

**POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING**

SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

**CONNECTICUT POLICE ACADEMY
MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT**

**285 Preston Avenue & Via Zoom
Meriden, CT**

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THIS DOCUMENT IS AN ABRIDGED VERSION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 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: Town Administrator Michael Freda; Mr. Michael Lawlor; Chief Keith Mello; Chief Roberto Rosado; Chief Vernon Riddick; Chief James Viadero; Mr. Jonathan Slifka; Chief Scott Sansom; Chief Ronnell Higgins; Chief Paul Melanson; Mr. Anderson Curtis; Captain Mark Davison; Commissioner James Rovella; Mr. Iran Nazario; Chief Fernando Spagnolo.

Other Attendees: Academy Administrator Karen Boisvert; Attorney Colin Milne, DESPP Legal; Barbara Fullenwiley (POSTC) Administrative Staff; Carrie Jo McGuffey, Certification Officer; Matthew Galante; Capt. Joseph Race; King (Transparency); Zach Murdock (Hartford Courant); CTN; Chief Rebecca Garcia (Bridgeport PD)

Council Members Absent: Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu; Mr. Douglas Glanville; Ms. Pamela Mautte; Ms. Patricia Rehmer; Special Agent- In-Charge David Sundberg and Chief State's Attorney Richard Colangelo

CALL TO ORDER

Chief Keith Mello, POST Council Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of the Minutes of the May 13, 2021 Regular Meeting

Chief Mello requested a motion to accept the Minutes of the May 13, 2021 regular meeting as submitted. Motion to accept the minutes made by Chief James Viadero; seconded by Mr. Jonathan Slifka. Minutes accepted.

2. Chiefs/Public Comment

King addressed the Council to voice his concerns of the Policy known as Section 14 of HB 6004 State of CT Modern Policy Section B: "Any plain clothes officer working an assignment which he or she is working with public shall adorn an official badge of agency and displayed on the

outermost uniform, with name plate and name tag if applicable.” Mr. King expressed the concern of citizens in our State when it comes to identifying themselves as an officer as a whole. Stating that an officer doesn’t always tell their name or badge numbers to individuals who may or may not be able to read. Mr. King also stated that officers should verbally have to state their names and badge numbers.

CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Request for Comparative Certification

1. MILLER, Kyle – Stonington Police Department
2. CORREIA, Kurt – Orange Police Department

Recommended Motion for Comparative Certification for 1 thru 2

To grant comparative certifications to 1 and 2 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 Ronnell Higgins; seconded by Chief James Viadero. Motion passes.

Request for Extension of the One-Year Probationary Candidate Status

1. REAGAN, Chris – Suffield Police Department

Recommendation

The Certification Committee recommends the Council approve an extension of the one-year probationary candidate status of Probationary Officer Reagan for a period not to exceed Midnight November 17, 2021. Motion made by Chief Ronnell Higgins; seconded by Mr. Mike Freda. Motion passes.

2. ROSSOMANDO, Ronald – West Haven Police Department

Recommendation

The Certification Committee recommends the Council approve an extension of the one-year probationary candidate status of Probationary Officer Rossomando for a period not to exceed Midnight November 19, 2021. Motion made by Chief Ronnell Higgins; seconded by Mr. Mike Freda. Motion passes.

3. TEIXEIRA, David – Bridgeport Police Department

Recommendation

The Certification Committee recommends the Council approve an extension of the one-year probationary candidate status of Probationary Officer Teixeira for a period not to exceed Midnight March 8, 2022. Motion made by Chief Ronnell Higgins; seconded by Mr. Mike Freda. Motion passes.

Request for Forfeiture of Certification -

1. LAUDANO, Sara – Norwalk Police Department

Sara Laudano, POST ID 16619 was employed by Norwalk Police in the State of CT who was certified in September 2016 when her certification expired June 2020 but was extended to December 2020 due to COVID and expired midnight on June 30, 2021; there is no record of complying with certification requirement by POST; letter will be mailed notifying certification has lapsed and forfeiture. Motion made by Chief Ronnell Higgins; seconded by Chief James Viadero. Motion passes.

Basic Training Academy Applications

1. New Haven Police Academy

Recommended Motion for Basic Training Academy Application – New Haven Academy

Council approve New Haven Police Department’s application to commence a Basic Police Officer Training Recruit Academy for a maximum of forty (40) recruits noting items 1-12 and the recommendations. Motion made by Chief Ronnell Higgins; seconded by Mr. Jonathan Slifka. Motion passes.

