



DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION

POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS & TRAINING

POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS and TRAINING COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Special Meeting

9:00 A.M.

Classroom 9 & 10

IN PERSON ONLY

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Council Members Present: Chief Keith Mello (**Council Chairman**), Chief Paul Melanson, Chief Vernon Riddick,¹ Chief Scott Sansom, Chief Neil Dryfe, Captain Ryan Maynard, Doug Glanville, Town Administrator Michael Freda, Jonathan Slifka, Commissioner Ronnell Higgins, Mayor Caroline Simmons, Chief States Attorney Patrick Griffin, Chief Fernando Spagnolo

Council Members Not Present: David Kosciuk, Anderson Curtis, Pamela Mautte, Chief Roberto Rosado, Robert Fuller, Iran Nazario, Florencio Cotto Jr., Michael Fraenza, Professor Michael Lawlor

Other Attendees: Amie Ledoux, Attorney Colin Milne, Attorney Steven Strom, Michael Francis, Jessica Blank, David Silverio, Attorney Sarah Karwan, Marc Fasano, Attorney Jessica Gouveia, Richard Green, Kenneth Barone, Chief Thomas Wydra

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting is called to order at 9:12 AM.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of the Minutes – May 9, 2024, Meeting

The meeting minutes for May 9, 2024 are voted on and unanimously approved.

2. Chiefs/Public Comment

There were no public comments.

¹ Left early due to conflict.

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

Requests for Accreditation

TIER I (1-18)

1. Ansonia Police Department, Tier I
2. Bethany Police Department, Tier I
3. Burlington Police Department, Tier I
4. Chester Police Department, Tier I
5. East Granby Police Department, Tier I
6. Ellington Police Department, Tier I
7. Hebron Police Department, Tier I
8. Killingly Police Department, Tier I
9. Lebanon Police Department, Tier I
10. Marlborough Police Department, Tier I
11. Plainfield Police Department, Tier I
12. Roxbury Police Department, Tier I
13. Southington Police Department, Tier I
14. Stonington Police Department, Tier I
15. Westbrook Police Department, Tier I
16. Weston Police Department, Tier I
17. Woodbridge Police Department, Tier I
18. Woodbury Police Department, Tier I

Items 1-18 were voted on and approved unanimously.

TIER II (1-7)

1. Department of Revenue Services, Tier II
2. Groton City Police Department, Tier II
3. Groton Town Police Department, Tier II
4. Mohegan Tribal Police Department, Tier II
5. Newington Police Department, Tier II
6. Ridgefield Police Department, Tiers I and II
7. Western Connecticut State University, Tier II

Items 1-7 were voted on and approved unanimously.

TIER III (1-2)

1. Easton Police Department, Tiers II and III

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2. Old Saybrook Police Department, Tier III

Items 1-2 were voted on and approved unanimously.

NOT PRESENTED AT SUBCOMMITTEE

1. Brookfield Police Department, Tier II
2. Orange Police Department, Tier II

Items 1-2 were voted on and approved unanimously.

DEPARTMENTS NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH P.A. 22-119

1. Department of Social Services Capias Unit
2. Portland Police Department

Chief Mello addresses items 1-2. Both agencies have been in contact with POST staff and cite difficulties in staffing at their agencies as the reason that they are not in compliance. POST staff is in contact with the agencies regularly and will assist the agencies as necessary. Letters to both agencies will be sent stating they are not in compliance with regulation.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion regarding the review of the POSTC Pursuit Policy in accordance with CT P.A. 19-90 – Chief Mello

Chief Mello gives a brief history of legislation related to the model pursuit policy. The policy has to be reviewed every five years per legislation. There have been a number of updates to new technology since the release of the last policy and Chief Mello has decided to establish a working group to review possible changes to the policy. Staff from the Commissioner's office, members of the CPCA, staff from the Chief's States Attorney's office and Jessica Gouveia will all be invited to participate. Chief Mello will report the members of the committee at the January meeting.

