

Municipal Police Training Committee
Standards Subcommittee Meeting
MPTC Headquarters – Randolph
June 12, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

On June 12, 2024, at 9:07 a.m., an in-person meeting of the Standards Subcommittee was called to order at MPTC headquarters in 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

- Chief Jennifer Gundersen
- Chief Edward Conley
- Major Jon Provost
- Superintendent Richard Sullivan
- Retired Officer Joseph Vieira

MPTC Staff Present

- Jim O'Brien
- Denise Flagg
- Felisha Arnold
- Elsie Sanon
- Gina Masotta

II. APPROVAL OF SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

A motion was made by Superintendent Sullivan and seconded by Major Provost to approve the Standards Subcommittee minutes from the May 29, 2024 meeting. A vote was taken, and the motion passed with two abstentions (Chief Conley and Retired Officer Vieira).

III. POLICE WAIVERS AND OUT-OF-STATE EXEMPTIONS

Temporary Waivers

There were no temporary waivers on the June agenda.

Out-of-State Exemptions

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

1. Edouardo St. Fort UMass Boston

- Basic Training:
 - Graduated on July 13, 2005 from the 960-hour New York City Police Department Police Academy.
- Work Experience as a Law Enforcement Officer:
 - July 2005 – July 2009, July 2010 – March 2023: full-time police officer for the New York City Police Department.
 - July 2009 – July 2010: Immigration Enforcement Agent for Department of Homeland Security.
- In-Service/Specialized Training: Yes, with NY, and TY24 in MA.
- Break in Service: Yes – 1 year (x2).
- CPR/1st Aid Certified: Anticipated – 6/11/2024.
- MPTC Firearms Certified: Anticipated – 6/11/2024.
- MPTC Police Officer Core Competency Exam: Yes – 5/9/24 (75%).

A motion was made by Superintendent Sullivan and seconded by Chief Conley to recommend to the full Committee that Edouardo St. Fort 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. Neil L. Rodman Western New England University

- Basic Training:
 - Graduated on June 20, 2000 from the 650-hour Basic Recruit Training program, 279th Training Session, at the Connecticut Police Academy.
- Work Experience as a Law Enforcement Officer:
 - June 2000 – September 2001: full-time police officer for the East Hampton, Connecticut Police Department.
 - September 2001 to April 1, 2024: full-time police officer for the Manchester, Connecticut Police Department.
- In-Service/Specialized Training: Yes, with CT.
- Break in Service: No.
- CPR/1st Aid Certified: Yes – 4/19/2024.
- MPTC Firearms Certified: Yes – 3/21/2024.
- MPTC Police Officer Core Competency Exam: Yes – 6/6/24 (90%).

A motion was made by Retired Officer Vieira and seconded by Chief Conley to recommend to the full Committee that Neil Rodman 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. Alain J. Bisson

Western New England University

- Basic Training:
 - Graduated February 1, 1996 from the 253rd Training Session of the Connecticut Police Academy.
 - Graduated on August 28, 1997 from the 1,313-hour Connecticut State Police Academy, 106th Training Troop.
- Work Experience as a Law Enforcement Officer:
 - February 1995 – February 1996: full-time officer for the Rocky Hill, Connecticut Police Department.
 - August 1997 – April 1, 2022: full-time police officer for the Connecticut State Police.
 - March 2023 – March 2024: part-time police officer for the New Hartford, Connecticut Police Department.
- In-Service/Specialized Training: Yes, with CT.
- Break in Service: Yes – 1 year.
- CPR/1st Aid Certified: Yes – 4/19/2024.
- MPTC Firearms Certified: Yes – 3/21/2024.
- MPTC Police Officer Core Competency Exam: Yes – 6/6/24 (90%).

A motion was made by Retired Officer Vieira and seconded by Chief Conley to recommend to the full Committee that Alain Bisson 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. Daivd R. Powers

Ludlow PD

- Basic Training:
 - Graduated on May 23, 2014 from the 782-hour Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council 97th Basic Training Course for Full-time Law Enforcement Officers.
- Work Experience as a Law Enforcement Officer:
 - May 2014 – May 2022: full-time police officer for the Vermont State Police.
- In-Service/Specialized Training: Yes, with VT, and TY23-TY24 in MA.
- Break in Service: Yes – 2 years.
- CPR/1st Aid Certified: Yes – 4/23/2024.
- MPTC Firearms Certified: Yes – 5/14/2024.
- MPTC Police Officer Core Competency Exam: Yes – 6/6/24 (84%).

A motion was made by Retired Officer Vieira and seconded by Superintendent Sullivan to recommend to the full Committee that David Powers 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.

Out-of-State Exemption Advisories

1. Domenico Cerasani Westfield State University

- Basic Training:
 - Graduated on December 21, 2017 from the FLETC Uniform Police Training Program.
 - Graduated on April 6, 2018 from the 545-hour United States Capitol Police Academy.
 - Graduated on December 7, 2022 from the 375th Training Session of the Connecticut Police Academy.
- Work Experience as a Law Enforcement Officer:
 - April 2018 – May 2022: full-time police officer for the United States Capitol Police, Washington, D.C.
 - December 2022 – April 2023: full-time police officer for the Enfield, Connecticut Police Department.
- Break in Service: Yes – 1 year.
- CPR/1st Aid Certified: No.
- MPTC Firearms Certified: No.
- MPTC Police Officer Core Competency Exam: No.

