

POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

December 10, 2020

Special Meeting

CONNECTICUT POLICE ACADEMY

MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT

Remotely via Zoom

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THIS DOCUMENT IS AN ABRIDGED VERSION OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2020 POST COUNCIL MEETING. THE ORIGINAL MINUTES ARE IN THE FORM OF A DIGITAL RECORDING AND AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST FROM THE ACADEMY ADMINISTRATOR.

Council Members Present: Town Administrator Michael Freda; First Selectman Laura Francis; Dr. Amy Donahue; Chief State's Attorney Richard Colangelo; Chief John Daly; Chief Ronnell Higgins; Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Chief Paul Melanson; Chief Keith Mello; Chief Mark Palmer; Chief Vernon Riddick, Jr.; Chief James Viadero; Douglas Glanville; Director Guy Vallaro; Commissioner James Rovella.

Other Attendees: Academy Administrator Karen Boisvert; Director Marc Fasano, POSTC; Director William Steck, POSTC; AG Terrance O'Neill, Attorney General's Office; Attorney Colin Milne, DESPP Legal; Barbara Fullenwiley (POSTC) Administrative Staff; Carrie Jo McGuffey, Certification Officer.

Council Members Absent: Special Agent- In-Charge David Sundberg; Kurt Cavanaugh; State Victim Advocate Natasha Pierre; Mr. Patrick Rittmon.

CALL TO ORDER

Chief Keith Mello, POST Council Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of the Minutes of the October 29, 2020 Special Meeting.

Chief Mello requested a motion to accept the Minutes of the October 29, 2020 special meeting as submitted. Motion to accept the minutes made by Chief Viadero; seconded by Chief Kulhawik. Motion passes.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the November 12, 2020 Regular Meeting

Chief Mello requested a motion to accept the Minutes of the November 12, 2020 regular meeting as submitted. Motion to accept the minutes made by Chief Daly; seconded by Chief Higgins. Motion passes.

3. Chiefs/Public Comment: None

CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Request for Comparative Certification

1. PROVOST, Nathan – Coventry Police Department

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to confer a comparative certification to Nathan Provost pursuant to Section 7-294d(5) of the CGS with the completion of the specific requirements approved by Council within one calendar year from the date of appointment. Motion made by Chief Daly; seconded by Chief Melanson. Motion passes.

2. GREEN, Steven – Rocky Hill Police Department

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to confer a comparative certification to Steven Green pursuant to Section 7-294d(5) of the CGS with the completion of the specific requirements approved by Council within one calendar year from the date of appointment. Motion made by Chief Daly; seconded by Chief Melanson. Motion passes.

Request for Certification Extension- recertification

1. BERUBE, Ulric –Military ext. - Bristol Police Department
2. WATSON, George – Medical ext. - Hartford Police Department
3. OUELLETTE, Kory – Medical ext. - Hartford Police Department
4. NATALE, Nicole- Medical ext. - New Haven Police Department
5. JORDAN, Nancy- Medical ext. - New Haven Police Department
6. RONDANO, Edward – Medical ext. - Stamford Police Department
7. AGNELLINO, Joseph- Medical ext. - Amtrak Police Department

RECOMMENDATION:

The Certification Committee recommends the Council approve an extension of six months to 1 to 7 for a period not to exceed Midnight 6/30/21. Motion made by Chief Daly; seconded by Chief Riddick. Motion passes.

Request for Certification Extension beyond initial extension granted previously

8. HICKS, James – Medical ext. - Danbury Police Department
9. HOLLAND, William – Military ext. - Bethel Police Department
10. ALEXANDER, Louis – Medical ext. - Stratford Police Department
11. WARNER, Mary Jo- Medical ext. - Bristol Police Department
12. WEST, Paul – Medical ext. - Hartford Police Department

RECOMMENDATION:

The Certification Committee recommends the Council approve an extension of six months to 8 to 12 for a period not to exceed Midnight 6/30/21. Motion made by Chief Daly; seconded by Chief Kulhawik. Motion passes.

Request for Certification Extension- recertification (COVID)

1. Amtrak Police Department
 - a. BEFUS, Kyle
 - b. NELSON, Stephanie
 - c. RIZZO, Frank
 - d. FORSYTH, James
 - e. GARDEN, Jude
 - f. CARLGAN, Mathew
 - g. BARTEK, Marc

RECOMMENDATION:

The Certification Committee recommends the Council approve an extension of six months to A thru G for a period not to exceed Midnight 6/30/21. Motion made by Chief Daly; seconded by Chief State's Attorney Colangelo. Motion passes.

Request for Reactivation of Previously Certified CT Police Officer

1. CARI, Paul – Bridgeport Police Department

RECOMMENDATION:

The Certification Committee recommends the Council reject the reactivation of previously certified CT police officer Paul Cari. Motion made by Chief Daly; seconded by Chief Higgins. Motion passes.

Discussion: Mr. Glanville asked for a review/update. Chief Daly advised that a pardon is needed and then Mr. Cari can reapply.