2. Open Carry Reporting Public Act 23 – 53 – Ken Barone

A motion to adopt the form as written is made. Ken Barone introduces the form for reporting stops related to open carrying per PA 23-53. Ken states the form is straightforward and simple to fill out. There will be an instruction manual and policy released when the form is rolled out. Ken states that he does not anticipate many submissions. Chief Melanson questions whether the form is requesting too much data that isn't required that could possibly be misconstrued. Discussion involving when the form should be submitted ensues, including debate over whether to submit every time there is an occurrence or on a yearly basis.

The motion is amended to postpone the vote until further review can be performed. The motion is voted on and approved unanimously.

3. Social Workers Guidance document to Law Enforcement Public Act 23-104 – Attorney Gouveia

Chief Mello discusses the theory of social worker collaboration with law enforcement. Chief Mello thanks Attorney Gouveia and Attorney Strom on their work. A motion is made to approve the document as written. The motion is voted on and approved unanimously.

4. POSTC BWC Policy Revisions – Attorney Strom

A motion is made to accept the policy as written. Chief Mello explains revisions that were made to the BWC policy to include addition of definitions, clarity around when an officer shall not deactivate BWC but may mute the BWC during an interaction with the public, language that had been inadvertently omitted from the policy during its last revision, and citations and legal support. Chief Dryfe questions the disclosure section of the policy and is concerned that the policy is not clear enough. The motion is withdrawn to allow further review and to discuss again at the January meeting.

5. Death Notification Policy – Attorney Strom

A motion is made to accept the policy as written. The motion is voted on and is approved unanimously.

6. Working Group Malfeasance Definition Update CT G.S. 7-291(c) – Attorney Strom

A motion is made to accept the memo as written. Attorney Strom thanks the committee members who worked to create a better definition of malfeasance. In the memo dated 09/24/24, several definitions were included to better clarify for agencies. The motion is voted on and passed unanimously.

REPORT ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

1. Hearing Officer for Contested Hearings in Revocation Proceedings – Chief Mello

Chief Mello discusses revocation hearings and how POST has seen a big increase in cases. Chief Mello is in discussions with the Commissioners officer and is working to streamline the process.

2. DESPP – Commissioner Higgins

Commissioner Higgins briefs the Council regarding changes at POST. He introduces Chief Thomas Wydra, formerly of the Hamden Police Department who has been appointed the

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Executive Director of POST. Chief Wydra's mission is to (1) review all policies and procedures at POST, (2) review technology and possible advances needed to train recruits and staff, (3) provide support to Post Council, (4) assess the POST academy in comparison to regional and satellite academies, (5) review in service training options, and (6) review training opportunities for POST staff including professional development. The Commissioner held a meeting with POST staff in November and will hold another meeting in late February or March. Commissioner Higgins highlights that POST will continue to work with the Chief States Attorney's office to continue to bring in staff to teach at POST. Chief Freda highlights Chief Wydra's commitment to law enforcement. Chief Mello states that he has continued to advocate for more resources for POST with the Commissioner.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. Social Justice Committee Member Changes
2. Recommendation - Tier III – require LEU's publish policy on websites
3. Recommendation – Update Tier II – require LEU's publish census information on websites

Chief Mello is tabling the SJAC updates until the next meeting.

CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Requests for Comparative Certification (1-17)

1. Kyle Ortiz – East Hartford Police Department
 - From Springfield College Police Department, MA
2. Dennis Sanchez – Norwalk Police Department
 - From Hampton Police Department, VA
3. Nathaniel Van Stone – West Hartford Police Department
 - From New Orleans Police Department, LA
4. Michael Miller – Yale University Police Department
 - From NYPD, NY
5. Gregory Kalarchian – Greenwich Police Department
 - From New York State Police, NY
6. Bryan Brooks – New Fairfield Police Department
 - From New York Police Department
7. Brian Onofrio, Jr. – New London Police Department
 - From Los Angeles Police Department, CA
8. Julio Medina, Jr. – New London Police Department
 - From Houston Police Department, TX
9. Daniel Pecoske – Newington Police Department
 - From Orange County Sheriff's Office, FL

10. Donald Scranton – Portland Police Department
 - From Granville Police Department, MA
11. Yannick Adjei – Yale University Police Department
 - From Anne Arundel County Police Department, MD
12. Erick Cruz Garcia – Ansonia Police Department
 - From New York City Police Department, NY
13. John Ferrara – Danbury Police Department
 - From Brewster Police Department, NY
14. Ryan Murphy – Danbury Police Department
 - From Charleston Police Department, SC
15. Julian Pagliuco – Ridgefield Police Department
 - From Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, DC
16. Brian Levy – Wilton Police Department
 - From Marlborough Police Department, NY
17. Norville Yearwood – Wilton Police Department
 - From Medical University of South Carolina

A motion is made to remove item number 3 from the agenda. The motion is voted on and approved unanimously. Chief Riddick was not in attendance for the vote.

