

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION**

**Police Officer Standards and Training Council**  
**Connecticut Police Academy**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**March 7, 2019**

**Training Academy, 285 Preston Avenue**  
**Meriden, CONNECTICUT**

**IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THIS DOCUMENT IS AN ABRIDGED VERSION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 7, 2019 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:** Kurt P. Cavanaugh; Chief John F. Daly; Dr. Amy Donahue; 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Laura Francis; Town Administrator Michael Freda; Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Chief Paul Melanson; Chief Keith Mello; Chief Mark Palmer; Commissioner James Rovella; Dr. Guy Vallaro and Chief James Viadero.

**Other Attendees:** Police Academy Administrator Thomas E. Flaherty; Basic Training Director William Schultz; Certification Manager William Tanner; Accreditation Manager/Compliance Officer Marc Fasano; Curriculum Manager Karen Boisvert; Holly King, CSP - TA Administrative Staff; Assistant Attorney General DeAnn Varunes and Pamela Hayes, CPCA Executive Director.

**Council Members Absent:** Douglas Glanville; Chief Ronnell Higgins; Chief State’s Attorney Kevin Kane; State Victim’s Advocate Natasha Pierre; Chief Vernon Riddick, Jr.; Patrick Rittmon and Special Agent in Charge Brian C. Turner.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chief Keith Mello, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:29 A.M.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Minutes of the January 17, 2019 Meeting  
*Chief Mello requested a motion to accept the Minutes of January 17, 2019 Meeting as submitted. Motion made by Chief Daly, seconded by Ms. Francis; minutes accepted.*
2. Chiefs/Public Comment

**CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE**

**Request for a Certificate of Comparative Certification**

1. Michael G. VILLIARD – Mashantucket Tribal Nation Police Department (Police Officer)

*The certification committee recommends the council approve the above certificate requests for Police Officer Certification by way of a Certificate of Comparative Certification subject to State of Connecticut certification/recertification or proof of current certification consistent with training requirements and associated conditions as specified within the contents of the council packet forwarded to each council member in advance of today's meeting; motion made by Mr. Cavanaugh, seconded by Chief Kulhawik. The motion carries.*

2. Eric J. FRATE – Mashantucket Tribal Nation Police Department (Police Officer)  
*This certification has been tabled; motion made by Mr. Cavanaugh, seconded by Ms. Francis. The motion passes.*

### **Basic Training Academy Applications**

1. Bridgeport Police Academy – Bridgeport Police Department
2. Hartford Police Academy – Hartford Police Department

*The Certification Committee recommends the Council approve the Bridgeport and Hartford Police Academy's applications to commence a Basic Police Officer Recruit Training Academy for each as outlined with the recommendations numerated in the motions; motion made by Mr. Cavanaugh seconded by Chief Melanson. Motion passes.*

### **ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE**

1. Wilton Police Department – Tier 1 Accreditation

Wilton Police Department, under the command of Chief John Lynch. On January 23, 2019 the team of assessors completed an assessment of Tier 1 State Accreditation Standards. The team found the agency was in compliance with 114 standards, 12 were non-applicable. The assessment team has concluded, based upon the review and the inspection that the Wilton Police Department has established policies and practices which are consistent with the POSTC Tier I State Law Enforcement Accreditation Standards.

*Chief Kulhawik on behalf of the Accreditation Committee makes the motion that the POST Council confer Tier I State Accreditation for the Wilton Police Department, seconded by Mr. Cavanaugh. Motion passes.*

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Executive Director's Report

**Chief Flaherty**, Police Academy Administrator – Since our last meeting Karen Boisvert and I met with Val Lubens, he's done work for the council in the past, he gave Karen a tutorial on developing learning goals and objectives for future curriculum additions; I participated in webinar with (IADLEST) which is a professional organization of all directors in the country on development, kind of fine tuning the source book (there were 3 of us online), they have directors in all 50 states and they publish a source book and update it every once in a while so that anyone can have access to it online to see what the training standards are in another state or all the states so that should be out very shortly; We met with Dr. Richard Colasanto from Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services he put together a pilot autism

