STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FOR REDUCING LAW ENFORCEMENT LIABILITY

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Rhode Island

- Necessity is the mother of invention
- SMALL state with BIG police liability defense challenges:
  - Few statutory immunities for police officers
  - Joint & Several Liability coupled with contributory negligence
  - Liberal judiciary both on state and federal level
  - Statutory cap of $100,000 that only applies to counts against the municipality itself – not its employees
Rhode Island

- Pre-judgement interest of 12% compounded from date of loss
- Apathetic POs who simply don’t care / hostile – no skin in the game
- Adverse Rhode Island Supreme Court decisions
  - Siede
  - Freitas
- Ferguson – affecting us all
Rhode Island

- **Positive conditions:**
  - Presence in the State -- we insure 32/38 Rhode Island communities with police departments (est. 1500+ officers), about 2/3 of all municipal police officers
  - Strong relations with non-Trust Members and other stake-holders
Trust’s Initiatives in LE Risk Mgt.

- Trust’s Two-Prong Approach toward police liability Risk Management:
  - Trust-Initiated Programs
  - Initiatives with Stakeholders
Trust’s Efforts in LE Risk Mgt.

- Trust Initiated Programs
  - It all started with FATS and Paul B.
  - Model Policies
  - Tactical Team Training Standards
  - Grants and Scholarships
Trust’s Efforts in LE Risk Mgt.

- Trust Initiated Programs
  - Afterhours emergency line for in-custody deaths
  - Open line of communications with police chiefs
  - Meet & Greet every new chief
  - In-service trainings on contemporary civil liability issues – from the trenches
Trust’s Efforts in LE Risk Mgt.

- **Initiative with Stakeholders**
  - Relationship with our POST
  - Relationship with RI Police Chiefs Assoc.
  - Relationship with RI Attorney General’s Office
  - Legislative efforts
What initiatives have your organization tried?

- Successful ones
- Those tried that were not as well received as anticipated
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