A motion is made to approve items 1-2 and 4-17. The motion is voted on approved unanimously.

Requests for Reactivation of Certification (1-14)

1. Paul Ortiz – Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Police Department (DMHAS)
2. Mark Estes – Ellington Police Department
3. Jose Martinez – Ellington Police Department
4. Julie Johnson – Milford Police Department
5. Edward Thomas – Naugatuck Police Department
6. Devon Bonds – Hamden Police Department
7. Taequan Mitchell – Hamden Police Department
8. Ashley Leary – Newington Police Department
9. David McNeice – Mohegan Tribal Police Department
10. Kevin McBride – Mohegan Tribal Police Department
11. Derek Farrell – Wethersfield Police Department
12. Brian Becker – Yale University Police Department
13. Christopher Sheppard – Hamden Police Department
14. Henry Martin, Jr. – Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) Police Department

A motion is made to approve items 1-14. The motion is voted on and is approved unanimously. Chief Mello abstains from item 4.

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Requests for Certification Extension (1-69)

1. Frank Teixeira – Bloomfield Police Department
2. Nathan Charron – Connecticut State Police
3. Matthew Ewing – Connecticut State Police
4. Jonathan Kelo – Connecticut State Police
5. Brian Pagoni – Connecticut State Police
6. Le-Tisha Sealy – Connecticut State Police
7. Jay Mortara – Danbury Police Department
8. Kathleen Gelineau – Darien Police Department
9. Lynden Latiak – Greenwich Police Department
10. Steven Smith – Groton City Police Department
11. Justin Martin – Hamden Police Department
12. Nicholas De La Cruz – New London Police Department
13. Trevor Canace – New Haven Police Department
14. Michael Lozada – New Haven Police Department
15. Ryan Walker – New Haven Police Department
16. Thomas Murray – New Haven Police Department
17. David Zannelli – New Haven Police Department
18. Adam James – Newtown Police Department
19. Courtney Yenkelun – Norwalk Police Department
20. Robert Cafaro – Orange Police Department
21. Matthew Guerrette – Plainville Police Department
22. Michael Dube – Stamford Police Department
23. Alejandro Molina – Stamford Police Department
24. Rosemarie Thibodeau – Southern Connecticut State University Police Department
25. Shawn St. John – Suffield Police Department
26. Bart Deeley – Thomaston Police Department
27. Robert Simon – Torrington Police Department
28. Justin Deloy – Torrington Police Department
29. Emily Manzi – Trumbull Police Department
30. Francesco Picone – Wallingford Police Department
31. Tierone Touponse – Waterbury Police Department
32. Christopher Proudfoot – Weston Police Department
33. Becky Fowler – Yale University Police Department
34. James Christos – Bethel Police Department
35. Todd Sherback – Bridgeport Police Department
36. Patrick Foley – Derby Police Department
37. Juan Martinez – Hartford Police Department

