

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Trisha Linebarger](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, May 25, 2018 11:14:08 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2018 10:34 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: DEPARTMENT PUBLIC SAFETY DPS

First Name: Richard

Last Name: Strupkus

Title: Program Director, Riding Academy

Organization you are affiliated with: Cowboy Harley-Davidson of Austin

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City: Austin

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:

It seems that most of the information used to support the premise that DPS wastes public funds is not accurate. Motorcycle training and education in Texas is funded by motorcycle owners each time they renew their registrations (\$5.00). The Motorcycle and ATV Safety Unit has not had full access to these funds and for many years has been underfunded. Last year (the year cited in the report) was unusual because the entire curriculum was changed and updated. All instructors in Texas and their respective training ranges has to be updated to comply with the new course. This took just over 18 months.

Due to this, representative figures cannot be used as a way to account for normal operations of the agency.

It also seems the committee, with all due respect, does not grasp HOW the course MUST be presented and WHERE the course can be administered. The certification of instructors, the ranges, the compliance of the sponsors cannot be assigned to people who have no knowledge of the programs and it's application. This would result in nonconformity in presentation and allow liberties by instructors that would erode the standard by which we can judge the result of taking the course in the first place. Imagine if we did the same thing to applicants for drivers licenses. If you cannot attain a benchmark of performance you become a danger not only to yourself but to others. This is, in the end, all about safety and lowering traffic deaths.

Please know that not everyone that has taken this course has passed it. For a reason. Imagine if those folks were allowed to operate a motorcycle. The result would be more accidents and, unfortunately, more fatalities. Insurance rates would also be affected. Most insurance companies give discounts to people that have taken the safety course. They can show statistically that trained motorcyclists have fewer accidents. Without this standard, there likely wouldn't be discounts and more accidents would result in higher premiums.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Texas has a rich history of motorcycle training. The very first MSF course in the country was taught a College Station. It would be a disservice to riders and the public in general not to have the quality program that, over the last three decades, has made Texas one of the best training

states in the country. I would urge the committee to continue this fine tradition and allow this agency to not only continue its mission, but also to have access to the resources that the motorcycling community has paid for.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree