEACE OFFICER TRAINING DURING COVID-19 EMERGENCY

TO: Certified and non-certified peace officers in the State of Oklahoma; Oklahoma chiefs of police; Oklahoma sheriffs; other heads of Oklahoma law enforcement agencies; elected and appointed officials; and other interested parties

FROM: Jesus E. Campa, Executive Director

DATED: 30 March 2020

RE: Adjustments to mandatory peace officer training and certification during emergency

Governor J. Kevin Stitt entered executive order 2020-07 originally on March 15, 2020, and has amended such order several times. On March 27, 2020, the Governor entered his fifth amendment to EO 2020-07 (see ¶¶ 22 & 23). In that amendment, the Governor provided the following:

Any statutory or rule-based time requirements for completing training and becoming certified as a peace officer for duly appointed or elected peace officers during the existence of this emergency are hereby waived during the period of the emergency and for thirty days after the emergency is declared to be over.

And

Any requirements that county reserve deputies, municipal reserve officers, or other duly appointed reserve peace officers in this State be CLEET-certified prior to serving in an individual capacity or be accompanied by a CLEET-certified peace officer prior to becoming CLEET-certified are hereby waived during the period of the emergency and for thirty days after the emergency is declared to be over. Any such reserve deputy, municipal reserve officer, or other duly appointed reserve peace officer must be commissioned and authorized by his or her appointing agency’s head or designee before being allowed to work as a peace officer under this provision.

I appreciate the Governor’s interest and attention to this matter and his efforts to help ensure Oklahoma law enforcement is able to maintain appropriate staffing levels during the emergency.

The provisions quoted above directly address limitations imposed by 70 O.S. § 3311(E)(4) and 19 O.S. § 547(B), respectively, although other statutes and rules may also be impacted. In light of such provisions, for the duration of the emergency, there is no requirement for agencies to request training extensions from CLEET and non-certified full-time or reserve peace officers may work longer than six-months after being hired. However, agencies are still required to provide timely notices of employment (NOEs) and notices of termination (NOTs) for any peace officers employed by or whose employment has ended with such agencies. Also, please note, that such across-the-board exceptions will end thirty days after the end of the emergency. At that time, any training extension requests will have to be made in compliance with statute and rule.