

**POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**November 19, 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 NOVEMBER 19, 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 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; 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; Chief State's Attorney Richard Colangelo; State Victim Advocate Natasha Pierre; Mr. Patrick Rittmon; Director Guy Vallaro; Kurt Cavanaugh

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Chiefs/Public Comment – None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Crowd Control Policy Review

Director William Steck thanked all who assisted. Director Steck stated the policy is to adopt a unified statewide policy for crowds which is described in the 15 page document distributed.

Discussion: Chief Kulhawik questioned the training section b&c of the lesson plan as departments shall preserve annual training, but include review of the crowd control policy. Administrator Boisvert stated all Basic Training sessions will continue to have the 4 hr of

mandatory training. In-service training will remain at the discretion of the agency and should include crowd control policy review annually.

Chief Mello entertained a motion to adopt the Crowd Control Policy as written. Motion made by Chief Daly; seconded Chief Melanson. Motion passes.

## 2. Discussion about Academy Class scheduling during the pandemic:

Administrator Boisvert provided council with a current update on Basic Training Sessions as a result of COVID. Detailed information was provided as to how the class were structured and revised for Sessions 367, 368 and 369. This was to ensure safety and compliance with CDC regulation and CT Executive Orders (i.e. taking temperatures, staffing, cleaning, social distancing, contact tracing, etc.)

Administrator Boisvert's explained in March of 2020 sessions 367 & 368 were in session as residential classes and the schedule for session 369 (June) was complete. On March 13, 2020 the start of the COVID pandemic caused the academy to close forcing sessions 367 & 368 to a virtual eLearning system. At the same time 369's schedule (June Class) was revisited and revised due to the inability to predict COVID at the time. Administrator Boisvert's decision to keep upcoming sessions hybrid and commuter (369 & 370 & 371) was influence by current information from CDC regulations, executive orders, space and staffing needed to safely run a residential academy on all 3 shifts.

Administrator Boisvert explained that CSP started on or about March 15, 2020 as a virtual/hybrid academy and returned on campus June 2020 as a residential facility. CSP made this decision based on space and staffing levels.

Director Fasano discussed exit exams and failures. There has not been any uptick in failures during FTO or the rate to complete field certification. Discussing with training officers the areas of deficiencies have remained consistence for the last three years. On the academic side, no known drop offs with Sessions 367, 368, 369, however, Session 367 had more hands on with agencies training officers due to COVID. Academic scores have been consistent with past classes.

Discussion: Chief Kulhawik had a question about the scheduling of Session 371 starting as a hybrid or virtual. Administrator Boisvert stated 371 is expected to be a hybrid – starting virtual bringing them back in small groups; depending on COVID.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. GUTIERREZ, Jose – Willimantic Police Department  
Entry Level United States Citizen Waiver request

Chief Mello made a motion to add to the requirement for entry level police requirement that you must be a US citizen or permanent legal resident. Motion made by Dr. Donahue; seconded by Chief Kulhawik.

Discussion: Chief Melanson asked, if you can possess a firearm under the permanent legal resident requirement? Attorney Milne stated yes.

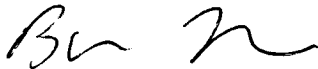
Motion passes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chief Mello moved to adjourn the meeting; motioned by Mr. Glanville; seconded by Chief Melanson.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Barbara Fullenwiley  
Administrative Assistant  
POSTC