training program for in-service officers which we are offering in April, limited to 20 students depending on evaluations. He's agreed to come back in the future and offer a series of in-service training classes; with support of the Commissioner we were able to hire Assistant State's Attorney Patrice Palumbo who retired from Kevin Kane's office and she's going to work for us as a temporary retired worker to continue to teach domestic violence, she's taught domestic violence all over the state and been teaching in the recruit academy here for a long time so she's on board; Council Legislative Committee met here in January; we've offered another pilot training class in Officer Wellness & Mindfulness and the evaluations were exceptional so we're going to offer a 2<sup>nd</sup> class later in the spring; Dave Ricciarelli who's the physical fitness instructor in the state of RI for their POST, hosted Karen to go up and spend a full day observing a train-the-trainer in the Cooper Standards and he has agreed to come here and offer a train-the-trainer for CT officers because we are very short on (statewide) on those that can administer the Cooper Standards Test for admission to the academy, so Dave will be down here; Karen is working on preparing a request for proposals for basic crime scene training, we're getting a number of requests from the field that new detectives and new technicians have moved into that field and are looking for that training; I attended a meeting with all the divisions from DESPP on school security and safety training and had an open forum and kicked it around for the Commissioner and submitted some documents so we'll see where that's gonna go.

## 2. Directors Reports

*Basic Training (William Schultz)* – Information provided in the packet

- 363<sup>rd</sup> Training Session began on October 5, 2018 with 49 recruits; one dropped out continuing with forty-eight (48) recruits; set to graduate at Southern Connecticut State University on March 27, 2019 at 11:00.
- 364<sup>th</sup> Training Session began on Monday, December 31, 2018 with 49 recruits; one failed the Cooper Test and continuing with 48 recruits; tentatively set to graduate at Southern Connecticut State University.
- 365<sup>th</sup> Training Session scheduled to begin April 5, 2019.

Quick update/comment on personnel – with Karen leaving, we are down to six instructors out of ten; secretary left and I understand we're not going to replace her; I got notified recently that the only two part-time PT instructors I have for a mandatory physical training program and other related physical activities they're leaving; so based on the dedication and commitment of my instructors we're gonna make it, we're gonna keep going, these people are unbelievable. They come to work, they don't complain, they pick up jobs and don't tell me about it when things aren't getting done and I'm going keep going but I want to make note to the council that were struggling.

*In-Service Training (Karen Boisvert)* – training that we have coming up – Basic Crime Scene & Intermediate Crime Scene and Advanced, but will take time due to the approval from Fiscal; Goals and Objectives for the New Criteria especially this pertains to the satellite academies we are working on that so it should be wrapped up pretty soon so you will see that. Additional information provided in the packet

3. Accreditation Manager's Report – (William Tanner) Information provided in the packet
4. Compliance Officer's Report – (Marc Fasano) Information provided in the packet
5. Audit Reports
6. Correspondence

## OLD BUSINESS - NONE

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Chief Mello – Raised Bill, House Bill 7242 Attached for review

It's an act concerning police officers at colleges and universities and specifically looks at colleges and universities that don't have organized police departments.

*(Portions of this Bill are read to highlight concerns, Chief Mello speaks on a few points, opens up for discussion and motion.)*

The purpose of this is to allow the Commissioner (in this case, Commissioner Rovella) to commission police officers at independent institutions of higher learning. When we looked at that it raised some concerns or questions.

One question being, "there appears nothing, or there's nothing in the Bill that requires any appointed police officer in this case to be post certified or to adhere to the not only the initial training requirements, but the certification requirements so we think that should be part of this language." Primary concern for POST.

Secondary concern is if these police officers (and I guess special police officers I'm not sure what the title would be) if they are working for an independent institution, that institution, if it's not an organized police department does not adhere to COLLECT standards and is not required to adhere to COLLECT standards and that kind of goes backwards from what we have worked so hard at over the last year to get all the departments in adherence with COLLECT so we had a more consistent approach to policy and practice. There are additional concerns and I'll open it up for discussion to hear from the members here. I did have occasion after seeing this to call the Hamden Police Chief (acting police chief) he was unaware of it and he raised some significant concerns especially because Quinnipiac is in Hamden, it's also in North Haven that would allow as it appears to potentially have the authority over Dixwell Avenue, which is Route 10, over Route 5 and all those adjoining streets and how would that match with that police department so they were in opposition to this and I didn't go any further than that. There's a difference when you have your organized police departments (UCONN or the state institutions), they have an organized police department and they adhere to the same standards as we do. We also have UNH a private institution, we have Yale and their authority is granted by that municipality. In this case it wouldn't be. So if I can open it up to the floor, again our primary concern as a council is the training and certification requirements unless you feel otherwise.