2. New Britain Police Academy

Council approved New Britain 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 Ronnell Higgins; seconded by Mr. Jonathan Slifka. Motion passes.

Received after Sub-Committee Meeting

3. Bridgeport Police Academy

CarrieJo “CJ” McGuffey spoke to the Bridgeport Police Academy in a letter dated August 25, 2021 in which Chief Rebecca Garcia of Bridgeport requesting permission to start in November 2021 with no more than 40 recruits in hosting a recruitment academy with candidates from regional towns and cities. The last session 223 commenced September 14, 2020 with 17 recruits graduated in May; basic training director has met with them and will conduct an inspection prior to commencement and must pass this inspection no more than 90 days from approval. Chief Mello requested a motion to approve the application of the Bridgeport Police Academy. Motion made by Chief James Viadero; seconded by Chief Fernando Spagnolo. Motion passes.

Approved by Certification Committee June 24, 2021

Approved for Comparative Certifications

1. REIMER, Jeremy – Manchester Police Department
2. LEWIS, Gerald – UCONN Police Department
3. TROSS, David – Mohegan Police Department

4. GARCIA-MICOLTA, Jonathan – Rocky Hill Police Department

Approved for Recertification

1. SOLER, James - Mohegan Tribal Police

Approved for Certification Extension

A. Administrative

1. HOPSON, Peter – Oxford Police Department

Chief Mello made a motion to accept the tentative Approved by Certification Committee of June 24, 2021. Motioned by Jonathan Slifka; seconded by Chief James Viadero. Motion passes.

Approved by Certification Committee July 29, 2021

Approved for Comparative Certification

1. ANUSZEWSKI, Edward – Bridgewater Police Department
2. COURT, Kenneth – Mashantucket Tribal Police Department
3. MCGINN, Sean – Stamford Police Department
4. COLBY, Kyle – Simsbury Police Department

Chief Mello made a motion to accept the tentative Approval for the Certification Committee from July 29,2021. Motion by Michael Freda; seconded by Chief James Viadero. Motion passes.

Denied for Waiver of Basic Training-

1. BOUCHARD, Christopher – Mohegan Tribal Police Department

Motion made by Chief Ronnell Higgins to deny the waiver of basic training to Officer Christopher Bouchard; seconded by Chief Fernando Spagnolo. Motion passes.

DISCUSSION: CJ McGuffey stated the agenda typo stated it was approved but was denied. He completed basic training Jan 2020 but did not complete FTO program with extensions and left Enfield Police Dept. and has not been in policing for about a year with no certification. He needed to return to basic training. Chief Ronnell Higgins made a motion to deny waiver of basic training; seconded by Chief Fernando Spagnolo.

Approved for Certification Extension-

A. Injury/Illness

1. SACCO, Daniel – New Haven Police Department
2. NATALE, Nicole – New Haven Police Department
3. GARBERA, Theodore – Norwalk Police Department

B. Military

1. CARR, Alexander – New Haven Police Department

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

1. Bridgeport Police Department – Tier 1 Accreditation

Council to approve Tier 1 Accreditation to the Bridgeport Police Department. Motion made by Chief Paul Melanson; seconded by Chief James Viadero. Motion passes.

Acknowledgement of acceptance by Chief Rebecca Garcia.

2. New London Police Department – Tier 1 Accreditation

Council to approve Tier 1 Accreditation to the New London Police Department under the following conditions: 1) Update their standards to the new 5th Edition of the Accreditation Standards; 2) Update policies to meet new standards as well as any changes based on legislation and/or state policy changes; 3) submit annual reports regarding their continual compliance with the accreditation standards no later than anniversary date of agency accreditation; and 4) Have an onsite assessment in January 2023 to show initial standards of compliance. They are accredited now but as of January 2023 review requirements. Motion made by Chief Paul Melanson; seconded by Chief James Viadero. Motion passes.

Acknowledgement of acceptance by Chief Brian Wright.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Academy Administrator's Report – Written Report Submitted

Administrator Boisvert provided a written report and highlighted the filling of positions, conducted interviews for the part time per diem law enforcement officer position, and was granted a field program consultant position which closed and hope to have on board sometime in November. Due to COVID, it is required that any recruit that comes to POST must be vaccinated.

