

POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

August 12, 2021

CONNECTICUT POLICE ACADEMY

285 Preston Avenue & Via Zoom

MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THIS DOCUMENT IS AN ABRIDGED VERSION OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 12, 2021 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: Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu; Town Administrator Michael Freda; Mr. Michael Lawlor; Chief Keith Mello; Chief Roberto Rosado; Chief Vernon Riddick; Chief James Viadero; Mr. Jonathan Slifka; Ms. Patricia Rehmer; Ms. Pamela Mautte; Chief Scott Sansom; Chief Paul Melanson; Mr. Anderson Curtis; Lt. Mark Davison; Commissioner James Rovella; Mr. Iran Nazario; Chief Fernando Spagnolo.

Other Attendees: Academy Administrator Karen Boisvert; Director Marc Fasano, POSTC; Attorney Colin Milne, DESPP Legal; Barbara Fullenwiley (POSTC) Administrative Staff; Carrie Jo McGuffey, Certification Officer; Brian Foley; Cynthia Isales; Duane Lovello; Kazimera Morse, Commissioner Chief of Staff; Butch Hyatt; Rashaad Roach; Lawrence Terra; Joe Sikora.

Council Members Absent: Mr. Douglas Glanville, SAC David Sundberg and Chief Ronnell Higgins

CALL TO ORDER

Chief Keith Mello, POST Council Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS

1. To review and consider adopting the updated 2021 Use of Force Training Program.

Chair of the Use of Force Sub-committee Duane Lovello gave an update and overview of the establishment of a standardized Use of Force lesson plan and acknowledged the work of the committee.

Lt. Joe Sikorsky of the Milford Police Department and Assistant Chief Larry Terra of the West Hartford Police Department presented to the Council an overview of the use of force training lesson plan.

Chief Mello thanked the presenters and opened the floor up for discussion.

Chief Keith Mello requested a motion to consider adopting the use of force training program and along with the policies as a post training curriculum. Motion made by Chief James Viadero motioned to adopt the Use of Force training program as presented by the Use of Force Committee; seconded by Chief Paul Melanson. Motion passes.
No discussion.

2. To adopt the Use of Force Policy Instructor certification classification – area 209

Academy Administrator Karen Boisvert discussed the 7 principal instructors identified to train the trainers - current use of force 209 instructors. Administrator Boisvert stated all 209 instructors must reapply for endorsement, attend POSTC use of force train the trainer program by 12/2021. 209 instructors will be required to teach annually and are required to attend annual mandatory Use of Force training sponsored by POSTC. If they don't meet the instructor criteria requirements, it will result in the loss of the 209 endorsement. The new use of force 209 instructor criteria – reapply, attend train the trainer use of force program, teach annually, and attend annual use of force training.

a) Discuss criteria for certification

Administrator Boisvert mentioned the instructor application in the day packet that will be required for all 209 instructors to reapply. Chiefs must endorse their 209 instructor. Chief Paul Melanson discussed having a team approach. Administrator Boisvert mentioned it will be left up to the agencies to coordinate team teaching.

Chief Mello requested a motion to accept the Use of Force instructor certification classification – area 209. Motion to accept Use of Force Instructor certification made by Chief Vernon Riddick; seconded by Chief Roberto Rosado. Motion passes.

3. Discuss requiring specified curriculum area 300 instructors to attend the updated 2021 Use of Force Training Program as a prerequisite to their 300 certifications.

Chief Keith Mello stated this is a prerequisite for the motion that was just carried out and this area covers all the 300 series. Administrator Boisvert stated instructors who teach in curriculum area 300 will be required to go through training but not endorsed to teach this program. Administrator Boisvert added one other topic, curriculum area 203 (civil liability) which greatly impacts use of force. Chief Mello provided series curriculums which are all taught individually which are included: 1) 203 Civil Liability; 2) 301 Firearms; 3) 301A Simmunitions/Shooting Decisions; 4) 301B Rifle; 5) 301C Low light/No light; 6) 302A Police Baton Training; 7) 302B OC Spray; 8) 302C EDW (Taser); 9) 302D Less Lethal/Chemical/Spec; 10) 306 Officer Safety/Mechanics of Restraints and Control; 11) 306A Handcuffing; 12) 306B Defensive Tactics; 13) 309 Emergency Vehicle Operation Course (EVOC); and 14) 312 De-escalation Training.

Discussion: Chief Mello stated all current 300 and 203 instructors must attend the Use of Force Train The Trainer Program training done by 12/31/2022 is mandatory.

Chief Mello requested a Motion to require all area 300 and 200 use of force instructors to attend the POST Use of Force Train the Trainer as a prerequisite to maintain certification in one or more of the 300 series and 203 area of instruction by 12/2022. Motion made by Chief Vernon Riddick; seconded by Chief Roberto Rosado. Motion passes.

4. Discuss and consider adopting the updated 2021 Use of Force Training Program and Policy as a CLESP Standard.

Chief Mello discussed adopting policies as a CLESP Standard and placed by the council. It requires departments to adhere to these standards by audits.

Chief Mello entertained a motion to adopt the use of force policy as a CLESP standard. Motion made by Chief James Viadero; seconded by Chief Roberto Rosado. Motion passes.

Final Item

Discussion:

Chief Mello discussed the date required for all police officers to attend the Use of Force training program was April 2020 by Police Accountability bill. He requested that the date be extended to 12/31/2022. Administrator Boisvert suggested that all departments have until either 12/31/2022 or 4/1/2023 to have their officers complete the training because there are over 9000 officers who need to attend the training.

Chief Mello asked for a motion to have all officers training on the Use of Force Program by 12/31/22; motion made by Chief James Viadero; seconded by Chief Paul Melanson.

Chief Melanson expressed concern that it may be difficult to get all officer trained by 12/31/22 and suggested a friendly amendment to April 1, 2023.

Chief Mello Motion to require Use of Force training by 12/31/2022 and requested a motion to grant Academy Administrator the authority to grant extensions on a case-by-case basis to 4/1/2023.

Administrator Boisvert stated that if officers do not complete the training by 12/31/22 a notification will be sent to the department that the officer has not met POSTC requirement. POSTC agreed officers must attend unless unforeseen circumstances prevent their attendance.

Discussion about what will occur if officer does not meet the Use of Force training requirement by deadline. POST will send a letter of non-compliance to the department.

Motion stands for 12/31/2022 with Administrator Boisvert to allow extension for cause.

Adjournment 11:25 am motioned by Chief Paul Melanson seconded by Chief Vernon Riddick.

Respectfully submitted:



Barbara Fullenwiley
Administrative Assistant
POSTC