

**POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**March 11, 2021**

**CONNECTICUT POLICE ACADEMY**

**MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT**

**Remotely via Zoom**

**IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THIS DOCUMENT IS AN ABRIDGED VERSION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 11, 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; Mr. Douglas Glanville, Ms. Patricia Rehmer; Ms. Pamela Mautte; Chief Scott Sansom; Chief Ronnell Higgins; Chief Paul Melanson; Mr. Anderson Curtis; Chief State's Attorney Richard Colangelo; Lt. Mark Davison; Commissioner James Rovella.

**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.

**Council Members Absent:** Chief Fernando Spagnolo; Mr. Iran Nazario; Special Agent- In-Charge David Sundberg.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chief Keith Mello, POST Council Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Approval of the Minutes:
  - Special Council Meeting November 19, 2020
  - Special Council Meeting December 10, 2020

Chief Mello requested a motion to accept the Minutes of the November 19, 2020 and December 10, 2020 special meeting as submitted. Motion to accept the minutes made by State's Attorney Richard Colangelo; seconded by Chief Paul Melanson. Motion passes.

2. Chiefs/Public Comment: None

Chief Mello mentioned the meeting dates and the statutory requirements if you miss more than three meetings you will be asked to leave. Next meeting will be virtual in May, 2021.

### 3. Committee Assignments

Chief Mello stated that all will be asked to serve on a committee. Most work is done in sub-committees. All sub-committees consist of council members - sometimes there are subject matter experts. Chief Mello listed and explained the following sub-committees.

Certification Committee – meets separately. Certification committee manages the process and the POST academy does the work for you. They will present the recommendations for you at the meeting. The committee will agree or disagree with the post academy recommendations.

Accreditation Committee – reviews all requests and proposals for accreditation of law enforcement agencies for Tier I, II, III, and CLESP. Also, lets you know if departments are in compliance, writes reports and presents to you with a report.

Curriculum Committee - Ongoing group doing assessments on recruit and in-service curriculum.

Special Committee – number of standing special committees.

Personnel Committee – when there is a new hire POST staff council provides recommendations.

Chief Mello stated committee assignments will be done via email.

### 4. Use of Force Committee Update

Chief Mello named the members of the Use of Force Sub-Committee and acknowledged the amazing work the committee has done; the changes that were made to the policy due to PA 20-1; and the goal of the policy is to represent minimum standards, clarity and to be easily understood by police officers. This policy was passed unanimously out of judiciary.

Chief Mello asked council members if they had any questions before moving on. Michael Lawlor questioned if reports due in January of 2021 were submitted. Chief Mello stated yes. Administrator Boisvert and her staff submitted the social worker feasibility study to POST Council. Administrator Boisvert also spoke to the annual reports to the Governor and Joint Standing Committees of General Assembly regarding the municipal police training plan, recruitment retention and promotion of minority police officer and gifts and contributions. Michael Lawlor asked if council could receive copies. Chief Mello said yes.

Chief Mello and Administrator Boisvert identified agency confusion between CLESP Standard 10 and reports due in accordance with PA 20-1. Both require law enforcement units with a relatively high concentration of minority residents submitted to POSTC.

Mr. Curtis asked if the council would consider some type of outreach to the cities with high concentration of people of color to help build relationships between the community and the police – Is it part of the council function. Chief Mello stated that council fully adheres to the role of the council and directed everyone to 7-294d. The outreach programs should be work conducted by the local agencies. Mr. Curtis also asked about having something developed specific for people of color in the curriculum. Chief Mello spoke to the interest of Mr. Curtis and becoming a member of the Curriculum Subcommittee. Chief Mello spoke of the social justice program and community forum which would allow the subcommittee to share their perspectives, interest and complaints.

## **CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE**

### **Request for Comparative Certification**

1. ROJAS, Hugo A. – Newtown Police Department
2. MALONEY, Kevin – Wilton Police Department
3. COLLINS, Matthew – Wilton Police Department
4. SAMPLE, William – Danbury Police Department

### **Recommended Motion for Comparative Certification for 1 thru 4**

To grant comparative certifications to 1 thru 4 pursuant to Section 7-294d(5) of the CGS with the completion of the specific requirements approved by Council within one calendar year from the date of appointment. Motion made by State’s Attorney Colangelo; seconded by Chief Melanson. Motion passes.

