

Municipal Police Training Committee
Standards Subcommittee Monthly Meeting Minutes
MPTC Headquarters, Randolph, MA
February 19, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

On February 19, 2025, at 9:13 a.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 Lanita Cullinane
- Chief Brian Clark
- Major Jon Provost

MPTC/EOPSS Staff Present

- Gina Masotta
- Denise Flagg
- Tori Koch

II. APPROVAL OF SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

A motion was made by Chief Clark and seconded by Major Provost to approve the Standards Subcommittee minutes from the meeting on January 15, 2025. A vote was taken, and the motion passed with one abstention (Superintendent Lanita Cullinane).

III. POLICE WAIVERS AND OUT-OF-STATE EXEMPTIONS

Temporary Waivers

There were no temporary waivers on the February agenda.

Out-of-State Exemptions

There were five out-of-state exemptions on the February agenda.

1. Jonathan Imperial Truro PD

- **Basic Training:**
 - Graduated on July 30, 2010 from the 576-hour 152nd New Hampshire Police Academy for full-time officers.
- **Work Experience as a Law Enforcement Officer:**
 - July 2010 – September 2012: full-time police officer for the Derry, NH Police Department.

- November 2012 – January 2017: full-time police officer for the Gorham, NH Police Department.
- January 2017 – January 2021: full-time police officer for the Berlin, NH Police Department.
- January 2021 – January 21, 2025: part-time police officer for the Berlin, NH Police Department.
- May 2022 – October 2023: part-time police officer for the Northumberland, NH Police Department.
- October 2023 – February 12, 2025: full-time police for the Northumberland, NH Police Department.
- In-Service/Specialized Training: Yes, in NH.
- Break in Service: No.
- CPR/1st Aid Certified: Yes – 2/13/2025.
- MPTC Firearms Certified: Yes – 2/5/2025.
- MPTC Police Officer Core Competency Exam: Yes – 2/10/2025 (81%).

A motion was made by Chief Clark and seconded by Major Provost to recommend to the full Committee that Jonathan Imperial 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. Justin Bettencourt Massport

- Basic Training:
 - Graduated on August 20, 2021 from the 585-hour 185th New Hampshire Police Academy for full-time officers.
- Work Experience as a Law Enforcement Officer:
 - August 2021 – December 2024: full-time police officer for the Atkinson, NH Police Department.
 - December 2024 – present: part-time police officer for the Atkinson, NH Police Department.
- In-Service/Specialized Training: Yes, in NH.
- Break in Service: No.
- CPR/1st Aid Certified: Yes – 1/13/2025.
- MPTC Firearms Certified: Yes – 12/13/24.
- MPTC Police Officer Core Competency Exam: Yes – 1/13/2025 (89%).

A motion was made by Chief Clark and seconded by Superintendent Cullinane to recommend to the full Committee that Justin Bettencourt 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. Kevin Riley **UMass Lowell**

- Basic Training:
 - Graduated on June 28, 2002 from the 469.5-hour 128th New Hampshire Police Academy for full-time officers.
- Work Experience as a Law Enforcement Officer:
 - June 2002 – December 31, 2024: full-time police officer for the Hudson, NH Police Department, rising to the rank of Lieutenant.
- In-Service/Specialized Training: Yes, in NH.
- Break in Service: No.
- CPR/1st Aid Certified: Yes – 2/10/2025.
- MPTC Firearms Certified: Yes – 2/12/25.
- MPTC Police Officer Core Competency Exam: Yes – 1/16/2025 (77%).

A motion was made by Chief Clark and seconded by Superintendent Cullinane to recommend to the full Committee that Kevin Riley 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. Thomas Calouro **Sutton PD**

- Basic Training:
 - Graduated on June 30, 2000 from the 638-hour Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy, Class 2000-II.
- Work Experience as a Law Enforcement Officer:
 - June 2000 – January 17, 2025: full-time police officer for the Woonsocket, RI Police Department, rising to the rank of Deputy Chief.
- In-Service/Specialized Training: Yes, in RI.
- Break in Service: No.
- CPR/1st Aid Certified: Yes – 1/28/2025.
- MPTC Firearms Certified: Yes – 1/17/2025.
- MPTC Police Officer Core Competency Exam: Yes – 2/8/2025 (80%).

A motion was made by Chief Clark and seconded by Superintendent Cullinane to recommend to the full Committee that Thomas Calouro 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.

