

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES  
STATE MARSHAL COMMISSION  
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Meeting Was Conducted Remotely Using Microsoft Teams

DRAFT MINUTES  
STATE MARSHAL COMMISSION MEETING  
January 26, 2023

Commissioner Skyers-Thomas, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. Staff Attorney Sousa advised all participants that the proceedings were being recorded.

Vice Chairperson Skyers-Thomas confirmed all members in attendance and verified that a minimum 5 voting member quorum was present.

Members present and participating remotely: Chairperson Thomas Esposito; Vice-Chairperson Shirley Skyers-Thomas; Bryan Cafferelli; Michael Desmond; Hon. Leo Diana; Mildred Torres-Ferguson; John Vamos; Salvatore Vitrano; Ex-officio (non-voting) Members State Marshal Thomas Burke and State Marshal Lisa Stevenson.

Commission Staff present: Staff Director Douglas Moore (non-voting); Staff Attorney Thomas J. Sousa, Jr. (non-voting); and Special Investigator Anthony Valenti (non-voting).

Members Absent: Michael Desmond.

**Topics:**

**1. Introduction of Chairperson Thomas A. Esposito, Esq.:**

Vice-Chairperson Commissioner Skyers-Thomas introduced the Connecticut State Marshal Commission's new Chairperson, Commissioner Thomas A. Esposito, Esq. Appointed by Governor Lamont on December 16, 2022, Commissioner Esposito's appointed term runs through December 15, 2025.

Commissioner Esposito addressed the meeting and stated he looks forward to serving in the role and over the past couple of weeks he has been learning a lot about the commission.

**2. Minutes of the November 17, 2022 Regular Meeting:**

Commissioner Vamos made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 17, 2022 regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Cafferelli, the motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Paralegal Specialist:**

Staff Director Moore reported that the paralegal specialist position has been approved, the recruitment is completed, a candidate list was created, and the resulting roster is presently being shortlisted. We hope to begin interviewing candidates within the next two weeks if all goes well. Hopefully by the next commission meeting a paralegal will be on board.

*(Commissioner Torres-Ferguson joined the meeting at this point.)*

### **4. Retirements/Resignations/Inactive/Deaths:**

Commissioner Vitrano made a motion to approve New Haven County State Marshal George J. Amato, Jr.'s retirement request, and to grant Marshal Amato's request for issuance of a retired state marshal badge. Seconded by Commissioner Diana, the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Diana made a motion to approve Hartford County State Marshal Bruce Kaz' request for a one-year extension of his current inactive status (that was originally granted on January 6, 2022). Commissioner Esposito seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **5. Complaints:**

Commissioner Diana made a motion to find no probable cause and dismiss complaints 21-23 (Barr v. Nikola) and 22-33 (Garrison v. Pichiarello). Seconded by Commissioner Esposito, the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Diana made a motion to approve oversight committee proposed final decisions as follows: *in file 18-61 (Caputo v. Davis) - 3 day suspension;*

*in file 19-28 (In Re Colon - revoke appointment/badge;*

*in file 21-22 (Fisher v. Calabritto) - dismiss the complaint;*

*in file 22-34 (In Re Rosado) - 6 day suspension; capias team removal, revoke firearms*

Seconded by Commissioner Torres-Ferguson, the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Torres-Ferguson made a motion to find probable cause and refer files 22-18 (*In Re McCrewell*); 22-19 (*In Re McCrewell*); and 22-23 (Johnston v. McCrewell) to an Oversight Committee hearing; as well as issue an immediate emergency summary suspension, pending an evidentiary hearing, against Tolland County State Marshal Kevin C. McCrewell, Sr. Seconded by Commissioner Vitrano, the motion passed unanimously.

### **6. Administrative Updates:**

Staff Attorney Sousa reported the following:

That Commissioner Esposito is instituting a new policy under which the commission staff will email a read-ahead packet to the commissioners on the Friday prior to the regular monthly commission meeting.

The 2022 State Marshal Manual, as adopted by the commission during the November 2022 regular monthly meeting per Judge Diana's motion, was finalized and is posted under its own tab on the commission website. In early January 2023 notification was sent to all state marshals in the form of Administrative Bulletin 23-01.

