Division of Law Enforcement

Priority Issues for Division of Law Enforcement:

Law Enforcement is faced with a declining numbers of officer due to attrition and with the state of the budget has been unable to fill vacancies.

Strategies

- Recruit to fill vacancies in supervisory ranks and in field officer ranks
  - justify need for same and continue to find revenue sources for positions

- Complete modernization of Wickford Marine Base to prevent total degradation of this valuable facility
  - support Planning and Development in pre-construction and construction phases

- Develop plans to move headquarters facility to a more logical location more in line with our function
  - pursue possible takeover of RISP Wickford Barracks when they vacate it

- Insure the safety of the user groups at DEM facilities
  - maintain directed patrols of parks, beaches and campgrounds during high use periods
  - train Parks and Recreation Rangers in educating the public and encouraging voluntary compliance
  - train Parks and Recreation supervisory staff with use of limited enforcement powers and intermediate weapons for self-defense

- Provide a safer hunting environment in the state
  - Draft and secure a sponsor to introduce “Negligent Discharge” legislation

- Provide for a safer boating environment
  - insure all division breathalizer operators are recertified
  - maintain high level of directed boating while intoxicated patrols during critical hours

- Provide boating safety education:
  - support and supply instructors for state boating safety course at CCRI
  - maintain online course on DEM website
  - provide challenge tests for boaters who feel that they have adequately prepared for test

- Reduce paperwork levels and reduce backlog in courts while still insuring public compliance with laws and regulations that we enforce
  - draft legislation allowing some select common violations to be paid by mail and introduce by x date