Request for Extension of One-Year Probationary Candidate Status

1. GIL-MARTINEZ, Julio – East Haven Police Department

RECOMMENDATION:

The Certification Committee recommends the Council approve an extension of the one year probationary candidate status for Probationary Officer Gil-Martinez for a period not to exceed Midnight March 3, 2021. Motion made by Chief Daly; seconded by Chief Riddick. Motion passes.

RECEIVED AFTER SUBCOMMITTEE MET:

Request for Waiver of Basic Training-recertification

1. FREDERICKS, Arthur – Town Of Groton

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to confer a renewal of police officer certification to Arthur Fredericks pursuant to Section 7-294d(5) of the CGS with the completion of the specific requirements approved by Council within one calendar year from the date of appointment. Motion made by Chief Daly; seconded by Chief Melanson. Motion passes.

Discussion: Administrator Boisvert briefed Council on the waiver request. Officer Fredericks retired from Bloomfield PD in 2017 as a Lieutenant. His certification became inactive then lapsed and as of 6/30/2020 forfeit. Training details outlined in Council packet.

Request for Comparative Certification

1. HARKONEN, Ryan – Stratford Police Department

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to confer a comparative certification to Ryan Harkonen pursuant to Section 7-294d(5) of the CGS with the completion of the specific requirements approved by Council within one calendar year from the date of appointment.

Discussion: Checking records his certification is comparable to what is recommended and outlined list of classes.

Motion made by Chief Daly; seconded by Chief States Attorney Colangelo.

2. SUTCLIFFE, Kyle – Plainfield Police Department

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to confer a comparative certification to Kyle Sutcliffe pursuant to Section 7-294d(5) of the CGS with the completion of the specific requirements approved by Council within one calendar year from the date of appointment.

Discussion: The Comparative Certification has already been approved MP certification; Officer Sutcliffe meets all standards and has DD214; needs additional courses.

Motion made by Chief Higgins; seconded by Chief Riddick.

Requests for Certification Extension

1. ROBINSON, Christopher – Medical ext. - Bridgeport Police Department
2. KOVAL, Peter – Medical ext. - Bridgeport Police Department
3. AMLETO, Romano – Medical ext. – DESPP/POST
4. BROWN, Timothy – Medical Ext. – Hamden Police Department

RECOMMENDATION:

The Certification Committee recommends the Council approve an extension to complete the training requirements to 6/30/2021. Motion made by Chief Daly; seconded by Chief States Attorney Colangelo.

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

1. Monroe PD – Tier III Reaccreditation

The Accreditation Committee therefore makes the following motion; that the POST Council confer Tier III State reaccreditation to the Monroe Police Department.

Discussion: Chief Palmer recognized Officer Thomas Pierce from Enfield PD for his work with the POST Council and the Accreditation Committee throughout the State of CT. Unfortunately Office Pierce passed away due to medical condition at work. He was the Vice President of the CT Accredited Coalition.

Motion by Chief Kulhawik; seconded by Chief Palmer.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Academy Administrator's Report

- Letters to LEU's with a relatively high concentration of minority residents shall report to POSTC; efforts to recruit, retain and promote minority police officers (Line 445 of Public Act, Special Session July, 2020, No. 20-01).
- Administrative Boisvert stated we are on task with report and it will be submitted to Governor's office and General Assembly in timely manner.
- Chief Mello stated CT Bar Association Task Force is working with providers to establish tool kit available to all chief's for medical evaluations resources.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Request to Extend Certification Review period for certification review period ending 6/30/20 to 6/30/21 due to COVID

Recommendation to extend certifications due to the COVID pandemic that some trainings may not be online for officers.

Motion made by Chief Daly; seconded by Chief States Attorney Colangelo.

2. GUTIERREZ, Jose – Willimantic Police Department Request to Waive Entry Level United States Citizenship or Permanent Legal Resident requirement

Chief Hussey of the Willimantic PD states Officer Gutierrez understands the obstacles and challenges of this issue and is aware of the timeframe and constraints as to the hiring process.

Discussion: Hiring Officer Gutierrez in some capacity in the Town of Willimantic; Awaiting answers from the Attorney General office.

Motion made by Chief Riddick; seconded by Chief Higgins. Motion passes.

3. GUTIERREZ, Jose – Willimantic Police Department Request to Modify Basic Training Requirement – pending Attorney General Clarification

Request to Modify Basic Training Requirement, already discussed previously.

Motion made by Professor Donahue; seconded by Chief Higgins. Motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Urinalysis drug test that screens for controlled substance – guidance document


Administrative Boisvert walked through guidance document and thanked Quest Diagnostics, Dr. Sample; Hartford Healthcare, Dr. Allen and Dr. McCain; Director Roderick Marriott, Department of Consumer Protection Drug Control Division.

ADJOURNMENT

Chief Mello moved to adjourn the meeting; motioned by Town Administrator Michael Freda; seconded by Chief Melanson.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Fullenwiley
Administrative Assistant
POSTC