### **Request for Reactivation of Certification**

1. CARI, Paul – Bridgeport Police Department

Chief Paul Melanson made a motion to withdraw original motion and table the motion. Motion passed.

Discussion: Chief Riddick stated matter was heard last year after arrest and conviction. Cari has maintained employment with administrative duties. Chief Mello stated this was a pardon from Board of Pardon and Parole 10/7/2020. Chief Mello read the Pardon and the letter. Attorney Milne stated pardon removes from disqualifying and with new accountability act we can move forward. Chief Mello stated only convictions can be acted upon and with the pardon that conviction has been removed. Chief Riddick stated there was a vote not to certify it was not tabled; Administrator Boisvert stated council did not vote – pardon paperwork was not completed. Chief Mello recommended a motion to table for further guidance. Original motion by Chief Paul Melanson and seconded by Chief Vernon Riddick to withdraw.

2. WILSON, Robert – Southington Police Department

**Recommended Motion for Reactivation of Certification – Wilson, Robert**

Council grant reactivation of previously certified CT police Officer Wilson's certification. Officer Wilson must complete a modified basic training academy. Pursuant to Section 7-294d(5) of the CGS with the completion of the specific requirements approved by Council within one calendar year from the date of appointment. Additionally, until such time as the candidate achieves certification he is restricted of his duties and assignments by the provisions of Council Regulations Section 7-294e-1(c). Motion made by Mr. Michael Freda; Seconded by Mrs. Patricia Rehmer. Motion passes.

3. MICHALOWSKI, Craig – Guilford Police Department

**Recommended Motion for Reactivation of Certification – Michalowski, Craig**

Council grant reactivation of previously certified CT police Officer Michalowski's certification. Sergeant Michalowski should attend the 60 hours of required recertification training to meet his requirement for 6/30/20. After meeting that requirement, his expiration date of certification will be brought to 6/30/23. Pursuant to Section 7-294d(5) of the CGS with the completion of the specific requirements approved by Council within one calendar year from the date of appointment. Motion made by Chief James Viadero; seconded by Chief Roberto Rosado. Motion passes.

**Request for Decertification**

1. TORNIERO, Justin – Hartford Police Department

**Recommended Motion for Decertification – Torniero, Justin**

Approve the immediate revocation of Justin Torniero Connecticut Police Officer Certification (POST ID #13930) after having been convicted of a felony crime of Larceny 1<sup>st</sup> obtained by defrauding a public community and the value of such property exceeds two thousand dollars, in violation of CGS Section 7-294d(2)(D). Motion made by Chief Vernon Riddick; seconded by Chief Paul Melanson. Motion passes.

2. CARRANO, John – Bridgeport Police Department

**Recommended Motion for Decertification – Carrano, John**

Approve the immediate revocation of John Carrano Connecticut Police Officer Certification (POST ID #15034) after having been convicted of a felony crime of Assault 2<sup>nd</sup> degree with a Motor Vehicle, in violation of CGS Section 7-294d(2)(D). Motion made by Mr. Michael Freda; seconded by Chief James Viadero. Motion passes.

**Request for Extension of the One-Year Probationary Candidate Status**

1. NAIR, Navin – Wilton Police Department

**Recommended Motion for Extension of the One-Year Probationary Candidate Status – Nair, Navin**

Council approved an extension of the one-year probationary candidate status for Probationary Officer Nair for a period not to exceed Midnight 9/7/2022. Motion made by Chief Paul Melanson; seconded by Chief James Viadero. Motion passes.

**Basic Training Academy Applications**

1. Milford Police Academy

**Recommend Motion for Basic Training Academy Application – Milford Police Academy**

Council approved Milford Police Department's application to commence a Basic Police Officer Training Recruit Academy for a maximum of fifty (50) recruits noting items 1-12 and the recommendations. Motion made by Chief Roberto Rosado; seconded by Chief Paul Melanson. Motion passes with one abstention (Chief Keith Mello).