Westfield State University is seeking an advisory opinion as to whether Dominic Cerasani would qualify for an exemption from the requirement of attending a full-time MPTC operated/authorized police academy. In September 27, 2023, the full Committee voted to approve the FLETC Uniform Police Training Program as the equivalent of a full-time MPTC Police Academy. The question for the Subcommittee today is whether Officer Cerasani's experience as a full-time police officer for the United States Capitol Police from April 2018 to May 2022 satisfies the two-year work experience requirement for out-of-state exemptions. Officer Cerasani was present at today's meeting and described his duties as a Capitol Police officer for the Subcommittee.

Based on the information provided by Officer Cerasani, there was consensus among the members of the Subcommittee who were present at the meeting that they would accept his experience as an officer for the Capitol Police as two or more years of full-time law enforcement experience as a police officer.

IV. BRIDGE HOURS/EXEMPTIONS

Bridge Exemptions

There were no Bridge exemption requests this month for the Bridge Academy A-H or I-P lists.

The Standards Subcommittee considered Bridge exemption requests for Officers numbered 309 through 323 on the June Bridge Academy Q-Z Class List.

A motion was made by Major Provost and seconded by Chief Conley to recommend to the full Committee that it approve Bridge exemption requests for Officers numbered 309

through 323 on the June Bridge Academy Q-Z Class List. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Bridge Hours

1. Eric Haberman

Ashfield PD

At last month's Subcommittee meeting, MPTC staff sought guidance from the Subcommittee on a Bridge exemption request submitted by Ashfield PD for Officer Eric Haberman which presents an interruption-in-service issue. Officer Haberman graduated from a reserve/intermittent academy in February 2012. He was appointed a part-time officer for Goshen PD in July 2021 and then sworn as a full-time officer for Ashfield PD in November 2021. Ashfield PD sponsored Officer Haberman for Bridge and attested that he had not had any interruption-in-service of more than five years. After Officer Haberman completed his Bridge coursework, Ashfield PD submitted payroll records to MPTC staff for the 2400-hour requirement. The payroll records included hours he worked for Ashfield PD from November 2021 to April 2024, hours he worked for Goshen PD from July 2021 to April 2024, and hours he worked for West Springfield PD from 2012 to 2014. When MPTC staff inquired as to whether and where Officer Haberman worked between 2014 and 2021, West Springfield PD advised that Officer Haberman worked for them as a special police officer from the time he graduated from a reserve/intermittent training program in 2012 until October 30, 2014. According to the information obtained by MPTC staff, Officer Haberman was out of the law enforcement field entirely until August 2020 (more than five years later), when he was appointed a deputy sheriff by the Hampden County Sheriff's Office. Hampden provided MPTC staff with his appointment certificate, which is dated August 5, 2020. Hampden also advised that Officer Haberman was hired to work details only, which are not the type of law enforcement shifts that would be counted toward the 2,400-hour Bridge requirement. The question for the Subcommittee was whether Officer Haberman has had an interruption in service of more than five years that would make him ineligible for a Bridge exemption.

Officer Haberman, Chief Beth Bezio of Ashfield PD, and Chief Fred Bezio of Goshen PD were present at last month's meeting and provided additional information to the Subcommittee. They advised that Officer Haberman's appointment with West Springfield PD ran through September 3, 2015. They also advised that they believed he was appointed by Hampden as a deputy sheriff in February 2020 based on information that previously appeared in Acadis. (Officer Haberman's appointment date with Hampden has since been corrected in Acadis based on the appointment certificate produced by Hampden.) There was extensive discussion about when Officer Haberman actually worked for the various agencies by whom he's been employed since the language in 550 CMR 3.04 references interruptions in service of five or more years where an officer has "*not performed police duties and functions.*" Ultimately, the Subcommittee members present at last month's meeting indicated they would be inclined to find that there was an interruption in service of more than five years but voted to table the matter until this month to give Officer Haberman more time to gather additional information about his work history and dates of employment.

Officer Haberman, Chief Beth Bezio, Chief Fred Bezio, and Atty. Austin Joyce were present at today's meeting. Chief Beth Bezio advised that she went through the minutes for previous

Subcommittee/Committee meetings, and she believes exceptions to the five-year interruption-in-service rule have been made in the past. She told the Subcommittee her department has limited resources, and it would be a hardship for her to send Officer Haberman to a full-time academy. Major Provost asked whether Officer Haberman obtained any additional documentation or information about his work experience since the last meeting for the Subcommittee's consideration today. Officer Haberman reported that the only new information he had was that he completed a firearms training in May 2019. Chief Gundersen discussed whether the Subcommittee should be using the dates on Officer Haberman's West Springfield PD appointment certificate to determine when his interruption in service began.

A motion was made by Major Provost and seconded by Chief Conley to refer to the full Committee the question of whether to use appointment dates to determine Officer Haberman's interruption in service. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. UPDATE ON DISCIPLINARY DISMISSAL APPEALS

An appeal hearing for former SO Kyle DeCoste, who was dismissed from the Randolph Academy, is scheduled for today at 12:30 p.m.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:02 a.m., a motion was made by Chief Conley and seconded by Retired Officer Vieira to adjourn the Standards Subcommittee meeting. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.