

STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE MARSHAL COMMISSION
450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 1403, Hartford, CT 06103

Tel. 860-713-5372 Fax. (860) 622-2938 Meeting Was Conducted Remotely Using Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

STATE MARSHAL COMMISSION MEETING,

November 21, 2024

Commissioner Thomas A. Esposito, Chair, called the meeting to order. Commissioner Esposito advised all participants that the proceedings were being recorded. Commissioner Esposito confirmed all members in attendance and verified that a minimum five voting member quorum was present.

Members present and participating remotely: Thomas Esposito, Chair; Shirley Skyers-Thomas, Vice-Chair; the Honorable Leo Diana; Salvatore Vitrano; Michael Desmond; Melanie Dykas; John Vamos. Ex-officio (non-voting) Members State Marshal Brian Mezick and State Marshal Lisa Stevenson. Commission Staff present: Director of Operations, Anthony Valenti (non-voting), Investigator Chris Morris (non-voting) and Staff Attorney Claudia Maxwell(non-voting).

Commissioner Esposito welcomed new Commissioner Melanie Dykas, who replaced Brian Cafferelli, to the Commission.

Topics:

1. Minutes of the October 24, 2024, Regular Meeting: Commissioner Diana made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 24, 2024, regular State Marshal Commission meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Vamos. Commissioner Esposito asked if there was any discussion, there was none. Commissioners Esposito, Skyers-Thomas, Diana, Vitrano, Vamos, and Desmond voted to approve the minutes. Commissioner Dykas abstained as she was not present at the October 24, 2024 meeting.
2. Administrative Updates: Director of Operations Valenti reported that there are 185 applications for an appointment as a state marshal. Human Resources will be reaching out to the applicants to make sure the applications are complete. He reported that is about 40 to 45 more applicants than the last recruiting class. The posting closes on December 31, 2024. Commissioner Esposito asked if the posting was limited to certain counties, to which Director Valenti replied that the posting indicates that Fairfield, Middlesex, Windham, New London, and Tolland are targeted but the posting is open to all counties.
3. Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Vitrano made a motion that members enter executive session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Diana seconded the motion. Commissioner Esposito asked if there was any discussion, there was none. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Commissioner Vamos to invite the Commission staff present to join the executive session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Skyers-Thomas. Commissioner Esposito asked if there was any discussion, there was none. The motion passed unanimously. Executive Session began at 5:40 p.m. and ended at 6:22 p.m.
4. Probable Cause Determination:

Commissioner Esposito turned the meeting over to Commissioner Diana to call the next agenda items

In Re Miller, File No 24-14. Staff Attorney Maxwell stated a request was made by the State Marshal Commission on August 27, 2024, for State Marshal Miller's wage execution records in matters he collected but had not been served due on September 10th. On September 9th State Marshal Miller requested more time and the time was extended to September 24th. No records or response was received from State Marshal Miller by September 24th. On September 25th a complaint was filed and a summary suspension ordered. On October 1st, a summary suspension hearing was commenced. The hearing and summary suspension orders were stayed, and the records were to be provided by October 7th. On October 8th a list of open cases was provided and October 10th a list of closed cases were provided. It was recommended by the Staff Attorney that a finding of probable cause be found. Commissioner Diana asked if a motion was being made for a finding of probable cause in ***In Re Miller, File No. 24-14***. A motion was made by Commissioner Vamos which was seconded by Commissioner Skyers-Thomas. Commissioner Diana asked if there was any discussion. There was none. The motion passed six in favor and one abstention by Commissioner Esposito.

In Re Miller, File No 24-17. Staff Attorney Maxwell reported the complaint was filed on October 8th that State Marshal Miller provided a list of 80 out of county wage executions he collected that were open in his office. She stated that Attorney Chimes filed a response on October 30th requesting that no probable cause be found in the pending cases against State Marshal Miller. He argued that the State Marshal Commission's interpretation of the wage execution statutes is wrong and a misreading of the law. She stated that this response and the State Marshal Commission's response was provided to the commissioners. She requested that probable cause be found in this matter. Commissioner Diana asked if a motion was being made to make a finding of probable cause in, ***In Re Miller, File No. 24-17***. A motion was made by Commissioner Vitrano which was seconded by Commissioner Vamos. Commissioner Diana asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. The motion passed six in favor and one abstention by Commissioner Esposito.

In Re Miller, File No 24-23. Staff Attorney Maxwell reported the complaint was filed on October 15th that State Marshal Miller provided a list of 163 out of county wage executions he collected that were closed in his office in the last seven years. She stated that Attorney Chimes filed a response on October 30th requesting that no probable cause be found in the case against State Marshal Miller. She stated that this response and the State Marshal Commission's response was provided to the commissioners. She requested that probable cause be found in this matter. Commissioner Diana asked if a motion was being made to make a finding of probable cause in, ***In Re Miller, File No. 24-23***. A motion was made by Commissioner Vamos which was seconded by Commissioner Vitrano. Commissioner Diana asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. The motion passed six in favor and one abstention by Commissioner Esposito.