*Discussions begin with some questions and then the **motion** is presented:*

- (Mrs. Francis) Was it intentionally written that way or was it an oversight?
- (Dr. Donahue) What problem is this trying to solve? What's behind this? (Motivation?)
- (Mrs. Francis) Motion to endorse your opinion so we can put it in testimony?

***Mrs. Francis motioned to endorse that the language regarding POST certification and compliance to all POST standards be incorporated in there; Mr. Freda seconded.***

*Discussion continues Chief Mello, Commissioner Rovella, Dr. Donahue, Chief Melanson and Chief Palmer (these are extracted, but not always exactly word for word and not all conversations are captured) ...*

*Chief Mello – The Commissioner has that authority with utilities for railroad or water company and other entities, but not with universities and colleges. This Bill expands that it modifies 2919 to include*

colleges and universities so it would seem to me that if they were going to go the road of an organized police department then this wouldn't be necessary provided they could get the endorsement of the local community for their authority. So it seems to be a carve-out. Are they going to be special state police officers where that supervision will fall under the Commissioners domain, similar to what a resident trooper type model where they fall under the supervision directly of the state police? Who is going to supervise them? Who is going to make sure that our police officers are in compliance with? Who's going to do that? Is that going to be state police? I would feel more comfortable if they were organized police departments because now you have that organization set up in accordance with every other organized police department in the state and those controls are built in. But I don't think that's what this is, I think this is a separate carve out.

*Commissioner Rovella* – I think the intention is that they form their own police departments on their universities or colleges so they're armed law enforcement on those areas. But ultimately the buck stops with me where means I will not sign unless they don't sign to become an organized police department following all the standards.

*Dr. Donahue* – That's dependent on "YOU" or whoever takes over "commissioner".

*Chief Mello* – Clear distinctions as to who has jurisdiction

*Chief Melanson* – I support the motion of both an organized Police Department and an organized or Certified Police Officers so they can be held accountable other than to the president of the university.

*Commissioner Rovella* – There is an authority by the chief executive officers which are the mayors to grant special powers to police officers. When I spoke to 'inaudible' he wanted to get away from using that special powers by the CEO, I think it was just an oversight not to include the POST I think he will tell you that. It was nothing wrong with the way they wrote it, but yes it has to be attached at POST. There is some reluctance by police departments to accept new police departments at universities unless they are POST certified or trained the same way. In Hartford I didn't have that animosity only because we couldn't handle the work we had. I think you'll find some of the police departments can't handle everything they have anyway.

*Dr. Donahue* – but that was a case example of a successful interjurisdictional arrangement where everybody was, some of these are much rockier.

*Commissioner Rovella* – Right, but I know the Town of Mansfield extended the special powers to the UCONN police in the Town of Mansfield.

*Dr. Donahue* – it took a longer time to evolve than it did in Hartford

*Commissioner Rovella* – Right and it was very disturbing to the state police right?

*Dr. Donahue* – Right

*Commissioner Rovella* – with that the CEO came in... Realistically the hurdle by universities to finance organized police departments ... there is one other aspect that has to be mentioned is the purpose of arming officers on college and facilities, I'm in fact in favor of that only because they're the first line.

*Chief Mello* – Some of the security departments are doing that now

*Commissioner Rovella* – it's a nightmare, it was for me, the University of Hartford actually did that.

*Chief Mello* – So there's a motion on the floor I know there's a hearing today at 1100 at the Public Safety Committee to have our one of our representatives advocate for that language in this bill that

includes “any and all police officers have to be, adhere to all POST standards and regulations”. All in favor of that motion? (All respond – “I”, none opposed); Motion passes. Thank you for the discussion.

*Chief Melanson* – Just to clarify that motion passed, but the way you stated that was that all police officers

*Chief Mello* – in this, that fall under the jurisdiction of this program

*Chief Melanson* – and what about the police departments themselves?

