

Municipal Police Training Committee
Standards Subcommittee Meeting
31 Maple Street, Milford, MA
March 20, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

On March 20, 2024, at 9:13 a.m., an in-person meeting of the Standards Subcommittee was called to order at 31 Maple Street, Milford, 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

- Chair Kevin Copping
- Superintendent Nora Baston
- Chief Jennifer Gundersen
- Retired Ofc. Joseph Vieira

MPTC Staff Present

- Jim O'Brien
- Gina Masotta
- Hannah MacKillop
- Andrea Nardone
- Denise Flagg
- Lara Thomas

II. APPROVAL OF SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

A motion was made by Retired Ofc. Vieira and seconded by Superintendent Baston to approve the Standards Subcommittee minutes from the February 21, 2024, meeting. A vote was taken, and the motion passed with one abstention (Chief Gundersen).

III. POLICE WAIVERS AND OUT-OF-STATE EXEMPTIONS

Temporary Waivers

There were no temporary waivers on the March agenda.

Out-of-State Exemptions

There were no out-of-state exemptions on the March agenda.

Out-of-State Exemption Advisories

The March agenda had three requests by MPTC staff for guidance on out-of-state exemption advisories.

1.) Karen LoStracco

Animal Rescue League

At last month's meeting, the Animal Rescue League of Boston came before the Standards Subcommittee seeking an advisory opinion as to whether FBI Agent Karen LoStracco would qualify for an exemption from the requirement of attending a fulltime MPTC operated/authorized police academy. The matter was tabled until this month to allow MPTC staff to conduct a detailed comparison of the MPTC ROC curriculum and Agent LoStracco's FBI Academy training. MPTC staff created a comparison spreadsheet. MPTC Deputy General Counsel Gina Masotta reviewed the spreadsheet with the Subcommittee and pointed out the differences observed by MPTC staff when conducting the comparison.

There was extensive discussion regarding Agent LoStracco's training and experience. Chair Coppinger said he does not see Agent LoStracco's FBI Academy training as comparable to a fulltime Massachusetts police academy. He also noted that he believes the work of an FBI agent is significantly different than municipal policing, which involves a great deal of community engagement, street work, and small quality of life issues that are not part of the everyday work done by federal agents.

A motion was made by Chief Gundersen and seconded by Retired Ofc. Vieira that the FBI Special Agent Academy is not substantially similar to a fulltime MPTC operated/authorized police academy. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

2.) Daniel J. Meade

Somerville Housing Authority

The Somerville Housing Authority (SHA) is seeking an advisory opinion as to whether Daniel Meade would qualify for an exemption from the requirement of attending a fulltime MPTC operated/authorized police academy. He has been Chief of SHA since 2017. On June 2, 1987, Chief Meade graduated from the 288-hour FLETC Criminal Investigation Training Program and went on to work as a U.S. Marshal from 1986 to 1990. On December 5, 1991, he graduated from the 10-week ATF National Academy and went on to work as an ATF Agent until 2017, assigned primarily to the Boston Field Division. He was hired as Chief of SHA in 2017 and graduated from the 100-hour William Cloran Academy Basic Training Program on June 6, 2017. Since joining SHA, Chief Meade has completed all MPTC-required annual in-service training. Chief Meade and SHA Special Counsel Matthew Buckley were present at today's meeting to answer questions and provide additional information to the Subcommittee.

MPTC Deputy General Counsel Gina Masotta explained that MPTC staff routinely receive lists of certified officers from POST and check to ensure that the officers have the required foundational training. The issue of Chief Meade's foundational training came up when Deputy Chief of Training Lara Thomas was reviewing one of these lists from POST. As with Agent LoStracco, MPTC staff conducted a detailed comparison of Chief Meade's training (including the FLETC Criminal Investigator Program, ATF National Academy, and William Cloran Academy Basic Training Program) to the MPTC's ROC curriculum. Deputy GC Masotta reviewed the spreadsheet with the

Subcommittee and pointed out the differences observed by MPTC staff when conducting the comparison.

There was extensive discussion about Chief Meade's training and experience. Chief Meade was asked about the William Cloran Basic Training Program. He said that when he first started at SHA, he reached out to Mary Lou Powers at the MPTC to find out what he needed to do for training. She advised that SHA officers did not fall under the MPTC's umbrella, and he should contact the Massachusetts State Police (MSP). But MSP said SHA officers did not fall under them either. Chief Meade said he believes Mary Lou Powers directed him to the William Cloran Basic Training Program to familiarize himself with Massachusetts criminal law. Attorney Buckley urged the Subcommittee to consider that Chief Meade has been working at SHA for the past 7 years and asked them to find that his experience makes up for any deficiencies in his academy training.

