

Municipal Police Training Committee
Standards Subcommittee Monthly Meeting Minutes
MPTC Headquarters, Randolph, MA
January 15, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

On January 15, 2025, at 2:10 p.m., an in-person meeting of the Standards Subcommittee was called to order at MPTC Headquarters, 42 Thomas Patten Drive, Randolph, MA. Advance notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with the open meeting laws. A quorum of the seven-member Subcommittee was present. The meeting was broadcast over Microsoft Teams.

Subcommittee Members Present

- Sheriff Kevin Coppinger
- Superintendent Nora Baston
- Chief Brian Clark
- Chief Edward Conley
- Major Jon Provost

MPTC/EOPSS Staff Present

- Jim O'Brien
- Gina Masotta
- Andrea Nardone

II. APPROVAL OF SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

A motion was made by Chief Conley and seconded by Superintendent Baston to approve the Standards Subcommittee minutes from the meeting on December 18, 2024. A vote was taken, and the motion passed with two abstentions (Chief Clark and Major Provost).

III. POLICE WAIVERS AND OUT-OF-STATE EXEMPTIONS

Temporary Waivers

There were no temporary waivers on the January agenda.

Out-of-State Exemptions

There were four out-of-state exemptions on the January agenda.

1. James Dawson Burlington PD

- **Basic Training:**
 - Graduated on March 17, 2021 from the 909-hour New Jersey State Police Academy, 161st Class.
- **Work Experience as a Law Enforcement Officer:**
 - March 2021 – January 13, 2025: full-time police officer for the New Jersey State Police.
- **In-Service/Specialized Training:** Yes, in NJ.

- Break in Service: No.
- CPR/1st Aid Certified: Yes – 12/18/2024.
- MPTC Firearms Certified: Yes – 12/18/24.
- MPTC Police Officer Core Competency Exam: Yes – 12/6/2024 (82%).

A motion was made by Superintendent Baston and seconded by Chief Clark to recommend to the full Committee that James Dawson be granted an exemption from the requirement of completing a full-time MPTC-operated/authorized Police Academy. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Adam Ganz Westwood PD

- Basic Training:
 - Graduated on March 3, 2022 from the 527-hour FLETC Uniform Police Training Program.
 - Graduated on June 3, 2022 from the 545-hour United States Capitol Police Academy.
- Work Experience as a Law Enforcement Officer:
 - June 2022 – present: full-time police officer for the United States Capitol Police.
- In-Service/Specialized Training: Yes, with the Capitol Police.
- Break in Service: No.
- CPR/1st Aid Certified: Yes – 1/9/2025.
- MPTC Firearms Certified: Yes – 12/23/24.
- MPTC Police Officer Core Competency Exam: Yes – 1/12/2025 (75%).

A motion was made by Chief Conley and seconded by Superintendent Baston to recommend to the full Committee that Adam Ganz be granted an exemption from the requirement of completing a full-time MPTC-operated/authorized Police Academy. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Donald Rhodes Hinsdale PD

- Basic Training:
 - Graduated on May 9, 1997 from the 640-hour Texoma Regional Police Academy in Denison, TX.
- Work Experience as a Law Enforcement Officer:
 - May 1997 – August 2003: full-time deputy sheriff for the Grayson County Sheriff's Office in TX.
 - September 2003 – February 2021: full-time police officer for the Denison, TX Police Department.
 - March 2021 – present: full-time police officer for the Austin College Police Department in Sherman, TX.
- In-Service/Specialized Training: Yes, in TX.
- Break in Service: No.
- CPR/1st Aid Certified: Yes – 1/8/2025.
- MPTC Firearms Certified: Yes – 1/6/25.
- MPTC Police Officer Core Competency Exam: Yes – 12/19/2024 (76%).

A motion was made by Superintendent Baston and seconded by Chief Clark to recommend to the full Committee that Donald Rhodes be granted an exemption from the requirement of completing a full-time MPTC-operated/authorized Police Academy. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Joshua Aguero Southcoast Health PD

- Basic Training:
 - Graduated on April 11, 2013 from the Alabama Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission's 480-hour Basic Training Law Enforcement Academy.
- Work Experience as a Law Enforcement Officer:
 - April 2013 – February 2017, May 2018-December 2020: full-time police officer for the Selma, AL Police Department.
 - December 2020 – February 2022: full-time deputy sheriff for the Dallas County Sheriff's Department in Selma, AL.
 - June 2022 – May 2024: full-time police officer for the Selma, AL Police Department.
- In-Service/Specialized Training: Yes, in AL, and TY24 in MA.
- Break in Service: Approximately 7 months.
- CPR/1st Aid Certified: Yes – 12/11/2024.
- MPTC Firearms Certified: Yes – 8/29/24.
- MPTC Police Officer Core Competency Exam: Yes – 12/15/2024 (70%).

