



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION**  
**Police Officer Standards and Training Council**  
**Connecticut Police Academy**

Police Officers Standards and Training Council Meeting  
**Thursday, March 9, 2023**  
**9:00 A.M. ZOOM**

**Meeting Minutes**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Council Members Present: Chief Keith Mello, **(Council Chairman)**, Town Administrator Michael Freda, Chief Paul Melanson, Chief Vernon Riddick, Chief Roberto Rosado, Jonathan Slifka, Chief Scott Sansom, Mayor Caroline Simmons, Chief Neil Dryfe, Associate Vice President Ronnell Higgins, Iran Nazario, Anderson Curtis, Chief States Attorney Patrick Griffin, Chief Fernando Spagnolo, David Kosciuk,

Council Members Not Present: Pamela Mautte, David Sundberg, Professor Michael Lawlor, Doug Glanville, Commissioner James Rovella, Lieutenant Ryan Maynard

**Other Attendees:** Karen Boisvert, Amie Ledoux, Attorney Colin Milne, Michael Francis, Captain Cliff Smith, Sergeant Radek, Acting Chief Ben Murphy, Major Brian Newman, Chief Stephen Tavares, Colonel Chris Lewis, Carrie-Jo McGuffey, Officer Chris Fiore, Lieutenant Jeffrey Sutherland, Jessica Blank, Chief Kenneth Rahn, Chief Marc Balestracci, Chief Brian Wright, Pamela Delaney, Lieutenant Paul Cherniack, Lieutenant Rich Anderson, Sebrina Wilson, Shawn Berry, T Gelinas, Thomas Grimaldi, Lieutenant Timothy Viens, B Severns

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting is called to order at 9:00 AM.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Approval of the Minutes for January 12, 2023 Meeting
  - a. Chief Neil Dryfe creates a motion to accept the minutes. Michael Freda seconds. The motion passes.
2. Chiefs/Public Comment
  - a. There are none.

**CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE**

**Request for Comparative Certification**

1. PASKOWSKI, William - Bethel Police Department
2. MUNOZ, Victor – Darien Police Department
3. GUERRERO, Thomas – Darien Police Department
4. KOLENOVIC, Anec – Danbury Police Department
5. MELEADY, Thomas – East Hartford Police Department
6. MOUSTAFA, Ryan – Enfield Police Department
7. JONES, Riggins – Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Police Department
8. SHAFIQ, Hassan – New London Police Department
9. SEVERNNS, Brian – Suffield Police Department

Chief Ronnell Higgins creates a motion to approve the comparative certifications above. Chief Sansom seconds the motion. The motion passes.

**Request for MP Comparative Certification-~~received after February meeting~~**

1. NALENZYNSKI, Brian - Orange Police Department

Chief Ronnell Higgins creates a motion to approve the MP comparative certification above. Michael Freda seconds the motion. The motion passes.

**Request for Reactivation of Certification**

1. RAIMO, Mark– Watertown Police Department

Chief Ronnell Higgins creates a motion to approve the reactivation of the certification above. Chief Riddick seconds the motion. The motion passes.

**Request for Reactivation of Certification-~~received after February meeting~~**

1. PFEIFFER, Ryan – Oxford Police Department

Chief Ronnell Higgins creates a motion to approve the reactivation of the certification above. Chief Sansom seconds the motion. The motion passes.

**Request for Extension- Probationary Candidate Status**

1. LANG, Skylar- West Hartford Police Department
2. MUSCO, Alex- Winsor Police Department
3. MAHON, Karen – Stamford Police Department
4. CARPIO, Samantha – Stamford Police Department – **Received after February meeting**

Chief Ronnell Higgins creates a motion to approve the request for extension of probationary status for items 1-3. Michael Freda seconds the motion. The motion passes. Chief Riddick abstains from the vote from item 1. Chief Ronnell Higgins creates a motion to approve the request for extension of probationary status for item 4. Chief Melanson seconds this motion. The motion passes.

**Request to Waive the Procedure Established in 7-294e-15(b)(3)– Received after February meeting**

1. Criteria to Waive Procedure Established in 7294e-15(b)(3)
2. MAHON, Karen – Stamford Police Department

Karen Boisvert explains the criteria POST has established to waive procedure the established in 7294e-15(b)(3).

Chief Ronnell Higgins creates a motion to approve the criteria to waive procedure established in 7294e-15(b)(3). Chief Melanson seconds the motion. The motion passes.

Chief Melanson creates a motion to approve the request to request to waive the procedure established in 7-294e-15(b)(3) for item 2. Chief Sansom seconds the motion. The motion passes.

**Request for Certification Extension- Military Leave**

1. FAUCHON, Lauren – Eastern Connecticut State University Police Department

Chief Ronnell Higgins creates a motion to approve the motion to request certification extension. The motion is seconded by Chief Dryfe. The motion passes.

