



## Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Kirk D. Thompson  
*Director*

Derek Schmidt  
*Attorney General*

October 27, 2020

Dear Kansas Sheriffs and Chiefs:

We have a great appreciation for you, and have every confidence in your dedication to serving our communities across the state. While it is our belief you have broad support within your respective communities, we also recognize the concerns across the nation regarding how and when law enforcement officers use force.

We believe there is consensus among Kansas law enforcement that a statewide use-of-force data collection system needs to be in place. The purpose of such a system will be to provide and promote transparency between law enforcement and the communities they serve. The data gathered will also provide information about both individual and "big picture" circumstances to aid in evaluating use-of-force decisions.

We believe that the Kansas Bureau of Investigation is the agency most suitable for creating an application to collect use-of-force data. We have sought input from our partners and will be seeking further collaboration as we create a plan to develop an application that collects and makes available useful information regarding how force is used by and against law enforcement in Kansas. Attached is a letter from Attorney General Schmidt that summarizes our intent for this project.

We recognize that the stakeholders and other interested parties in an endeavor such as this are many. If you would like to provide input or have other information that may be helpful, we invite you to contact Nicole Hamm at [Nicole.Hamm@kbi.ks.gov](mailto:Nicole.Hamm@kbi.ks.gov) or (785) 296-8256.

Thank you for all that you do to keep Kansans safe.

Sincerely,

Kirk Thompson, Director  
Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Derek Schmidt  
Kansas Attorney General

KT/DS/LM  
Attachment

cc: Nicole Hamm, ISD Assistant Director



STATE OF KANSAS  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DEREK SCHMIDT  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

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August 28, 2020

Kirk Thompson, Director  
Kansas Bureau of Investigation  
1620 SW Tyler  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Director Thompson:

As you know, I am grateful for the dedicated service of men and women who serve our communities as law enforcement officers. Officers in Kansas have long been subject to rigorous training requirements and other ongoing professional development to build the capacity needed to keep our communities safe from violent crime. Amid national calls to “defund the police,” I believe a better course of action is just the opposite – continue to invest in recruitment, retention, training and professional development to ensure that the law enforcement professionals our citizens entrust with keeping communities safe remain always worthy of citizens’ trust and respect while remaining safe themselves.

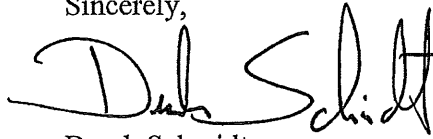
To that end, it is advisable to ensure we gather and maintain the necessary data to assist in making fully informed decisions about priorities for continual professional improvement. One important area where I think a more robust and uniform system of data collection should be considered is information surrounding incidents in which significant force – whether lethal or non-lethal – is used by officers or against officers or both. The purpose of this data collection should be to inform thoughtful policy discussions and management decisions at the agency, state and federal levels. To fully understand these use-of-force incidents, it is necessary to know information about the circumstances in which force is used by or against officers. I am aware that certain systems already are in place, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Use of Force Data Collection Project in which KBI became an early participant. Longer-term, the planned upgrade to the Kansas Incident Based Reporting System may afford an opportunity to construct and implement a more comprehensive use-of-force data gathering plan.

For the above reasons, I request the KBI review the current status in Kansas of data collection involving use-of-force incidents, collaborate with law enforcement leaders and with other appropriate persons and organizations, and develop for consideration a comprehensive statewide plan for the appropriate collection of data regarding incidents that involve the use of force by law enforcement officers or against law enforcement officers. It would be helpful if your report on

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this matter could be available by the end of the current calendar year. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derek Schmidt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Derek" and last name "Schmidt" clearly distinguishable.

Derek Schmidt  
Kansas Attorney General