Chief Gundersen emphasized that no one is questioning that Chief Meade is extensively trained and experienced. But police reform made it clear that there is a single standard of training for all officers, and the Subcommittee's job is to evaluate whether his training is substantially equivalent to that standard. Chief Gundersen inquired about the training of the officers working under Chief Meade at SHA, and he said they have all been through a fulltime Massachusetts police academy.

A motion was made by Chief Gundersen and seconded by Retired Ofc. Vieira to not accept federal law enforcement criminal investigators training as the equivalent of a fulltime MPTC operated/authorized academy. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

3.) Marcus Gangemi

UMass Boston

Marcus Gangemi graduated on June 16, 1999, from an MCJTC Reserve/Intermittent Training Program in Canton, MA. From May 2006 to May 2012, he worked as a fulltime officer for the Boston School Police. On September 10, 2012, he graduated from the 490.45-hour FLETC Uniform Police Training Program, which the Committee has approved as the equivalent of a fulltime MPTC operated/authorized police academy. From May 2012 to May 2023, he worked as a fulltime police officer for the Amtrak Police Department in Boston, MA. He advised MPTC staff that he completed in-service training while employed with the Amtrak Police Department. Though he does not have an offer yet, Mr. Gangemi has been going through the hiring process with UMass Boston PD and is looking for an advisory opinion as to whether he would qualify for an exemption from the requirement of attending a fulltime MPTC operated/authorized police academy. Where the FLETC Uniform Police Training Program has already been deemed the equivalent of a fulltime MPTC academy by the Committee, the question for the Subcommittee today is whether Mr. Gangemi's experience as a fulltime police officer with the Amtrak Police Department qualifies as two or more years of fulltime law enforcement experience as a police officer. He was present at today's meeting and answered questions from the Subcommittee.

A motion was made by Ret. Officer Vieira and seconded by Chief Gundersen to accept Marcus Gangemi's experience as a fulltime police officer for the Amtrak Police Department as two or more years of fulltime law enforcement experience. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. BRIDGE HOURS/EXEMPTIONS

Bridge Exemptions

There were no Bridge exemption requests this month for the Bridge Academy A-H list.

The Standards Subcommittee considered a Bridge exemption request for Officer 419 on the March Bridge Academy I-P Class List.

A motion was made by Chief Gundersen and seconded by Superintendent Baston to recommend to the full Committee that it approve the Bridge exemption request for Officer 419 on the March Bridge Academy I-P Class List. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Standards Subcommittee considered Bridge exemption requests for Officers numbered 230 through 254 on the March Bridge Academy Q-Z Class List.

A motion was made by Chief Gundersen and seconded by Superintendent Baston to recommend to the full Committee that it approve the Bridge exemption requests for Officers numbered 230 through 254 on the March Bridge Academy Q-Z Class List. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. INTERRUPTION IN SERVICE 5+ YEARS

1.) Patricia Riley

MCPHS

The Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS) Police Department is seeking to hire retired Massachusetts State Police (MSP) Trooper Patricia Riley and has extended her an offer of employment. Ret. Trooper Riley graduated from the 71st RTT on October 14, 1993, and went on to work as a Trooper for MSP for over 24 years. During her time with MSP, she served in various assignments, including as a road trooper at several different barracks, a DEA TFO in MSP's Narcotics Section, and the manager of MSP's Domestic Cannabis Eradication Program. She retired on June 30, 2018. In August 2018, Ret. Trooper Riley was rehired by MSP as a post-retirement contractor assigned to the Division of Homeland Security and Preparedness. She remains in that role today and her primary duty is to serve as MSP's Asset Forfeiture Program Coordinator. The question for the Subcommittee is whether she has had an interruption-in-service of five or more years since retiring from MSP in June 2018 (which would require her to attend a fulltime academy before performing any police duties again) or whether her work as a post-retirement contractor with MSP has kept her "involved in the police profession to a level and degree that reasonably assures that [she] has stayed abreast of legal, ethical, and professional issues relevant to municipal policing in Massachusetts," per 550 CMR 3.04(3). Ret. Trooper Riley submitted a detailed description of her post-retirement work with MSP for the Subcommittee's review. She was also present at today's meeting and answered questions from the Subcommittee regarding her training and experience.

A motion was made by Chief Gundersen and seconded by Superintendent Baston to accept that Patricia Riley's assignment as the Massachusetts State Police Asset Forfeiture Program

Coordinator is maintaining a role in law enforcement and is not a break in service, contingent upon her completing the last five years of mandatory MPTC in-service training and passing the Massachusetts Police Officer Core Competency Exam. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. UPDATE ON DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

A disciplinary dismissal appeal hearing for former student officer Matthew Donaldson, who was dismissed from the Holyoke Academy, is scheduled for today, March 20, 2024, at 1 p.m.

A hearing for the appeal of a recent dismissal from the Worcester Academy needs to be scheduled.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:27 a.m., a motion was made by Ret. Officer Vieira and seconded by Chief Gundersen to adjourn the Standards Subcommittee meeting. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.