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38. Brian Ferguson – Hartford Police Department
39. Kelly Baerga – Hartford Police Department
40. Manuel Pacheco – Hartford Police Department
41. Jeffrey Simone – Hartford Police Department
42. Reza Malekivash – Hartford Police Department
43. Jessica Stroud – Hartford Police Department
44. Jeffrey Morande – Hartford Police Department
45. James Guzie – Hartford Police Department
46. Gregory Thomas – Hartford Police Department
47. Brian Sulliman – Hartford Police Department
48. Devon Bonds – Hamden Police Department
49. Taequan Mitchell – Hamden Police Department
50. Christopher Sheppard – Hamden Police Department
51. Benjamin Dodge – Mohegan Tribal Police Department
52. Emily Mills – Milford Police Department
53. Lina Aballa – Manchester Police Department
54. Jeremy Curtis – Manchester Police Department
55. Chantel Dumas – Manchester Police Department
56. Joshua Eastwood – Manchester Police Department
57. Claire Hearn – Manchester Police Department
58. Britney Maynard – Manchester Police Department
59. Steven Maynard – Manchester Police Department
60. Ryan Moan – Manchester Police Department
61. Chelsea Padgett – Manchester Police Department
62. Heriberto Resto – Manchester Police Department
63. Richard Batts, Jr. – Middletown Police Department
64. Ashley Leary – Newington Police Department
65. Jennifer Giovanni – New Haven Police Department
66. Louis DeCrescenzo – New Haven Police Department
67. John O’Dea, Jr. – Norwalk Police Department
68. Steven Green – Norwalk Police Department
69. William Cario – Roxbury Police Department

A motion is made to approve items 1-69. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously. Captain Maynard abstains for items 2-6. Chief Mello abstains from item 53.

Request for Extension- Probationary Candidate Status (1-14)

1. Sean Healy – Branford Police Department
2. Joel Roy – Enfield Police Department
3. Matthew Nuzzo – Stamford Police Department

4. Jeff Lominy – Stamford Police Department
5. Elizabeth Davidson – UCONN Police Department
6. Cassandra Woods – UCONN Police Department
7. Lucas Guliuzza – Amtrak Police Department
8. Johanna Vega – Bridgeport Police Department
9. Synquan Cooper – City of Groton Police Department
10. David Spatcher – Bloomfield Police Department
11. Avery Ellis – EnCon Police Department
12. Madison Nott – Norwich Police Department
13. David Ruiz – Greenwich Police Department
14. Jared Calandro-Bitjeman – Bridgeport Police Department

A motion is made to approve items 1-14. The motion is voted on and approved unanimously. Mayor Simmons abstains from items 3 & 4.

Request for Basic Training Waiver and Extension- Probationary Candidate

1. Julian Arboleda – University of Connecticut (UCONN) Police Department

A motion is made to approve item 1. The motion is voted on and approved unanimously.

Requests for Basic Training Academy (1-5)²

1. New Haven Police Department (Academy) 8/1/24
2. Law Enforcement Council (Eastern Region Police Academy) 8/19/24
3. Hartford Police Department (Academy) 10/14/24
4. New Britain Police Department (Academy) 10/25/24
5. Milford Police Department (Academy) 1/17/25

A motion is made to approve items 1-5. The motion is voted on and approved unanimously. Chief Mello abstains from item 5. Chief Mello highlights the need for more oversight related to how many recruits are attending from other agencies. Additionally, start dates should be spread out and take into account POST Academy classes.

Request for Waiver of EMR Course from Basic Training Program

1. Law Enforcement Council (Eastern Region Police Academy)

A motion is made to approve items 1. The motion is voted on and approved unanimously.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

² POSTC Academies were held in January, April, July and October (ongoing) of 2024. POSTC Academies will be held in January, April, July and October of 2025.

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Requests for Revision of Curriculum

1. Area 301 Firearms
2. Area 301b Patrol Rifle
3. Area 301c Firearms Night Fire/Low Light
4. Area 302A Less than Lethal Force (Baton)
5. Area 302B Less than Lethal Force (OC & Aerosol)
6. Area 310 Physical Wellness

Changes to POST Instructor Goals and Objectives

1. Area 308
2. Area 308, Replaced by Area 309

Chief Mello requests that this be referred to the subcommittee for consideration of additional information. A motion is made and voted on and approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Crowd Control Policy Update** – Attorney Milne
 - a. Public Comment Complete (no comments)
 - b. Transmittal form to be completed for Attorney General review

Attorney Milne updates the Council regarding the process and states that regulations are with Attorney General's Office for review.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Academy Administrator's Written Report
2. Pursuit Report Data Summary from 2023
3. 2025 Calendar POSTC Regular and Subcommittee Meetings
4. POSTC 2024 Annual report to the OTG and Public Safety Committee Members

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting is adjourned at 10:32 AM.

- Next Council Meeting: January 9, 2025