Administrator Boisvert discussed two Academies that started at POST session 373 and CSP. Due to COVID, CSP is going remote for 10 weeks and then residential. POST is a commuter session and session 373 will remain a commuter this is due to limited staffing; difficult to sanitize daily. Satellites are working collectively and getting classes filled.

2. Subcommittee Reports

Accreditation

a. CLESP updates

Administrator Boisvert gave highlights of the CLESP updates/changes that were included in the packet.

DISCUSSION: Captain Mark Davison requested clarification on whether ARIDE certification are going back to a certain date of the recruit class that just graduated? Discussion offline for next meeting.

Curriculum

- a. 104 History of Policing and Civil Rights Movement goals and objectives (4hrs)
- b. 104 History of Policing and Civil Rights Movement Instructor criteria
- c. 209 Use of Force Instructor criteria update

Chief Mello entertained a motion to move items a, b & c forward.

Administrator Boisvert discussed the 209 instructor criteria updates to include Use of Force Train the Trainer, presented goals and objectives for 104 curriculum and instructor criteria. Information was provided in packet.

Motion made by Chief Fernando Spagnolo; seconded by Michael Freda. Motion passes.

Social Justice Advisory Committee

- a. Committee members

Voted in May for this committee was to represent the interest of all disadvantage minority groups, disabled, communities, racial groups, poor, homeless, and marginalized groups.

The goal is to meet 4 times a year, advise and recommend Posting councils on areas of standards and regulations to social justice issues. Mission of committee was read as copy in packet. This committee can do research and gather data to support information. Twenty-one invitations were sent out, currently 15 are on committee and looking to continue to hear from others to join.

Chaired by Chief Vernon Riddick.

3. Correspondence

- a. King (My State Transparency) – Email - name badges (August 18, 2021) -
Chief Mello discussed providing your name as an officer to an individual when asked should be encouraged. Policy Section 14 that Mr. King is referring comes from the State Law PA 20-1 we must follow the law. Expectation of law each chief will follow it. Chief Mello stated to Chiefs to instruct their officers to provide their names and badge numbers clearly defined. Policy is relative to the state law statute.
- b. Dr. James Nardozzi letter to Council (June 11, 2021) – No discussion.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Crowd Control Policy update

Attorney Colin Milne updated on Crowd Control Policy to Post Council for review which was presented back in March 2020. Attorney Milne reported still have not received any comments on regulations progress and has extended since then. Ready to submit to Attorney General and then to Legislation.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Bill No. 1201 An Act Concerning Responsible and Equitable Regulation of Adult – Use Cannabis – DRE's
 - a. January 1, 2022, POSTC shall issue guidance concerning how police shall determine whether the cannabis possessed by a person is in excess of such person's possession limit (page 241 of Bill)
 - b. January 1, 2022 each law enforcement unit shall report to POSTC in the manner specified by the council, a minimum number of DRE's (page 158 of Bill)
 - c. January 1, 2022 POSTC - ARIDE Training for each PPO following completion of Basic Training (original certification) shall complete ARIDE prior to being recertified pursuant to section 7-294e of CGS (page 159 – 160 of Bill)
 - d. January 1, 2022 POSTC & DOT jointly issue a plan to increase access to ARIDE and DRE training (page 159 of Bill)
 - e. April 1, 2022 POSTC shall develop and promulgate a model policy to ensure enough police officer become trained drug recognition experts in each law enforcement unit (page 159 of Bill)
 - f. July 1, 2022 POSTC and DOT issue a report to the Governor and OPM on minimum number of police officers to be accredited as drug recognition experts for each law enforcement unit (page 159 of Bill)
 - g. October 1, 2022 each LEU shall adopt and maintain a written policy that meets or exceeds POSTC policy (page 159 of Bill)

Administrator Boisvert gave update issuing guidance. Working with the group and hoping to have something by November 2021. Received agency reporting form to calculate minimum number of DRE's they need by January 2022 to Post Council.

Chief Vernon Riddick discussion on vehicles taking off and stolen cars on the policies and clarifications on pursuits and the languages. The Force Stop and State Pursuit policies and measures are only applicable if you have a pursuit. Discussion on tire deflation devices language.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

DECERTIFICATION – TORRINGTON

STARTED: 10:29 AM

ENDED: 10:44

ADJOURNMENT: 10:45 am

Next council meeting November 18, 2021

Motioned by Chief James Viadero; Seconded by Jonathan Slifka

Respectfully Submitted,



Barbara Fullenwiley
Administrative Assistant
POSTC