On January 13<sup>th</sup>, Investigator Valenti and Attorney Sousa visited the Connecticut Police Academy for a planning meeting to address 2023 capias & firearms training. They met with Karen Boisvert the academy administrator and CJ McGuffey the new Field Services Training Division Director. Firing range dates in 2023 are tentatively scheduled for 07,14 and 28 October (Saturdays). The commission staff is waiting to hear back from the academy for additional information regarding scheduling the other training sessions. Investigator Valenti will serve as the commission's primary point of contact for 2023 capias and firearms training. Notice of the proposed 2023 range dates has been sent out via email to the marshals so they can start planning.

The Hartford Parking Authority Exemption 2023 renewal period has opened. Email notification was sent out to state marshals on 01/03/2023 informing them to submit requested documentation to the Hartford Parking Authority if they wish to participate.

A Formal FOIA Training in-person session is scheduled on 04/21/2023 at 450 Columbus Blvd for commission office staff, members of the DAS legal team, and DAS commissioner's office. State Marshal Commissioners were invited, so far one has accepted, and one is tentative.

The commission staff has been advised that all state marshals who served as classroom instructors last July, or field trainers during August and September have been paid by DAS. We have not heard of any state marshals reporting they have not been paid, so the commission staff is proceeding on the assumption that this issue has been completely resolved.

Lately some challenges have been encountered with Microsoft Teams not recognizing contacts from the Outlook address book; sending meeting invites with attachments; and sharing links to previously recorded meetings. Attorney Sousa will be seeking IT support to improve the State Marshal Commission's experience using Teams.

## **7. General Assembly Proposed Bill No. 5856:**

The proposed bill has been raised and is sitting in the Labor Committee per Commissioner Skyers-Thomas. Commissioner Vitrano asked what the proposed bill does. Commissioner Skyers-Thomas asked Ex-officio State Marshal Stevenson to describe the proposed bill, which would amend chapter 67 of the general statutes and authorize state marshals to receive health insurance/health benefits under the same terms and conditions as state employees. Commissioner Skyers-Thomas reported that she recently met with State Marshal Mezick regarding the topic. Commissioner Vitrano offered his assistance with this matter and requested State Marshal Stevenson provide a list of the critical general assembly committee members, as well as a copy of the bill. State Marshal Stevenson stated she would do so. Ex-Officio State Marshal Burke stated in the past the advisory board reviewed proposed bills with the commission and if commissioners supported a bill, they were asked to contact their appointing authorities and request assistance with passage of the bill. Staff Director Moore clarified that state marshals

currently have access to the same health insurance that is offered to state employees, but marshals must pay what the state does, and this bill would allow marshals to get the health insurance at the same cost as state employees. Commissioner Torres-Ferguson tried to put the landing page for the CGA Labor Committee in the chat so you can just click on membership and get it there.

## **8. Use of Force Policy:**

Commissioner Skyers-Thomas referred comments on this topic to Ex-officio State Marshal Stevenson, who turned the floor over to Special Investigator Valenti, who reported that he has reviewed the Use of Force Policy and proposed changes suggested by the advisory board.

Investigator Valenti stated he reviewed the 2016 Use of Force Policy, and an Administrative Bulletin published the day after the 2016 policy was adopted. It appears there is a conflict in the language or an oversight regarding the authority to use a baton or pepper spray by non-capias/non-firearms state marshals.

Investigator Valenti has forwarded the language proposed by the advisory board to the Attorney General's Office for review.

Commissioner Skyers-Thomas suggested this topic be placed on next month's meeting agenda, which Chairperson Esposito concurred with.

Investigator Valenti then added he noticed today that section 3A of the Use of Force Policy contains language regarding conducted energy weapons ("tasers") which should be removed from the policy.

Vice-Chairperson Skyers-Thomas stated there was no other business to discuss.

Commissioner Vitrano took a moment to recognize Commissioner Skyers-Thomas and thank her for the great deal of time and vast amount of work she devoted to the commission while serving as the acting chairperson over the past year or so and making things run smoothly.

Ex-officio State Marshal Burke in closing suggested the pending summary suspension hearing be conducted in person rather than remotely. Commissioner Esposito responded that the short-time requirement for a hearing may necessitate a remote hearing.

Commissioner Esposito stated he wants to see continued effort focused on the complaint backlog, and he is hopeful the proposed insurance legislation will help with recruiting a more diversified group of state marshal applicants.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Vitrano, seconded by Commissioner Torres-Ferguson, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