*Chief Mello* – we can entertain a new motion for that as well?

*Chief Melanson* – I just want to be clear

*Chief Mello* – And I see your point

*Dr. Donahue* – But did the language, doesn’t reference departments at all

*Chief Mello* – It doesn’t it just talks about police officers. And I don’t know do we want to expand, although I agree with that if it is not addressed in this bill do we want it addressed in this bill?

*Chief Palmer* – Mr. Chair I think we should because there are too many “what if” scenarios. Campus police officers are going to carry tasers, but sworn officers in municipalities have to report taser use for tracking purposes, we have to report pursuits, we have to report the general use of force. Who’s going to do the investigations if those occur? Who’s going to do the investigation if there’s an internal complaint against the actions of the officer excessive use of force or whatever so I think there is a lot of unanswered questions. Without an organized police department there’s no structure to take care of that.

*Chief Mello* – When you look at the language it puts that management and supervision under the Commissioners authority. Commissioner how do you foresee that, do you see them being part of the state police and being special state police officers under the supervision and control of the state police? How do you see that?

*Commissioner Rovella* – I would foresee that as an organized police department in that college. First of all it has to have a mandatory chain of command, reporting structure that actually reports to either the president or his designee. And also I don’t think any police chief wants to adopt police officers under their police department working at colleges. I could be wrong but I don’t think we want to do that.

*Chief Mello* – Can we, can someone help me here, do we have to, how can we withdraw that, amend that motion that has just been passed?

***The Council supports including language in the Bill that requires appointed police officers to be POST certified and that they must be employed by an organized police department. Mr. Cavanaugh offers an amendment to include that language, Mrs. Francis seconds; motion passes.***

*Chief Mello* – Paul (Chief Melanson) are you clear on that?

*Chief Melanson* – Yup.

*Chief Mello* – I’ll talk to you just before we leave, okay? So Paul is one of the legislative liaisons for CPCA and so now he’s here and he’s also on the legislative committee and I’m not going to say that was an accident, but it seems to work out really well. Don’t worry Chief Viadero will also be up there today.

**End of Bill 7242 discussion**

2. **Connecticut Police Chief's Association, Strategic planning committee meeting –Distance Learning**

A few years ago communications with Virtual Academy happened to see how they are doing this down south and in the Midwest. There are a lot of agencies doing this online learning model. The curriculum committee looked at it and felt there were a number of courses that we could fit into this model. It was brought up at the strategic planning committee for CPCA (held in February), that a couple of chiefs mentioned, "We just want POST to give us the authority to do it. Just allow us to do it and we'll handle it. We determine what platform we want to use, we send you the training forms. It's not going to be any different than anything that you are doing now, except we're doing it online." If it does happen it needs to be under the control and management of this body of this academy. It needs to be one singular platform that is approved by this council, by the academy and the material that goes on there needs to be placed on there and approved by this committee as well. The other issue, not just how do we do it, but what platform do we use, who's going to develop the material and manage the material and how do we pay for it? We enter into a service agreement with a vendor, we develop material place the material on the platform and manage the results. It can be paid for on a per department subscription model. CPCA suggested that if POST approves this type of program it may be something they can pay for and provide to their membership and build it into their dues. Funding seems to be the roadblock to determine how we pay for this. POST doesn't have the staff to do that. Do we look down the road of trying to find a consistent approach that we will develop and we will manage? Opinions to look at a model as long as it is consistent throughout the state; CPCA to be the backbone as long as POST approves what is going on; Funding and manpower are going to be an issue, CPCA has a mechanism through dues, POST just needs to approve it. Developing the material from those that are certified; how much quality control do we need in instruction? Designed by an instructor, making sure the content is relevant and robust. Pilot program? Virtual academy works by getting fees from agency, you're the administrator, you take material and download, they have controls in place, you set up how you want it defined, you have to watch x-amount of video, you have to score this on a test before they will approve it and then it goes to the administrator to determine and review credit. The cost is passed on to the agency per user. Historically – if this is not thought out carefully and a third party vendor is managing online training they are not certified law enforcement instructors and this council is a regulatory body. What do you do in situations like that? Use the same instructional staff it is just a different delivery mechanism. It doesn't alter your ability to audit, it's like a tool kit allowing you to load them and let them run. Suggestion for the curriculum committee to meet, talk about it again and look at it more seriously to come up with some concepts to bring back. Legalities of getting involved in a contract with CPCA or any other vendor and the costs are passed on to the municipality; council would need to approve online learning with "these caveats" and putting those in place.

