



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

285 PRESTON AVE, MERIDEN, CT 06450 • (203) 427-2622

**POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS and TRAINING COUNCIL
ACTION SUBCOMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING**

Thursday, October 17, 2024

9:00 A.M.

Zoom and In-Person; Classroom 4

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

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Subcommittee Members Present: Chief Paul Melanson, Chief Vernon Riddick, Chief Scott Sansom, Chief Neil Dryfe, First Selectman Michael Freda.

Subcommittee Members Not Present: Chief Keith Mello (Committee Chairman), Iran Nazario, Michael Lawlor (recused)

Other Attendees: Karen Boisvert, Attorney Colin Milne, Attorney Steven Strom, Attorney Jessica Gouveia, Michael Francis, Carrie-Jo McGuffey, David Silverio, Attorney Jeffrey Ment, AAG Samantha Wong

Respondent: Oscar Diaz

CALL TO ORDER -Meeting called to order at 9:05 AM by Chief Melanson, Acting Chairman.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Diaz, Oscar – New Haven PD

A motion had been made on October 9, 2024, to approve the Report of the Hearing Officer and Recommendation related to item 1, above. Continued discussion included questions for all counsel present, and discussion of possible options for the Action Committee.

Chief Dryfe made a motion to amend the Hearing Officer's Report Recommendation, approving the findings of clear and convincing evidence the Respondent engaged in conduct that undermines public confidence under Conn. Gen. Stat. 7-294d(c)(2)(I) and adopting the rest of the Report, but amending the recommended disposition to a forty-five-day suspension. The motion was seconded. Further discussion related to the motion to amend was heard. Chief Samson delivered a lengthy statement, reading into the record his written remarks. The Chair called for a vote on the motion to amend. The vote was taken, and the motion failed, on a 2-3 vote: Chief Dryfe and First Selectman Freda voting aye, and Chiefs Samson, Riddick and Melanson voting nay.

Chief Riddick made a motion to amend the Hearing Officer's Report Recommendation, approving the findings of clear and convincing evidence the Respondent engaged in conduct that undermines public confidence under Conn. Gen. Stat. 7-294d(c)(2)(I) and adopting the rest of the Report, but amending the recommended disposition to a revocation of two years with an effective starting date of August 2, 2023, until August 1, 2025, with Respondent being able to apply for reinstatement after two years, pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. 7-294d(c)(2). The motion was not seconded. The motion failed.

Discussion returned back to the original motion to adopt and approve the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation as written, with revocation of two years effective as of October 9, 2024. The Chair called for a vote on the motion. The vote was taken and the motion failed, on a 0-3-2 vote: No one voted aye, Chief Dryfe, Chief Samson, and First Selectman Freda, voted nay, and Chief Riddick, and Chief Melanson as Chair, abstained. Chief Riddick urged the Council to seek legislation to allow Council to have the ability for a suspension more than forty-five days. First Selectman Freda agreed with this suggestion.

Thereafter, Chief Dryfe renewed his motion to amend the Hearing Officer's Report Recommendation, approving the findings of clear and convincing evidence the Respondent engaged in conduct that undermines public confidence under Conn. Gen. Stat. 7-294d(c)(2)(I) and adopting the rest of the Report, but amending the recommended disposition to a forty-five day suspension, effective upon mailing of the Final Decision, and also including as part of the Final Decision the remarks of Chief Samson. The motion was seconded. Further discussion related to motion to amend was heard. Both First Selectman Freda and Chief Riddick stated again they would prefer to have more options under the statute and would prefer a longer amount of time to be permitted for the suspension. They urged that the Final Decision include such a recommendation to allow the Action Committee broader discretion with regard to available dispositions for certification cancelation, revocation or suspension. The Chair called for a vote on the renewed motion to amend. The vote was taken and the motion passed, on a 3-1-1 vote: Chief Dryfe, Chief Riddick, First Selectman Freda voting aye, and Chief Samson, voting nay. Chief Melanson as the Chair abstained. A written Final Decision will follow.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion is made for the adjournment of the meeting. The motion is approved. The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 am.

DRAFT