



DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION
POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS & TRAINING

POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS and TRAINING COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, May 9, 2024

9:00 A.M.

Zoom; Classroom 9 & 10

<https://ctdespp.zoom.us/j/4381640998>

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Council Members Present: Chief Keith Mello, (**Council Chairman**), Chief Paul Melanson, Chief Vernon Riddick, Chief Scott Sansom, Chief Neil Dryfe, Captain Ryan Maynard, Doug Glanville, Florencio Cotto Jr., Michael Fraenza, Lisa D'Angelo (attending for Attorney Griffin) Town Administrator Michael Freda, Jonathan Slifka, Commissioner Ronnell Higgins, Professor Michael Lawlor

Council Members Not Present: David Kosciuk, Chief States Attorney Patrick Griffin Chief Fernando Spagnolo Anderson Curtis, Pamela Mautte, Chief Roberto Rosado, Robert Fuller, Iran Nazario, Mayor Caroline Simmons,

Other Attendees: Karen Boisvert, Amie Ledoux, Attorney Colin Milne, Attorney Steven Strom, Stephen Egan, Michael Francis, Carrie-Jo McGuffey, Jessica Blank, David Silverio, Sabine Nyenhuis, Sarah Karwan, Marc Fasano

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 9:02 AM.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of the Minutes – March 13, 2024 Meeting
Chief Dryfe presents a motion to accept the March 13, 2024 meeting minutes. Captain Maynard seconds the motion. The motion passes.
2. Chiefs/Public Comment
3. Subcommittee Reports

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

Request for Accreditation

1. West Hartford Police Department, Tier II and III Accreditation
Chief Melanson makes a motion to award Tier II & Tier II accreditation. Chief Dryfe seconds the motion. Chief Riddick abstains from the vote. The motion passes.
2. Bridgewater Police Department, Tier I Accreditation
Chief Melanson makes a motion to award Tier I accreditation. Chief Riddick seconds the motion. The motion passes.
3. Colchester Police Department, Tier I Accreditation
Chief Melanson makes a motion to award Tier I accreditation. Officer Cotto seconds the motion. The motion passes.
4. Connecticut Airport Authority, Tier I Accreditation
Chief Melanson makes a motion to award Tier I accreditation. Captain Maynard seconds the motion. The motion passes.
5. Meriden Police Department, Tier III Accreditation
6. Chief Melanson makes a motion to award Tier III accreditation. Chief Dryfe seconds the motion. The motion passes.
7. New Haven Police Department, Tier I Accreditation **NOT PRESENTED AT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**
Chief Melanson makes a motion to award Tier I accreditation. Chief Riddick seconds the motion. Officer Cotto abstains from the vote. The motion passes.
8. Old Lyme Police Department, Tier I Accreditation
Chief Melanson makes a motion to award Tier I accreditation. Commissioner Higgins seconds the motion. The motion passes.
9. Putnam Police Department, Tier I Accreditation
Chief Melanson makes a motion to award Tier I accreditation. Captain Maynard seconds the motion. The motion passes.
10. Redding Police Department, Tier II Accreditation
Chief Melanson makes a motion to award Tier I accreditation. Chief Dryfe seconds the motion. The motion passes.
11. Southern Connecticut State University, Tier II Accreditation
Chief Melanson makes a motion to award Tier I accreditation. Chief Riddick seconds the motion. The motion passes.
12. Torrington Police Department, Tier III Accreditation **APPEARANCE ONLY, VOTING HAS ALREADY OCCURRED**
13. West Haven Police Department, Tier II Accreditation
Chief Melanson makes a motion to award Tier I accreditation. Chief Dryfe seconds the motion. The motion passes.
14. Waterford Police Department, Tier II Accreditation
Chief Melanson makes a motion to award Tier I accreditation. Captain Maynard seconds the motion. The motion passes.

15. Watertown Police Department, Tier I, II, and III Accreditation
Chief Melanson makes a motion to award Tier I accreditation. Chief Riddick seconds the motion. The motion passes.
16. Windsor Locks Police Department, Tier II Accreditation
Chief Melanson makes a motion to award Tier I accreditation. Captain Maynard seconds the motion. The motion passes.
17. Somers Police Department, Tier I Accreditation
Chief Melanson makes a motion to award Tier I accreditation. Chief Dryfe seconds the motion. The motion passes.
18. Stafford Police Department, Tier I Accreditation
Chief Melanson makes a motion to award Tier I accreditation. Chief Dryfe seconds the motion. The motion passes.
19. Plainville Police Department, Tier I Accreditation **NOT PRESENTED AT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**
Chief Melanson makes a motion to award Tier I accreditation. Chief Dryfe seconds the motion. The motion passes.

Chief Melanson reminds of how many police departments are getting accredited right now and in years out the departments will be split up through the four year accreditation period.

CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Request for Comparative Certification

1. Daniel Clancy – CT EnCon Police Department
 - From Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, UT
2. Elizabeth Torres – East Windsor Police Department
 - From Springfield Police Department, MA
3. Kyle Courtemanche – Plainfield Police Department
 - From Woonsocket Police Department, RI
4. Samuel Gable – Stonington Police Department
 - From Oregon Police Department, OH
5. Christian Thurmond – Waterbury Police Department
 - From Henrico County Police Department, VA
6. Deven Freeman – Waterbury Police Department
 - From Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department

Chief Riddick presents a motion to approve the request for comparative certification. Captain Maynard seconds the motion. The motion passes.

Due to technical issues, the meeting is recessed at 9:29 AM. The meeting returns to order at 9:33 AM.

Request for Comparative Certification (Military Police)

1. Ryan Caulfield – Cheshire Police Department
Chief Riddick makes a motion to approve the request for comparative certification. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Higgins. Chief Dryfe abstains from the vote. The motion passes.

Request for Reactivation of Certification

1. Tyrone Boland– CT DMHAS Police Department
2. Nazario Figueroa – CT DMHAS Police Department
3. Benjamin Dodge – Mohegan Tribal Police Department – NOT PRESENTED AT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
4. Michael Pendleton– North Branford Police Department
5. Makiem Miller – Southern Connecticut State University Police Department
Chief Riddick makes a motion to approve the request for reactivation of certification for items 1, 2, 4 & 5. The motion is seconded by Officer Cotto. The motion passes.
Chief Riddick makes a motion to approve the request for reactivation of certification for item 3. The motion is seconded by Officer Fraenza. The motion passes.

Request for Certification Extension

1. Steven Crowley – Branford Police Department
2. Stephen Stanko – CT EnCon Police Department – change to recommendation
3. Lauren Fauchon – Eastern Connecticut State University Police Department
4. Ronald Ferrucci – North Branford Police Department
5. Michael Blume – Woodbridge Police Department – NOT PRESENTED AT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
Chief Riddick makes a motion to approve the request for extension of certification for items 1, 3 & 4. The motion is seconded by Chief Dryfe. The motion passes.
Chief Riddick makes a motion to deny the request for extension of certification for item 2. The motion is seconded by Captain Maynard. The motion passes.
Chief Riddick makes a motion to approve the request for extension of certification for item 5. The motion is seconded by Chief Dryfe. The motion passes.

Request for Extension- Probationary Candidate Status

1. Madison Lamagna – South Windsor Police Department
2. Kiana Manzie– Willimantic Police Department
Chief Riddick makes a motion to approve the request for extension of certification for items 1-2. The motion is seconded by Chief Dryfe. The motion passes.

Waiver of Lateral Transfer Requirements

1. DESPP Commissioner
Chief Riddick makes a motion to approve the request for lateral transfer. The motion is seconded by Chief Melanson. The Commissioner abstains from the vote. The motion passes.

Request for Basic Recruit Training Academy

1. Waterbury Police Department
2. Connecticut State Police – NOT PRESENTED AT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
3. Bridgeport Police Department – NOT PRESENTED AT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Chief Riddick makes a motion to approve items 1 & 3. The motion is seconded by Captain Maynard.

Chief Riddick makes a motion to approve item 2. The motion is seconded by Chief Melanson. Captain Maynard abstains from the vote. The motion passes.

Request for waiver of Basic Recruit Training Requirements

1. Connecticut State Police – EMR Requirement

Chief Riddick makes a motion to approve the request for waiver of basic recruit training requirements. Chief Dryfe seconds the motion. Commissioner Higgins and Captain Maynard abstain. The motion passes.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Request for Revision of Curriculum

1. Area 209 Use of Force
2. Area 211 Weapons & Permits
3. Area 212 Courtroom Demeanor
4. Area 213 Landlord, Tenant
5. Area 302 Baton
6. Area 302B OC Spray
7. Area 410 Citizens with Special Needs
8. Area 607 Domestic Violence
9. Area 614 COLLECT
10. Area 625 Missing Persons

Chief Riddick makes a motion to accept items 1-10. Captain Maynard seconds the motion. The motion passes.

Discussion on item 1, Chief Mello discusses the committee on Use of Force. The Use of Force policy was approved by Council in Nov 2020. In August of 2021, the committee approved a Use of Force training created by the committee. Chief Mello questions why Basic training needs more hours now. Administrator Boisvert states it's already been in the curriculum and is being taught. Administrator Boisvert states basic training requires more than fourteen hours and need sixteen hours. The committee is just asking for it be formalized. Chief Mello clarifies that the policy program is designed for two hours for certified police officers and four hours for new recruits. Captain Maynard also states that CSP training academy was updating the curriculum.