Griffin v. Miller, File No 24-08. Staff Attorney Maxwell reported that Attorney Chimes requested in his response to the pending cases that the probable cause finding in this matter be reconsidered as he opined that this case covered a similar fact pattern and his response and request for no probable cause applied to this case as well. The complaint was filed by Philip Griffin who maintained that State Marshal Miller collected a wage execution from his employer which is in Hartford County in violation of statutes. Mr. Griffin had received an anonymous letter informing him this was improper. Staff Attorney Maxwell recommended that the Commission affirm their finding of probable cause. Commissioner Diana asked if

a motion was being made to make a finding of probable cause in, **Griffin v. Miller, File No. 24-08** . A motion was made by Commissioner Vitrano which was seconded by Commissioner Dykas. Commissioner Diana asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. The motion passed six in favor and one abstention by Commissioner Esposito.

Blake v. Miller, File No 24-12. Staff Attorney Maxwell reported that Attorney Chimes requested in his response to the pending cases that the probable cause finding in this matter be reconsidered as he opined that this case covered a similar fact pattern and his response and request for no probable cause applied to this case as well. The complaint was filed by Angela Blake who maintained that State Marshal Miller collected a wage execution from his employer which is in Hartford County in violation of statutes. Staff Attorney Maxwell recommended that the Commission affirm their finding of probable cause. Commissioner Diana asked if a motion was being made to make a finding of probable cause in, **Blake v. Miller, File No. 24-12**. A motion was made by Commissioner Vamos which was seconded by Commissioner Vitrano. Commissioner Diana asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. The motion passed six in favor and one abstention by Commissioner Esposito.

Commissioner Diana asked if a motion was being made to make a finding of probable cause in, **In Re Richard Smith, File No. 24-18** that probable cause be found. A motion was made by Commissioner Vitrano which was seconded by Commissioner Vamos. Commissioner Diana asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 6 in favor and one abstention by Commissioner Esposito.

Commissioner Diana asked if a motion was being made to make a finding of probable cause in, **In Re Stolicny File No. 24-19** that probable cause be found. A motion was made by Commissioner Vitrano which was seconded by Commissioner Vamos. Commissioner Diana asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 6 in favor and one abstention by Commissioner Esposito.

Commissioner Diana asked if a motion was being made to make a finding of probable cause in, **In Re Drew, File No. 24-20** that probable cause be found. A motion was made by Commissioner Vamos which was seconded by Commissioner Vitrano. Commissioner Diana asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 6 in favor and one abstention by Commissioner Esposito.

Commissioner Diana asked if a motion was being made to make a finding of probable cause in, **In Re Privitera, File No. 24-22** that probable cause be found. A motion was made by Commissioner Vitrano which was seconded by Commissioner Vamos. Commissioner Diana asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 6 in favor and one abstention by Commissioner Esposito.

Commissioner Diana turned back chairing of the meeting to Commissioner Esposito

5. Final Disposition:

Commissioner Esposito asked if there was a motion to approve the settlement agreement of a thirty-day suspension in **In Re Cipriano No 24-16** and make that a final order. A motion was made by Commissioner Diana, which was seconded by Commissioner Vitrano. Commissioner Esposito asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of Changes to State Marshal Manual. Commission Esposito stated that changes were recommended by a work group comprised of members of the State Marshal Commission Advisory Board and Commission staff. Many of the updates are adding back things from the 2017 manual that were omitted from the 2022 manual and putting things in a more organized fashion. The Commission has had an opportunity to review the proposed changes. Commissioner Esposito asks if there is a motion to approve the proposed changes the manual? A motion was made by Commissioner Diana which was seconded by Commissioner Vamos. Commissioner Esposito asked if there was any discussion. There was none. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Approval to Carry a Firearm while on Duty

Commissioner Esposito stated that firearm training was conducted at the post academy, which included firearm qualification conducted by the Police Academy staff and arranged and observed by the Commission Special Investigator, Chris Morris. The permission would be for January 1, 2025 through December 1, 2025. The following attendees were recommended for approval: Holly Bryk, Kristen Shubert, Donald Cipriano, Ken Lombardi, Anthony Cipriano, John O'Leary, Joshua Poloski, Peter Criscuolo Jr., Joseph Rijs, Madison Beggs, Tom Weik, Mark DeAngelis, Alan Zaniewski, John Barbieri Jr., Greg Woodruff, Brian Mezick, Hiram Fuchs, Lucia O'Toole. Commissioner Esposito asked if he had a motion to approve? A motion was made by Commissioner Diana and seconded by Commissioner Vamos. Commissioner Esposito asked if there was any discussion. There was none. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Esposito asked if there was any additional business. Commissioner Vitrano asked if at some point that Commission might meet in person or on a social basis as since he joined the State Marshal Commission all business has been conducted virtually and he has not met anyone in person. Commissioner Esposito stated he thought that was a good idea.

Commissioner Esposito asked if there was a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Commissioner Vitrano and seconded by Commissioner Vamos. Commissioner Esposito asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.