



Background:

Local 26 represents 3000 security officers across the seven-county metro area. Security Officers play a crucial role in ensuring the health and safety of the general public and the protection of buildings and communities. However, the current lack of sufficient mandatory training places both Security Officers and the public at significant risk.

Our Officers frequently act as first points of contact in emergencies and communicating with first responders. Unfortunately, many of our Officers face dangerous and compromising situations, including assaults, due to insufficient training. Proper, comprehensive and in-person training is essential to mitigate these risks and to equip security officers with the skills necessary to respond to the needs of the community and employers safely and effectively.

Proposed Increase Training Focused on:

1. Level 1 Security Officers:

- **Initial Training:** Increase the current training requirement for new employees from 12 hours to 40 hours. The expanded training would include:
 - *Community Health and Wellness:* ex. basic understanding of homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction
 - *Mental Health and First Aid*
 - *Narcan Administration*
 - *Non-violent, Unarmed Peace Keeping:* ex. safe de-escalation
 - *Orientation to Security Industry*
 - *Public Safety Management:* ex. levels of enforcement, interfacing with law enforcement, finding resources
- **Ongoing Training:** Increase the continuing education requirement from 6 hours to 24 hours annually. This training would reinforce and expand upon the topics listed above.

Passing this legislation will:

- **Enhance Public Safety:** Proper training equips officers with the skills necessary to de-escalate conflicts, handle emergencies, and protect themselves and others effectively.
- **Increase Professional Standards:** Increased training raises the professional standard of the security industry, ensuring public trust and safety.
- **Mitigate Workplace Incidents:** Enhanced preparation reduces risks and improves outcomes in high-pressure situations.

Conclusion:

The proposed legislation represents a critical step toward increased protection for the communities security officers serve. By increasing mandatory training requirements and ensuring employer-paid training, we can create safer workplaces, reduce risks, and enhance public safety.