



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

Police Officer Standards and Training Council
Connecticut Police Academy

POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS and TRAINING COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, September 14, 2022
9:00 A.M.

[Remotely via Zoom](#)

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Council Members Present: Chief Keith Mello, **(Council Chairman)**, Michael Freda, Associate Vice President Ronnell Higgins, Chief Paul Melanson, Chief Vernon Riddick, Doug Glanville, Chief Roberto Rosado, Chief States Attorney Patrick Griffin, Commissioner James Rovella, Lt. Stephen Samson, Jonathan Slifka, Chief Fernando Spagnolo, Anderson Curtis, Iran Nazario, Chief Scott Sansom, Caroline Simmons, David Kosciuk

Council Members Not Present: Michael Lawlor, Pamela Mautte

Other Attendees: Karen Boisvert, Amie Ledoux, Carrie-Jo McGuffey, Tracy Dunne, Captain Daniel Moffo, Amanda Martin, Attorney Colin Milne, Assistant Chief Kenny Howell, Deputy Chief Jason Lee, Captain Kevin O'Brien, Lieutenant Lara Traczynski, Sergeant Tiffany Wilson, Juliette Parker, Chief Jason Thody, Peter Little, Chris Dukes, Ana Charry, Chief Erick Jenkins, Chief Lou Casanova, Scott LeSage, Ken Barone, Lou DeRubeis

CALL TO ORDER

Chief Keith Mello calls the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of the Minutes of the May 12, 2022
 - a. Motion to approve, Chief Vernon Riddick, Seconded by Chief Roberto Rosado. The motion passes.
2. Approval of the Minutes of August 18, 2022, Special POST Council Meeting
 - a. Motion to approve, Michael Freda, Seconded by Chief Ronnell Higgins. The motion passes.
3. Chiefs/Public Comment

- a. Member of the Public, Peter Little speaks as a representative of the Greater Hartford African American Alliance. Mr. Little's comments relate to his organization's disapproval of the city's Tier I accreditation. Mr. Little's comments refer to his disapproval of PARB and their lack of work and inclusion of the public during meetings. Mr. Little recognizes Academy Administrator Karen Boisvert for her prompt and thorough response. Mr. Little requests a postponement of Hartford Police Department's accreditation.

CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Request for Comparative Certification

1. Sarah Angelo- Plainfield Police Department
2. Sean Kanganis – Stamford Police Department

The motion to accept the certification is brought by Chief Ronnell Higgins and seconded by Chief Vernon Riddick. The motion passes.

Request for Comparative Certification – received after certification meeting

1. Michael Intrieri- Stonington Police Department
2. Kara Kolbeck - Manchester Police Department

Carrie Jo McGuffey briefly explains the background of each officer for the Council.

The motion to accept the certification is brought by Chief Ronnell Higgins and seconded by Michael Freda. The motion passes.

Request for Certification Extension

A. Injury or Illness

- a. Daniel Sacco- New Haven Police Department
- b. Caroline Clark- Greenwich Police Department

B. Administrative

- a. Charles Tyson- Yale University Police Department

The motion to accept the certification extension for all is brought by Chief Ronnell Higgins and seconded by Chief Fred Spagnolo. The motion passes.

Request for Extension- Probationary Candidate Status

1. Rocco Sansone III – East Hartford Police Department
2. Sylwia Visconti – Cromwell Police Department

The motion to extend probationary candidate status for only Sylwia Visconti is brought by Chief Ronnell Higgins and seconded by Michael Freda. The motion passes.

Chief Scott Sansom informs the council that Rocco Sansone III has resigned and no longer requires extension.

Request for Basic Recruit Training Academy

1. Law Enforcement Council of Connecticut

Chief Mello requests Academy Administrator Boisvert to explain the history and information related to the Law Enforcement Council of Connecticut.

The motion to accept the basic training academy is brought by Chief Ronnell Higgins and seconded by Michael Freda. The motion passes.

