

POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

October 15, 2020

CONNECTICUT POLICE ACADEMY

MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT

Remotely via Zoom

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THIS DOCUMENT IS AN ABRIDGED VERSION OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 15, 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; Kurt Cavanaugh; State Victim Advocate Natasha Pierre; Mr. Patrick Rittmon; Director Guy Vallaro; Commissioner James Rovella.

Other Attendees: Academy Administrator Karen Boisvert; Attorney Colin Milne, DESPP Legal; Barbara Fullenwiley (POSTC) Administrative Staff; Chief Alaric Fox; Chief Daryl Roberts (Ret.).

Council Members Absent: Special Agent- In-Charge David Sundberg.

CALL TO ORDER

Chief Keith Mello, POST Council Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of the Minutes of the September 10, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Chief Mello requested a motion to accept the Minutes of the September 10, 2020 regular meeting as submitted. Motion to accept the minutes made by Chief Daly; seconded by Chief Higgins. Motion passes.

2. Chiefs/Public Comment

Chief Daryl Roberts formerly of Hartford Police Department and the President of NOBLE addressed the Council, commending their great work and gave an overview of his organization (NOBLE); expressed how NOBLE can be a resource to the police departments; and we must lead from the front and set the example. Chief Higgins acknowledged how this program brought other leaders of color in the state of Connecticut together so that they know one another. The value in NOBLE has served as a forum for them to work together collectively and bring forth ideas and beliefs to add to the larger group so that they can move forward. Chief Riddick added that NOBLE adds a different perspective.

CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Request for Comparative Certification

1. MAESTRI, Cliff – Plymouth Police Department

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to confer a comparative certification and POSTC certification to Cliff Maestri with an expiration date of June 30, 2024. Motion made by Mr. Cavanaugh; seconded by Chief Daly. Motion passes.

2. LAUREANO, Alexander – West Hartford Police Department

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to confer a comparative certification and POSTC certification to Alexander Laureano with an expiration date of June 30, 2024. Motion made by Mr. Cavanaugh; seconded by Chief Daly. Motion passes.

3. ZOBEL, Matthew – West Hartford Police Department

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to confer a comparative certification and POSTC certification to Matthew Zobel with an expiration date of June 30, 2024. Motion made by Mr. Cavanaugh; seconded by Chief Daly. Motion passes.

4. ESCOBAR, Edwin – Army MP - Greenwich Police Department

Recommendation: In accordance pursuant to Section 7-294d(5) of the CGS and general notices, Candidate Escobar should be granted a comparative certification subject to the requirements of General Notice 20-05 and the addition of a course on missing persons as reflected on the list of required courses and FTO requirement. Motion made by Mr. Cavanaugh; seconded by Chief Daly. Motion passes.

Basic Training One-Year Probationary Extensions

1. Hartford Police Department, Ba B. Soe

The Certification Committee recommends the Council approve an extension of the one-year probationary candidate status for Probationary Officer Soe for a period not to exceed Midnight October 8, 2020. Motion made by Mr. Cavanaugh; seconded by Chief Daly. Motion passes.

United States Marine Corps – Military Police- Program

Request from United States Marine Corps to accept USMC - Military Police specialty training as reciprocity for a comparative certification candidate and partial waiver of Basic Training requirements outlined in the USMC request form. Reference: General Notice 15 -02.

Mr. Cavanaugh Certification Committee enthusiastically endorsed this program and would ask that the full Council vote in favor. Motion made by Mr. Cavanaugh; seconded by Chief Daly. Motion passes.

Request for Lateral Certification

CATTEY, Mark – Bethlehem/Woodbury Police Department

Recommendation:

Reactivation of Officer Cattey's certification and update his certification expiration to 6/30/2023 upon completion of a review training credit form being submitted to POSTC. Certification Committee recommends the Council approval. Motion made by Mr. Cavanaugh; seconded by Chief Daly. Motion passes.

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

1. Enfield Police Department – Tier III Reaccreditation

The Accreditation Committee therefore makes the following motion; that the POST Council confer Tier III State reaccreditation to the Enfield Police Department. Motion made by Chief Kulhawik; seconded by Chief Palmer. Motion passes.

Chief Alaric Fox acknowledge acceptance.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Administrator Boisvert acknowledged the retirements of Training Officers Patricia Maich and Patrick Ahlquist and thanked them for their many years of service to law enforcement. The Field Program Consultant interviews are completed. Carrie Jo McGuffey will start November 6th as a Field Program Consultant assigned to certification. POST currently has two basic classes in session; both are commuters with the ability to go virtual, if necessary. Due to COVID, Basic Training Recruit Session 371 is scheduled to start virtual on January 8, 2021 and will transition to a commuter as COVID allows.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Plainville Police Department Petition – matter tabled pending October 29, 2020 hearing.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Use of force sub-committee, Duty to Act/Intervene cover letter –Duane J. Lovello, Use of Force Sub-committee Chair

Authored by Use of Force Sub-Committee Chair Duane J. Lovello was sent to Council members.

2. Use of force sub-committee - Section 30 - Guidance Language Duty to Act/Intervene

Chief Mello stated the Guidance Language provided by the use of force sub-committee was sent out in accordance with PA 20-1 – Use of Force Policy will be discussed in November for a vote in December.

3. Policy update Body Worn Cameras – Dashboard

Added to the language POST already established in the Body Worn Cameras Policy. Effective July 1, 2022 mandated by PA 20-1 that all police departments have body worn cameras/dashboard camera.

Chief Mello requested a motion to adopt Body Worn Cameras/Dashboard Policy as written.

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

4. Suspension, cancellation & revocation, Guidance Document, 7 – 294d(g) draft language

Chief Mello read pertinent parts of this section highlighting the new language.

Chief Mello requested a motion to accept the Guidance Document as written.

Motion made by Chief Melanson; seconded by Chief Kulhawik. Motion passes.

5. Proposed 2021 regular council meeting dates

Chief Mello made a motion to accept proposed 2021 regular council meeting dates; seconded by Chief Daly. Motion passes.

6. Mental Health Screening Review – after discussion this review was left on the table for further review.

7. Drug Screening Review – tabled until November meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

Chief Mello moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:07 a.m.; motion by Chief Daly; seconded by Chief Melanson.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Fullenwiley
Administrative Assistant
POSTC