



**eNews - Personnel Reform Update**

**Members Meet With Scott Smith from the Governor's Office and ADOA**



During our February monthly meeting (2.15.2012), members were updated on all our legislative items. Amongst those bills discussed was personnel reform. Scott Smith, a representative of the Governor's office and ADOA Director, presented information about the personnel bill ([click here for the Governor's Personnel Reform Power-point](#)) that was introduced on 2.14.2012 ([HB 2571](#)). Smith explained the Governor's office was approached by state directors, non-profits (like the Goldwater Institute) and private entities to look making state employees "at will". He spoke about personnel reform examples from [Florida](#) (enacted in 1995) and [Georgia's](#) (enacted in 2006).

Mr. Smith explained the bill's current language on how it pertains to DPS personnel. Sworn officers (non-management) will continue to be "covered" employees and under a new Law Enforcement Personnel System (replacing the current Law Enforcement Merit System Council). The proposal does include AHPA's previous recommendation to increase the number to five board members (instead of three). All civilians will be moved to a general State employee personnel system. The changes proposed in the legislation make sweeping changes for all DPS employees; civilian and sworn.

Scott Smith took questions from AHPA members. He stated he received useful feedback and expressed he would pass that information on to the Governor's office.

**Director Halliday Addresses AHPA Members**

The Director was in attendance for part of AHPA's meeting. The Director stated clearly that he supports the idea of personnel reform, but understands the issues and concerns within the proposed legislation. Additionally, he stated Scott Smith has always been an advocate for law enforcement.



**Personnel Reform Bill to Be Heard Today! Be engaged!!**



Governor Brewer has dedicated a whole page on her website to personnel reform. View her website at: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/PersonnelReform>

[House bill 2571](#) will be heard today, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm. AHPA encourages you to view the video of the Employment & Regulatory Affairs Committee hearing. President Jimmy Chavez will be there testifying on behalf of the membership, opposing the bill. [Click here to view the links to the video.](#) (When the videos become available, they will be on our website- [www.ahpa.com](http://www.ahpa.com).)

AHPA has begun a campaign entitled "We are DPS". Letters, presentations, emails and videos will help convey what great employees serve the public from DPS. Letters and email addresses are on our website. All you have to do (off-duty) is copy, paste and send. We made this easy for friends, family and YOU to engage in our campaign. Member or not, AHPA wants all police personnel to be treated fairly. Law enforcement is a specialized field, not to be generalized with other professions.

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Founded in 1958, AHPA's mission is to protect the rights, interests and welfare of our members through effective representation at local, state and national government levels while promoting the positive role of Law Enforcement Professionals and improving the quality of life for DPS employees and Arizona residents.