Request for Basic Recruit Training Academy- received after certification meeting

1. New Britain Police Department

Chief Mello requests how many recruits, Karen Boisvert states no more than 30 scheduled to begin October 21, 2022.

The motion to accept the basic training academy is brought by Chief Ronnell Higgins and Chief seconded by Scott Sansom. The motion passes.

Request for Waiver of 304 Requirements- received after certification meeting

1. Connecticut State Police- Upcoming Sessions

A request for waiver of 304 requirements is brought by Chief Ronnell Higgins and seconded by Michael Freda. Doug Glanville asks for further explanation. Karen Boisvert explains that 60 hours of EMR is listed as a basic requirement for training. CSP removed this curriculum area in favor of a more robust curriculum.

The motion passes.

Approved by Certification Committee June 30, 2022

Approved for Comparative Certifications

1. Patrick LaCruz- West Hartford Police Department
2. Idelissa Lluveres – New Canaan Police Department
3. Anthony Bria – Bethel Police Department
4. Dustin Belfiore- West Hartford Police Department
5. Christopher Gibson- Mashantucket Tribal Police Department
6. Rachel O’Connell – Old Saybrook Police Department
7. Macio Harris – Prospect Police Department
8. Matthew Blair – Southington Police Department
9. Derek Andrade- West Hartford Police Department
10. Brian DiCristoforo- Southington Police Department
11. Glenn McCune – Mashantucket Police Department
12. Steven Johnson- Mashantucket Police Department
13. Nicholas Valentine – Manchester Police Department

The motion to accept the certification is brought by Chief Ronnell Higgins and seconded by Lt. Stephen Samson. Chief Riddick abstains for officers from West Hartford. The motion passes.

Request for Certification Extension

A. Injury or Illness

- a. David Upton – Hartford Police Department
- b. Daniel Deluca– Hartford Police Department
- c. Paul West– Hartford Police Department
- d. Maritza Lopez– Hartford Police Department

- e. Jose Rivera– Hartford Police Department
- f. Jeffrey Gonzalez– Hartford Police Department
- g. John Drumm – Madison Police Department
- h. Roberto Gomez – New Britain Police Department
- i. Joseph Petro- New Britain Police Department
- j. Christopher Sheppard- Hamden Police Department
- k. Danielle Visconti- Stamford Police Department
- l. Edward Rondano- Stamford Police Department
- m. Michael Morrin - Westport Police Department
- n. Danielle LaFantano – Danbury Police Department
- o. Carlos Cotto- DMHAS Police Department
- p. Katherine Verillo- Bristol Police Department
- q. Vytautas Kandratavicius - Waterbury Police Department
- r. Ramon Reyes – New Britain Police Department
- s. Ericka Block- Stratford Police Department
- t. Jeff Veach – Berlin Police Department
- u. Michael Hinton - New Haven Police Department
- v. Frank Grillo - New Haven Police Department
- w. Christopher Lennon – Milford Police Department
- x. Andrew Green – Norwalk Police Department
- y. Rafeal Fonseca – Norwalk Police Department
- z. John Cholakian- Bridgeport
- aa. Michael Cantrell – Bridgeport

B. Military

- a. Kenneth Medina– Hartford Police Department
- b. Andrew Rodney– Hartford Police Department
- c. Christopher Sheehan- East Windsor Police Department
- d. Justin Martin- Hamden Police Department
- e. Mykola Gusyev – Southern CT State University
- f. Joshua Reyes- Waterbury Police Department

C. Administrative

- a. Natasha Pucillo- Madison Police Department
- b. Kimberly Lauria- Madison Police Department
- c. Glynn McGlynn- Stratford Police Department
- d. Oscar Diaz – New Haven Police Department
- e. Robert Ferraro - New Haven Police Department
- f. Nancy Jordan - New Haven Police Department
- g. Jocelyn Lavandier - New Haven Police Department
- h. Alex Morgillo - New Haven Police Department
- i. Monique Moore - New Haven Police Department
- j. Ronald Pressley - New Haven Police Department

- k. Betsy Segui - New Haven Police Department
- l. Matthew Tartaglione- Derby Police Department

The motion to accept the certification extension for all is brought by Chief Ronnell Higgins for items under header A and seconded by Lt. Stephen Samson. The motion passes.