**Request for Basic Recruit Training Academy- received after February meeting**

1. Hartford Police Department
2. New Haven Police Department

Chief Ronnell Higgins creates a motion to approve the motion to approve the request for satellite academy for item 1. The motion is seconded by Michael Freda. The motion passes.

Thomas Grimaldi informs the council that the New Haven satellite academy has been postponed due to recruitment. Chief Ronnell Higgins creates a motion to table this item. Chief Neil Dryfe seconds this motion. The motion passes.

**Request for Establishing a Recognized Law Enforcement Unit**

1. Connecticut State (CT State) Community College Police Department

Chief Ronnell Higgins creates a motion to approve the establishment of a new Recognized Law Enforcement Unit. The motion is seconded by Chief Roberto Rosado. The motion passes.

**ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE**

1. Cheshire Police Department, Tier III, POSTC State Accreditation

Chief Paul Melanson presents a motion to approve the Tier III State Accreditation for the Cheshire Police Department. The motion is seconded by Michael Freda. Chief Neil Dryfe abstains. The motion passes.

2. Eastern Connecticut State University Police, Tier I, POSTC State Accreditation

Chief Paul Melanson presents a motion to approve the Tier I State Accreditation for the Eastern Connecticut State University Police Department. The motion is seconded by Chief Rosado. The motion passes.

3. Southern Connecticut State University Police, Tier I, POSTC State Accreditation

Chief Paul Melanson presents a motion to approve the Tier I State Accreditation for the Southern Connecticut State University Police Department. The motion is seconded by Chief Rosado. The motion passes.

4. Connecticut State Environmental Conservation Police, Tier I, POSTC State Accreditation

Chief Paul Melanson presents a motion to approve the Tier I State Accreditation for the Connecticut State Environmental Conservation Police Department. The motion is seconded by Chief Ronnell Higgins. The motion passes.

5. New London Police Department, Tier I, POSTC State Accreditation

Chief Paul Melanson presents a motion to approve the Tier I State Accreditation for New London Police Department. Chief Melanson notes that in a previous assessment the department was placed under conditions, and this was remedied in this assessment. The motion is seconded by Chief Rosado. The motion passes.

6. Waterford Police Department, Tier I, POSTC State Accreditation

Chief Paul Melanson presents a motion to approve the Tier I State Accreditation for Waterford Police Department. The motion is seconded by Michael Freda. The motion passes.

7. Windsor Locks Police Department, Tier I, POSTC State Accreditation

Chief Paul Melanson presents a motion to approve the Tier I State Accreditation for Windsor Locks Police Department. The motion is seconded by Chief Sansom. The motion passes.

8. New Britain Police Department, Tier III, POSTC State Accreditation – **Not Presented to Subcommittee**

Chief Paul Melanson presents a motion to approve the Tier III State Accreditation for New London Police Department. The motion is seconded by Chief Sansom. The motion passes.

9. Accreditation Progress Update:

- a. Department of Motor Vehicles: In Progress
- b. Montville Police Department: In Progress
- c. Plainville Police Department: In Progress
- d. Regional Water Authority: In Progress

Chief Melanson updates the Council on the progress of the above department. Chief Mello commends Academy Administrator Boisvert and her staff on their hard work and daily efforts.

10. POST Accreditation Division Update- Boisvert and Blank

Academy Administrator Boisvert and Field Program Consultant Jessica Blank present a PowerPoint explaining the accreditation process for accessors and departments.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **1. Academy Administrator's Report**

Academy Administrator Boisvert welcomes new staff: Pamela Deveau-Delaney, Thomas Grimaldi and Sebrina Wilson.

### **2. Subcommittee Reports**

Chief Vernon Riddick updates on the Social Justice Advisory Committee and the tasks they are currently working on. One, developing public trust. Two, Background checks in departments when hiring. Three, minimalizing fiscal impacts on new regulations.

Chief Keith Mello updates on the Action Committee and the February 2023 meeting.

3. Chief Mello updates on the report from an in-custody death in Norwich investigated by the Inspector General's office. It is believed that a fentanyl pill was located on the suspect in their hoodie and taken shortly before arrest. The Inspector General recommends suspects have clothing removed and returned after the arrest process.
4. A new level of appeal is being proposed in the decertification process. Chief Mello explains the decertification process for the Council. This proposal would add a third level after the Council's decision to allow an additional process for the potentially decertified officer prior to going to court.
5. Loan Forgiveness Program

Division Director McGuffey discusses the proposed process for the student loan forgiveness for certified police officers. Chief Paul Melanson creates a motion to create a subcommittee to discuss this item and Chief Rosado seconds this motion. The motion passes.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chief Mello creates a motion to adjourn at 10:22. Chief Rosado seconds. This motion passes and the meeting is adjourned at 10:22 AM.

1. Next Council Meeting: May 11, 2023