

# News Release



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## Improved Uniforms for Airport Police

Police Officers patrolling Detroit Metropolitan and Willow Run airports will soon be wearing more comfortable and practical new uniforms they selected themselves.

“The new uniforms will be more safe and comfortable than the current ones,” said Wayne County Airport Authority CEO Lester Robinson.

The “street gear” style of uniforms offers several advantages:

- Innovative fabric and performance engineered design—strong and comfortable cotton blend material
- Less formal look, more customer friendly appearance
- More of a working type of uniform instead of a formal type with double material in the seat and knees
- More pockets—allows officers to carry more items, such as radios, bio-hazard gloves, and other equipment. (A very popular feature among officers of other departments wearing “street gear.”)
- More relaxed fit with stretch fabric for freedom of movement
- Completely machine washable
- Less costly – over 40% per uniform

A study group with representatives from all ranks in the Airport Police provided input to the Airport Police Uniform Committee. The group’s priorities included a practical uniform, but one that readily identifies the men and women as police officers. The resulting recommendation includes a new police-style shoulder patch and a police graphic panel on the back of the jackets.

The uniform program sought to provide uniform jackets that qualify as personal protective equipment (PPE). The recommended jacket helps protect officers from biological, chemical and blood-borne hazards. The Blauer Manufacturing Co. jacket incorporates CROSSTECH® fabric certified to meet bio-hazard and chemical resistance standards. This makes the jackets potentially federal grant reimbursable.

“The study group was very enthusiastic about the proposed uniform improvements,” said Director of Public Safety Mark DeBeau. “The current uniforms have been worn for decades and they are more formal, more costly and harder to maintain.”

Airport Police work is both foot and vehicle patrol. Foot patrol can be monitoring activities within the terminal buildings or traffic control out of doors. Rotating assignments and seasonal changes call for a uniform capable of meeting a challenging and variable work environment.

“Street Gear” uniforms are now being worn by police departments in New York City, Ft. Wayne and Memphis. Locally, departments in Ann Arbor, Saginaw Twp., West Bloomfield, Westland and Canton (police and fire) are either wearing or have ordered “Street Gear” uniforms.

Airport management has forwarded a recommendation to the Wayne County Airport Authority Board to authorize new uniforms for the police officers.

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