The motion to accept the certification extension for all is brought by Chief Ronnell Higgins for items under header B and seconded by Michael Freda. The motion passes.

The motion to accept the certification extension for all is brought by Chief Ronnell Higgins for items under header C and seconded by Chief Scott Sansom. The motion passes.

Doug Glanville questions the state of recruiting new candidates for police officer positions. Chief Mello explains that they are seeing many lateral transfers and comparative certifications as officers are moving to different departments. Michael Freda states that his police chief asked for the return of a pension as a recruiting technique. Chief Mello states that applicants have more choice over which agency they choose to work for. Recruiting younger individuals is harder and may involve working nights, weekends and holidays and some may be hesitant to go into a field that is highly criticized. Chief Scott Sansom explains that in the 90's when he took the police exam over 6,000 applicants took the police exam but they are not seeing the same numbers today.

Request for Probationary Certification Extension

A. Military Police

- 1. David Tross – Mohegan Tribal Police- Comparative Cert extension

The request for probationary certification extension is brought forward by Chief Ronnell Higgins. The motion is seconded by Lt. Stephen Samson. The motion passes.

Request for Reactivation of Certification

- 1. Nicholas Boulanger – MTA Police Department

The request for reactivation of certification is brought by Chief Ronnell Higgins. It is seconded by Chief Scott Sansom. The motion passes.

Request for Basic Recruit Training Academy

- 1. Bridgeport Police Department

The request for basic training is brought by Chief Ronnell Higgins. It is seconded by Chief Fernando Spagnolo. The motion passes.

Approved by Certification Committee July 28, 2022

Request for Comparative Certification

- 1. Michael Schaal- Fairfield Police Department
- 2. Austin Kasbarian – Fairfield Police Department
- 3. Jennie Rivera-Cintron – Vernon Police Department

The request for comparative certification is brought by Chief Ronnell Higgins. It is seconded by Chief Vernon Riddick. The motion passes.

Request for Full or Partial Waiver of POSTC Basic Training Requirements

1. Michael Hoagland- Groton Long Point

The request for full or partial waiver of basic training requirements is brought by Chief Ronnell Higgins. It is seconded by Chief Roberto Rosado. The motion passes.

Request for Certification Extension

D. Injury or Illness

- a. Todd Sherback – Bridgeport Police Department
- b. Andrew Green- Norwalk Police Department
- c. Kelly Haddy- Norwalk Police Department
- d. Brian Carmody – Hamden Police Department
- e. Daniel Cyr- Torrington Police Department

The motion to extend certification is brought forward by Chief Ronnell Higgins. It is seconded by Lieutenant Stephen Samson. The motion passes.

E. Administrative

- a. Heather Desmond- Middletown Police Department
- b. Wilfred Blanchette III – Groton Long Point Police Department
- c. Hans Rhyhart- UCONN Police Department
- d. Robert Burgos – DMV Police Department- completed
- e. Nicholas Cotto – Yale University Police Department
- f. Raymond DeJesus- Yale University Police Department
- g. Jeanine Hemingway - Yale University Police Department
- h. Anthony Nolan- New London Police Department

The motion to extend certification is brought forward by Chief Ronnell Higgins. It is seconded by Chief Scott Sansom. Chief Higgins abstains for items related to Yale University police department. The motion passes.

Request for Basic Recruit Training Academy

1. Waterbury Police Department

The motion to accept Waterbury’s application is brought forward by Chief Ronnell Higgins. It is seconded by Michael Freda. Patrick Griffin and Chief Fernando Spagnolo abstain from the vote. The motion passes.

Chief Higgins recognizes that POST staff for all the work they have done and continue to do. Chief Mello echoes these remarks.