Request for Removal from Curriculum

1. Area 301B Rifle

2. Area 414 Blue Courage
3. Area 509A Terrorism and Suicide Bomber

Chief Riddick makes a motion to approve the request for removal from the basic training curriculum for item 1. Captain Maynard seconds the motion. The motion passes.

Chief Melanson questions how many hours it would bring to the academy. Director Fasano said approximately 8 hours. Commissioner Higgins asks about communicating to departments to ensure they know that this would be a change. Director Fasano states that it would be communicated to all departments. Commissioner Higgins asks if we could host a Teams or Zoom to communicate this information to the departments. Captain Maynard states at a previous meeting that this was communicated. Chief Riddick asks what we would like to add in it's place. Director Fasano brings some examples but nothing is ready for the Council to vote on yet.

Professor Lawlor asks about weapons that are only allowed to be purchased by law enforcement with the approval of the chief, would the officer qualify. Chief Mello states any weapon used on duty the officer has to be qualified. Commissioner Higgins and Attorney Milne say that the statute is not very clear regarding what would be required and they are looking to adjust that statute with the legislature.

Captain Maynard makes a motion to approve the request for removal from the basic training curriculum for item 2. Commissioner Higgins seconds the motion. There is discussion.

Captain Maynard amends the motion to revise and discuss at a later date. Chief Riddick Seconds. The motion to revise and bring back to the Council in September passes.

Director Fasano states that there are many areas of redundancy in the Blue Courage program. He also states that this is going over the heads of the recruits because they have not been on the job for long and have not done calls and other police activities. He states that a reduction in hours would be ideal. He also states that this course would be better suited for officers who have been on the job for 3-5 years. Chief Mello states that he was also apart of this review board, he states that many have been pushing for this training including President Obama and other important bodies. Chief Mello agrees that we can possibly reduce hours. Commissioner Higgins also states that we could also look at where it is placed on the schedule.

Captain Maynard makes a motion to remove Item 3 from the basic training curriculum. Chief Dryfe seconds the motion. The motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Annual Body and Dash Camera Compliance Survey (Form)
 - PA 23-204 requires the creation of a form to track compliance. The form will be sent out every year to departments. Ken Barone presents the topic.
2. Supplemental Body and Dash Cam Compliance Survey (Form)
 - The form is not annual, only sent out once, will only be required to updated if policies change.
Chief Riddick makes a motion to approve the forms. The motion is seconded by Chief Melanson. The motion passes.
3. Hate/Bias Crime Report (Form)
 - The council approved the policy and a form for hate crime and bias crimes. The form was questioned by the attorney general's office. Ken Barone adjusted the form and now presents it Council again for approval.
 - The motion to accept the form is given by Chief Melanson. Captain Maynard seconds. The motion passes.
4. Per Diem Hearing Officers
 - Asking that Administrator Boisvert be able to delegate her role as the hearing officer when needed. This would be a contracted individual. This person would be a neutral arbitrator.
A motion to accept is made by Chief Dryfe. It is seconded by Chief Melanson. Motion passes.
Chief Dryfe asks why we wouldn't do this for all of them. Karen states that this wouldn't be needed for every case. Attorney Strom also reminds that many of the regulations are very old and need to be updated. Chief Mello suggests that Karen handle only defaults.
5. Adult Sexual Assault Investigation Model Policy
 - Chief Melanson presents the policy. There will a legislative task form for adult sexual assaults. The policy will be at least a year out. The committee took best practices and created the policy.
The motion to accept the policy is brought by Chief Melanson. It is seconded by Chief Riddick. The motion passes.
6. Vice Chair Nomination
 - Chief Riddick nominates Paul Melanson. Chief Dryfe seconds. The motion passes.

OLD BUSINESS

1. EMR Schedule and Fee Update
 - Karen presents her Summary.
Officer Cotto makes a motion to accept EMR schedule. It seconded by Chief Melanson. The motion passes.
2. Cullen vs. Mello Summary Order
 - Attorney Strom presents the information item. Increased POST Council's strength in decertification processes.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Academy Administrator's Written Report
2. Staff Attorney's Legal Report
 - Thanks to Commissioner and his office. They expediated a full time staff attorney position.
3. Working group - Lateral Transfers
 - Chief Melanson will form a working group for modifications for lateral transfers.
4. Use of Force Reporting form
 - Ken explains minor changes to the reporting form. The majority of the changes are small wording changes or adjustments. Small change under OC spray. The question asked if medical was required, changed to medical evaluation performed. Removing the K-9 section of the form because it is no longer needed.
5. Working group to determine the term malfeasance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn is made by Captain Maynard, it is seconded by Chief Dryfe. The motion passes. The meeting is adjourned at 11:18 AM.

- Next Council Meeting: September 12, 2024