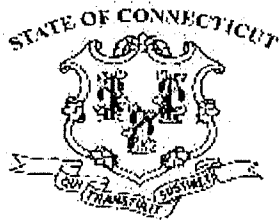
**Chief Mello moved to adjourn the meeting; motioned by Chief Daly, seconded by Mr. Freda. Motion passes.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Holly L. King  
DESPP, Connecticut State Police  
Training Academy Secretary



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

**Raised Bill No. 7242**

LCO No. 4702



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:  
(PS)

**AN ACT CONCERNING POLICE OFFICERS AT INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 29-19 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
4 may, upon the application of any electric distribution, gas, telephone  
5 or water company owning, leasing, maintaining, managing or  
6 controlling any property, plant or equipment in this state, commission,  
7 during the commissioner's pleasure, one or more persons designated  
8 by such company who, having been sworn, may act at the expense of  
9 such company as police officers upon the premises used or occupied  
10 by such company in its business, or upon any highway adjacent to  
11 such premises, for the proper protection of such plant or property, and  
12 each police officer so appointed may arrest and take before some  
13 proper authority any person in the police officer's precinct for any  
14 offense committed [therein] in the precinct. The commissioner may  
15 exercise such supervision and direction over any police officer



16 appointed as [herein] provided in this subsection as the commissioner  
17 deems necessary. When any such commission is issued or revoked, the  
18 commissioner shall notify the clerk of the superior court for each  
19 judicial district in which it is intended that such police officer shall act  
20 or cease to act.

21 (b) The commissioner may, upon the application of any railroad,  
22 express company or steamboat company, engaged in the business of  
23 transportation in this state, or upon the application of any corporation  
24 owning or having control of the roads in any private residence park, or  
25 upon the application of the Connecticut Airport Authority,  
26 commission, during the commissioner's pleasure, one or more persons  
27 designated by such company or by such corporation, or one person  
28 designated by such authority, who, having been sworn, may act, at the  
29 expense of such company, corporation or authority, as a police officer  
30 or police officers, as the case may be, upon the premises used by such  
31 company or authority in its business, or upon its cars, vessels or  
32 airplanes, or upon the roads and land owned by or under the control  
33 of such corporation or authority, and each police officer so appointed  
34 may arrest and take before some proper authority any person in the  
35 police officer's precinct for any offense committed [therein] in the  
36 precinct. When any such commission is issued or revoked, the  
37 commissioner shall notify the clerk of the superior court for each  
38 judicial district in which it is intended that such police officer shall act  
39 or cease to act. Each such police officer shall, when on duty, wear in  
40 plain view a shield bearing the words "railroad police", "steamboat  
41 police", "express company police" or "special police", as the case may  
42 be, and the name of the company, corporation or authority for which  
43 the police officer is commissioned.

44 (c) The commissioner may, upon the application of any independent  
45 institution of higher education, as defined in section 10a-173, owning,  
46 leasing, maintaining, managing or controlling any property in this  
47 state, commission, during the commissioner's pleasure, one or more  
48 persons designated by such institution who, having been sworn, may  
49 act, at the expense of such institution, as a police officer or police

50 officers, as the case may be, upon the premises used by such institution  
51 in its activities, or upon any highway adjacent to such premises, for the  
52 proper protection of the institution or property, and each police officer  
53 so appointed may arrest and take before some proper authority any  
54 person in the police officer's precinct for any offense committed in the  
55 precinct. The commissioner may exercise such supervision and  
56 direction over any police officer appointed as provided in this  
57 subsection as the commissioner deems necessary. When any such  
58 commission is issued or revoked, the commissioner shall notify the  
59 clerk of the superior court for each judicial district in which it is  
60 intended that such police officer shall act or cease to act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2019	29-19
-----------	-----------------	-------

**Statement of Purpose:**

To allow the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection to commission police officers at independent institutions of higher education.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]