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

1. Hartford Police Department – Tier I Initial Certification

A motion to approve the accreditation of the Hartford Police Department is brought by Chief Paul Melanson and seconded by Chief Scott Sansom.

There is discussion brought by Doug Glanville in reference to Mr. Little’s comments as to adding requirements to work with Public Advocacy groups. Chief Mello explains that this is not within the Council’s powers.

Administrator Boisvert is asked about whether this issue will be followed up and she explains that it has been addressed with Chief Thody.

The motion passes.

2. West Hartford Police Department – Tier I Initial Certification

A motion to approve the accreditation of the West Hartford Police Department Tier I accreditation that at or about one year, assessors review the agencies polices that four policies be in compliance, is brought by Chief Paul Melanson and seconded by Chief Roberto Rosado. Chief Vernon Riddick abstains from the vote. The motion passes.

3. Groton City Police Department – Tier I Reaccreditation

A motion to approve the Tier I reaccreditation of the State Capitol Police Department is brought by Chief Paul Melanson and seconded by Chief Vernon Riddick. There is no discussion. The motion passes.

4. Manchester Police Department – Tier III Reaccreditation

A motion to approve the Tier III reaccreditation of the Manchester Police Department is brought by Chief Paul Melanson and seconded by Lt. Stephen Samson. There is no discussion. The motion passes.

5. Simsbury Police Department – Tier III Reaccreditation

A motion to approve the Tier III reaccreditation of the Simsbury Police Department is brought by Chief Paul Melanson and seconded by Lt. Stephen Sansom. There is no discussion. The motion passes.

6. State Capital Police Department – Tier III Reaccreditation

A motion to approve the Tier III reaccreditation of the State Capitol Police Department is brought by Chief Paul Melanson and seconded by Chief Roberto Rosado. There is no discussion. The motion passes.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUBCOMITTEE

1. Update

Chief Vernon Riddick updates the council on the progress of the social justice subcommittee. Their function is to provide recommendations to the Council.

1. Training in Public Trust, led by Dr. Lorenzo Boyd
2. Bias in the Hiring & Background Process, led by Ken Barone
3. Funding Sources for Recommendations
4. Chief Riddick thanks all the committee members for their work throughout the summer.
5. Mr. Curtis asks about the use of polygraph and other tools to asses for bias during the hiring process. Ken Barone is focusing on this issue. Mr. Curtis looks forward to the recommendations.
6. Commissioner Rovella speaks to DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) positions that would be requested for POST. He states that if individuals were looking at adding positions at POST they would need to be requested before the October 1 deadline. Chief Riddick states that this would not be something that would occur this year.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Academy Administrator written report submitted

Karen welcomes Amie Ledoux, the new academy administrative assistant.

Karen notes in her report that lateral refers to moving from one state LEU to another. Comparative certifications are officers who are trained and certified in other states and then come to Connecticut. In 2022, the basic training division will host four classes. Two residential and two commuter classes. The residential classes will be longer days. The class size is not expected to go over 60 recruits.

2. John Arthur Troland – Certificate of Pardon

On August 21, 2022 Mr. Troland informed POST council that his conviction has been fully pardoned and he has been removed from the decertified officer's list.

3. Action Committee – Austin G. Harris Revocation

The committee voted to revoke Officer's Harris' certification on September 1, 2022.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration of changes to the POSTC BWC Policy

Chief Mello discusses the edits and updates to Body Worn Camera policy adopted by POST. Motion was made by Chief Roberto Rosado to accept the changes. Chief Paul Melanson seconds the motion. No discussion. The motion passes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT: Next council meeting November 10, 2022

The motion to adjourn is brought forth by Chief Vernon Riddick and seconded by Mayor Caroline Simmons and the motion to adjourn passes at 10:23 AM.

Minutes Prepared and Submitted by:

Amie Ledoux, Administrative Assistant
POST-C & Connecticut Police Academy