A motion was made by Chief Conley and seconded by Superintendent Baston to recommend to the full Committee that Joshua Aguero be granted an exemption from the requirement of completing a full-time MPTC-operated/authorized Police Academy. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. BRIDGE HOURS/EXEMPTIONS

Bridge Exemptions

The Standards Subcommittee considered a Bridge exemption request for Officer numbered 646 on the January 2025 Bridge Academy A-H Class List. Coursework was completed and payroll has been verified.

A motion was made by Superintendent Baston and seconded by Chief Clark to recommend to the full Committee that it approve the Bridge exemption request for Officer numbered 646 on the January 2025 Bridge Academy A-H Class List. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

There were no Bridge exemption requests on the January 2025 Bridge Academy I-P Class List.

The Standards Subcommittee considered a Bridge exemption request for Officer numbered 345 on the January 2025 Bridge Academy Q-Z Class List. Coursework was completed and payroll has been verified.

A motion was made by Superintendent Baston and seconded by Chief Clark to recommend to the full Committee that it approve the Bridge exemption request for Officer numbered 345 on the January 2025 Bridge Academy Q-Z Class List. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. INTERRUPTION-IN-SERVICE, 5+ YEARS

Ferenc Karoly recently reached out to MPTC staff seeking an exemption advisory. In reviewing the materials he submitted regarding his training and experience, MPTC staff noted that he retired from policing almost six years ago. He graduated from the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy on June 24, 2005. From that date until March 2019, he worked as a full-time police officer for the Middletown, RI Police Department, rising to the rank of Deputy Chief. Since retiring from policing, he has been working as an attorney at a law firm in Newport, RI. Beginning in 2021, he also has been serving as the Executive Director of the Providence External Review Authority, which is a civilian-led oversight agency responsible for handling misconduct complaints against the Providence Police Department and recommending policy and procedural changes. For the past nine years, he has also been an instructor at the Roger Williams Justice Training and Research Center, where he teaches courses for police officers across New England on professional police standards, Fourth Amendment law, and internal investigations. The question for the Subcommittee is whether Ret. Deputy Chief Karoly has had an interruption-in-service of five or more years since retiring from policing in March 2019, which would require him to attend a fulltime academy before performing police duties and functions in Massachusetts, or whether his work for the Providence External Review Authority and as a police trainer at Roger Williams has kept him “involved in the police profession to a level and degree that reasonably assures that he...has stayed abreast of legal, ethical, and professional issues relevant to municipal policing in Massachusetts.” 550 CMR 3.04(3).

Ret. Deputy Chief Karoly was present at today’s meeting to provide additional information and answers questions for the Subcommittee. Sheriff Coppinger asked whether he performs any police duties or functions in any of his current roles, and Ret. Deputy Chief Karoly confirmed that he does not. Sheriff Coppinger noted that his role at Roger Williams seemed entirely academic and asked how it’s different than any other professor at a college. Ret. Deputy Chief Karoly said he believes it is distinguishable because he teaches classes that are only for police officers. Sheriff Coppinger also inquired about the makeup of the Providence External Review Authority. Ret. Deputy Chief Karoly advised that the agency is comprised of civilians only, though he noted that they do have a retired trooper from the Rhode Island State Police who does investigative work for them. He stressed that he believes his current roles have kept him abreast of ethical, legal, and policy issues related to policing in the way that is required by the CMR.

After discussion, there was a consensus among the Subcommittee members present that Ret. Deputy Chief Karoly has had an interruption-in-service of five years or more.

VI. UPDATE ON DISCIPLINARY DISMISSAL APPEALS

A hearing was held on December 18, 2024, for former Student Officer (SO) Joshua Almestica, who was dismissed from the Plymouth Academy. A decision from the Subcommittee is pending. A hearing for former SO Jermaine Lewis was also scheduled for December 18, 2024, but Mr. Lewis withdrew his appeal just prior to the hearing.

VII. UPDATE ON INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION REVOCATION APPEALS

On December 17, 2024, hearings were held for six MPTC instructors whose certifications were revoked, including Sergeant Edmond Bussiere, Sergeant Freddie O'Neal, Sergeant Robert Curran, Sergeant Ray Anair, Officer Matthew Ritvo-Cabezas, and Sergeant Cory Taylor. Earlier today, January 15, 2024, hearings were held for four more MPTC instructors whose certifications were revoked, including Officer Otis Harewood, Officer John Stone, Sergeant James Dugan, and Lieutenant David Ostrovitz. Decisions from the Subcommittee are pending.

MPTC General Counsel/Chief-of-Staff Jim O'Brien noted that we still have a number of instructors who have appealed revocation of their instructor certifications and need to schedule hearings for them. He will be reaching out to the Subcommittee members about finding a date that works.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 2:43 p.m., a motion was made by Chief Conley and seconded by Superintendent Baston to adjourn the Standards Subcommittee meeting. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.