# STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE MARSHAL COMMISSION 450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 1504, Hartford, CT 06103 Tel. 860-713-5372 Fax. (860) 622-2938 Meeting is in North Plaza Meeting Room J at 4:30 p.m.

## Minutes STATE MARSHAL COMMISSION MEETING June 22, 2017

Members present: Chairperson W. Martyn Philpot, Jr., Esq., Vice-Chairperson Michael Cronin, Esq. (via teleconference call), Mildred Torres-Ferguson (via teleconference call), Robert P. LaTorraca, Tracy L. Dayton, Esq. (via teleconference call), and Michael Desmond. Also present were ex-officio members Julianne Ingham and Keith Niziankiewicz (non-voting), Staff Director Jeffrey Beckham, and Staff Attorney Jennifer Y. Montgomery. Keith Niziankiewicz left the meeting after executive session. Honorable Lisa K. Morgan and Sarah Fryxell, Esq. were not present.

The following state marshals were present for the public session: Suzann Corbett, Beth Ostrowski, Lisa Stevenson, Harry Ackley, and Kevin McNeill.

Chairperson W. Martyn Philpot, Jr., Esq. called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m.

## 1. Minutes: March 23, 2017 meeting

The Commission, after a motion by Robert P. LaTorraca, seconded by Mildred Torres-Ferguson, voted 6-0 to adopt the minutes from the April 27, 2017 meeting.

#### Old Business

#### 2. Legislative Update

Attorney Beckham provided an update about the legislative session. He noted that the Commission's proposed bill – one that would have clarified the Commission's duties – did not reach the floor. He also updated the Commission about the Governor's budget which proposed eliminating the Commission. He advised that our legislative staff does not believe that the Governor is continuing to push this proposal and we would not know anything concrete until the budget went to a vote next week. He further noted that the General Assembly passed Public Act 17-98 which mandates that the Commission implement policies and procedures to ensure that there is a sufficient amount of marshals on the Capias Unit. He noted that this is already something the Commission has undertaken by making the willingness to join the unit a bonus factor during appointment as well as providing Capias Unit members with free training and state vehicles.

#### 4. Capias Unit Policy

Attorney Beckham requested to discuss Item 4 at this time due to its relation with Item 2. He proposed that the Commission consider, in light of the new legislation, to adopt a policy requiring marshals on the Capias Unit to commit to a three year term absent hardship after they have received the free training paid for by the Commission. Tracy Lee Dayton, Esq. noted that the Commission could make a strong

suggestion that marshals are expected to be on the unit for three years. Mildred Torres-Ferguson remarked that this legislation appears to require what Commission staff are already doing. State Marshal Lisa Stevenson discussed some perceived access issues for state marshals on the Capias Unit as compared with the police officers employed by DSS. She suggested a better course of action would be for the legislature to get rid of the DSS officers. Ex-Officio Julianne Ingham noted that it seemed like a fair expectation to have marshals commit to three years after the training. Chairperson W. Martyn Philpot, Jr., Esq. proposed tabling the issue until the July meeting at which time the Commission may vote regarding the policy.

#### **New Business**

### 3. POSTC Training Update

Jeffrey Beckham

Attorney Beckham first noted that the Commission had held, in conjunction with CCADV, a free training about domestic violence and marshal safety. He noted that the training was successful and several marshals attended. Attorney Beckham provided an update about the training to be held at POSTC under the Use of Force Policy. He indicated that staff had met with several marshals and the officers at POSTC who are developing the courses. It was determined that the training should be held in early fall rather than this summer due to schedule conflicts. He noted that staff had received the requisite documentation from several marshals for the training. Robert LaTorraca remarked that he had heard the training would be two full weeks. Attorney Montgomery advised that the curricula had not yet been set and that, until the marshals submitted their paperwork, POSTC would not be able to design the courses or determine their length or instructor needs.

### 5. Training

Ex-Officio Julianne Ingham indicated that most of her questions had been answered by Attorney Beckham in relation to Item Number 3.

#### 6. Communication

Ex-Officio Julianne Ingham indicated that there had been some delay in the marshals receiving an administrative bulletin about health insurance open enrollment. Attorney Montgomery advised that this was due to a staff oversight and noted she would discuss the matter further with Ex-Officio Ingham at a later time.

Deliberations were proposed for executive session pursuant to Sections 1-200 and 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes to discuss the appointment, performance, evaluation, health or dismissal of a public officer. The Commission, after a motion by Robert P. LaTorraca, seconded by Michael Desmond, voted 6-0 to enter executive session. All of the individuals listed above save for the marshals listed attended executive session.

The Commission, after a motion by Robert P. LaTorraca, seconded by Michael Desmond, voted 6-0 to return to the public record. No votes were taken in executive session. Ex-Officio Keith Niziankiewicz left the meeting after executive session.

#### 8. Proposed Decisions

The Commission, after a motion by Mildred Torres-Ferguson, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Michael Cronin, voted 6-0 to accept the proposed decisions and dispositions of the Oversight Committee in the below files and issue final decisions accordingly as follows:

File No.	Name	Recommendation
15-09	Berliner/Purcell	Reprimand
15-44	Abdul/Lakowsky	14-Day Suspension
15-59	Conte/Davies	Dismissal
15-25	North/Albrecht	Reprimand

# 9. Complaints

The Commission, after a motion by Mildred Torres-Ferguson, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Michael, voted 6-0 to find probable cause for a hearing in the following files:

File No.	Name
16-22	DiMartino/Paolillo
16-31	Woodruff/Cipriano

The Commission, after a motion by Mildred Torres-Ferguson, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Michael Cronin, voted 6-0 to dismiss the following files:

16-30	Beal/Szymonik
16-32	Nugent/Corbett
16-34	In Re Poeti
16-37	Watson/Plamondon
16-40	Volpe/McNicholas
16-42	Barrantes/Nikola, N.

# 10. Resignation/Retirement

The Commission, after a motion by Mildred Torres-Ferguson, seconded by Michael Desmond, voted 6-0 to accept the resignation of the following marshals:

Name	County
Ralph H. Fletcher	Windham
Anne Stearns	Windham

The Commission, after a motion by Michael Desmond, seconded by Robert P. LaTorraca, voted 6-0 to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes were approved by the Commission on August 24, 2017.

W. Wattyn Philpot, Jr., Esquire-Chairperson