2. New Britain Police Academy

**Recommended Motion for Basic Training Academy Application – New Britain Academy**

Council approved New Britain Police Department's application to commence a Basic Police Officer Training Recruit Academy for a maximum of thirty-five (35) recruits noting items 1-12 and the recommendations. Motion made by Chief Paul Melanson; seconded by Mr. Michael Freda. Motion passes.

**ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE**

1. East Windsor Police Department - Tier I Initial Accreditation

**Recommended Motion for Tier 1 Initial Accreditation – East Windsor Police Department**

Council to approve Tier 1 State Accreditation to the East Windsor Police Department. Motion made by Chief Roberto Rosado; seconded by Commissioner James Rovella. Motion passes.

Acknowledgement of acceptance by Chief Edward DeMarco.

2. Shelton Police Department - Tier I Connecticut State Reaccreditation

**Recommended Motion for Tier 1 State Reaccreditation – Shelton Police Department**

Council to approve Tier 1 State reaccreditation to the Shelton Police Department. Motion made by Mr. Jonathan Slifka; seconded by Chief James Viadero. Motion passes.

Acknowledgement of acceptance by Lieutenant from Shelton Police Department.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Academy Administrator's Report
  - Administrator Boisvert gave highlights regarding the DOJ with 57 law enforcements agencies applied for grants.
  - Renewal of certification for review period on 6/0/30/2021 with first controlled substance certification extended to 6/30/2022.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Crowd Control Policy Update – Public Act 20 – 1 Section 5. Link for public comment POSTC web site – home page – [Featured Links](#)

Attorney Milne gave an update on the status of crowd control policy posted in e-regulations. While waiting for the review, there was some technical issues to get it up and running. No comments received - extended till April 5<sup>th</sup>, and posting to website for the community to be advised.

Discussion: Mr. Curtis questioned on public requesting public hearing. Attorney Milne stated public hearing if 15 or more request a hearing.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. POSTC Regulation 7- 294e – 21(a) "Hearings in contested cases shall be presided over by the Executive Director". Waiver of regulation allowing the Academy Administrator (Executive Director) to delegate her role as hearing officer to the Director of Field Services or Director of Basic Training.

Attorney Milne to draft new regulations to modernize current laws of Administrative procedure acts. Also council to grant waivers. Chief Mello stated this was to act quickly on backlogs and come up with a better process. Chief Mello entertain a motion to regulation 7-294e-21(a) – to temporarily waive the Academy Administrator's role as hearing officer and allow the Academy Administrator to delegate contested cases to Director of Field Services and/or Director of Basic

Training . Motion made by Mr. Michael Freda; seconded by Mrs. Patricia Rehmer. Motion passed.

2. Public Act No. 20 – 1 Sec. 16, General Notice 20 – 11, Board-Certified psychiatrist or psychologist licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 383 of the CT general statute.

Administrator Boisvert expressed concerns received from Doctors and the field regarding possible use of non-board-certified psychiatrist and psychologist being used. An advisory letter will be sent out reminding law enforcement units of the law. Mrs. Patricia Rehmer offered her agency to help.

3. Raised Bill 6598 An Act Concerning The Prohibition Against Hiring Police Officers Dismissed for Malfeasance or Who Resigned or Retired While Under Investigation.

Chief Mello stated if you resign, retire or are dismissed while under investigation for malfeasance or serious misconduct, you cannot be legally hired by another agency except if you have been exonerated. What is the definition of serious misconduct or malfeasance? New and additional language of Bill 6598 was proposed to clear up any ambiguity with the assertion of additional language that POST shall not certify an officer that is dismissed or retired or resigned while under investigation for serious misconduct or malfeasance. Chief Mello stated the new language also provided due process for officer to appeal.

Motion made by Chief Melanson to go into Executive Session at 11:01 a.m.; seconded by Chief Sansom. Motion passed.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Update Cullen petition

Executive session ended at 11:21 a.m. with no further action.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chief Mello moved to adjourn the meeting; motioned made by Chief Melanson; seconded by Chief Viadero.

The meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Fullenwiley  
Administrative Assistant  
POSTC