5. Neftaly Lopez **Brandeis University**

- Basic Training:
 - Graduated on February 6, 2019 from the 524-hour FLETC Uniform Police Training Program.
- Work Experience as a Law Enforcement Officer:
 - February 2019 – December 14, 2024: full-time police officer for the Department of Defense-Department of the Navy assigned to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, ME.
- In-Service/Specialized Training: Yes, in ME.

- Break in Service: No.
- CPR/1st Aid Certified: Yes – 1/23/2025.
- MPTC Firearms Certified: Yes – 12/27/24.
- MPTC Police Officer Core Competency Exam: Yes – 2/3/2025 (71%).

A motion was made by Chief Clark and seconded by Superintendent Cullinane to recommend to the full Committee that Neftaly Lopez 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

There were no Bridge exemption requests on the February Bridge Academy A-H or Q-Z Class List.

The Standards Subcommittee considered Bridge exemption requests for Officers numbered 432 and 433 on the February 2025 Bridge Academy I-P Class List. Coursework was completed and payroll has been verified.

A motion was made by Major Provost and seconded by Chief Clark to recommend to the full Committee that it approve the Bridge exemption requests for Officers numbered 432 and 433 on the February 2025 Bridge Academy I-P Class List. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. INTERRUPTION-IN-SERVICE, 5+ YEARS

The Hampden County Sheriff's Department recently reached out to MPTC staff seeking an exemption advisory for Deputy Sheriff Kevin McCormick. In reviewing the materials they submitted regarding his training and experience, MPTC staff noted that this appears to be an interruption-in-service issue because DS McCormick graduated from a full-time Springfield Police Academy in November 1994. From that date until February 2001, he worked as a full-time police officer for the Springfield Police Department. In February 2001, he transferred to federal service and became a Special Agent for the FBI. Through December 2016, he worked in the FBI's Tampa Division. In December 2017, he transferred to the FBI's Boston Office/Springfield Division as a Special Agent on the Organized Crime Task Force. He remained there until he retired from the FBI in September 2022. In December 2022, he took a position as an Investigative Specialist with the Hampden County Sheriff's Department. The question for the Subcommittee is whether DS McCormick's federal service constitutes an interruption-in-service of 5 or more years, which would require him to go back to a full-time academy before performing police duties and functions in Massachusetts.

DS McCormick was present at today's meeting to provide additional information and answer questions from the Subcommittee. Sheriff Coppinger asked if DS McCormick has been working as a TFO on the Hampden Sheriff's FBI Task Force, and DS McCormick confirmed that he has. Sheriff Coppinger asked about his duties in that role, and DS McCormick indicated he's been conducting investigations (outside the jail), surveillance, interviews, etc. Sheriff Coppinger explained that, in a

few recent cases, the Subcommittee/Committee has found that an officer's federal service did not constitute an interruption-in-service where the officer spent their entire federal career working in Massachusetts, but it would be a significant break in precedent if the Subcommittee didn't find that his federal service in Florida was an interruption-in-service. Major Provost asked if the Subcommittee/Committee has previously considered a situation like DS McCormick's, and MPTC Deputy General Counsel Gina Masotta confirmed that they have not seen this exact scenario before. Superintendent Cullinane asked whether there is a difference between someone seeking an out-of-state exemption and someone in DS McCormick's position. Deputy General Counsel Masotta explained that historically federal service has been considered an interruption-in-service. If DS McCormick had left Massachusetts to work as a municipal police officer in Florida, he would not have an interruption-in-service issue. Chief Clark said that he believes they should be looking at questions like this on a case-by-case basis and it is important for the Subcommittee to be consistent.

After discussion, there was consensus among the Subcommittee members that the matter should be tabled for consideration by the full Committee since this is a fact pattern they have not yet considered.

A motion was made by Chief Clark and seconded by Superintendent Cullinane to table the matter for consideration by the full Committee. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. UPDATE ON DISCIPLINARY DISMISSAL & INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION REVOCATION APPEALS

Since the last meeting, the Subcommittee has issued decisions on one disciplinary dismissal appeal and eight instructor certification revocation appeals. Sheriff Coppinger will report out on those decisions to the full Committee at their meeting later this morning.

Deputy General Counsel Masotta noted that the request by Sergeant Edmond Bussiere to reopen his instructor certification revocation appeal hearing has been withdrawn.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:39 a.m., a motion was made by Chief Clark and seconded by Sheriff Coppinger to adjourn the Standards Subcommittee meeting. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.