

Municipal Police Training Committee
Standards Subcommittee Meeting
MPTC Headquarters – Randolph
October 19, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

On October 19, 2023, at 9:05 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.

Subcommittee Members Present

- Chair Kevin Coppinger
- Superintendent Nora Baston
- Superintendent Richard Sullivan
- Chief Jennifer Gundersen

MPTC Staff Present

- Jim O'Brien
- Felisha Arnold
- Gina Masotta

II. APPROVAL OF SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

A motion was made by Chief Gundersen and seconded by Superintendent Sullivan to approve the Standards Subcommittee minutes from the September 27, 2023 meeting. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

III. POLICE WAIVERS AND OUT-OF-STATE EXEMPTIONS

Temporary Waivers

There were no temporary waivers on the October agenda.

Out-of-State Exemptions

There was one out-of-state exemption on the October agenda.

1. Christopher C. Waite

Plainville PD

- Basic Training:
 - Graduated April 24, 2020 from the 757-hour Rhode Island Municipal Police Training Academy.
- Work Experience as a Law Enforcement Officer: 3+ years as a fulltime officer.
 - April 2020 – August 2023: Fulltime patrol officer for Woonsocket, RI PD.
- In-Service/Specialized Training: Yes, in RI.
- Break in Service: No.
- CPR/First Responder Certified: Yes.
- MPTC Firearms Certified: Yes.
- MPTC Police Officer Core Competency Exam: Yes (71% on 10/4/23).

A motion was made by Chief Gundersen and seconded by Superintendent Baston to recommend to the full Committee that Christopher C. Waite has the necessary training/experience to obtain an exemption from the requirement of completing a fulltime 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 626 on the October Bridge Academy A-H Class List.

A motion was made by Chief Gundersen and seconded by Superintendent Sullivan to recommend to the full Committee that it approve the Bridge exemption request for Officer numbered 626 on the October Bridge Academy A-H Class List. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Standards Subcommittee considered a Bridge exemption request for Officer numbered 413 on the October 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 numbered 413 on the October 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 77 through 92 on the October Bridge Academy Q-Z Class List.

A motion was made by Chief Gundersen and seconded by Superintendent Sullivan to recommend to the full Committee that it approve Bridge exemption requests for Officers numbered 77 through 92 on the October Bridge Academy Q-Z Class List. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Bridge Hours

At prior meetings, the Standards Subcommittee and the full Committee have discussed whether hours worked by police officers inside the fairgrounds at the Big E in West Springfield should be counted as patrol hours for Bridge purposes. To ensure that all venues are treated consistently, Chief Hicks directed MPTC staff to gather additional information from the relevant police departments as to hours worked by officers at Gillette Stadium and the Xfinity Center. MPTC General Counsel/Chief-of-Staff Jim O'Brien reported that MPTC Executive Director Robert Ferullo has reached out to the relevant departments, but we are still working to gather the necessary information. Accordingly, this issue will not be discussed at today's full Committee meeting.

V. OTHER MATTERS

Academy Age Requirement

Worcester PD recently reached out to MPTC staff regarding the age requirement in 550 CMR 3.06 and inquired whether a student officer must be 21 years of age on day one of an academy or by the time of graduation. Sergeant Segur of Worcester PD was present at today's meeting to explain the reason for the inquiry and answer any questions. He stated that Worcester PD is seeking to enroll two candidates in an academy class scheduled to begin in January 2024 who would be 20 years old on day one but would be 21 years old by graduation.

The Subcommittee reviewed 550 CMR 3.06(1), which applies to operated and authorized academies and reads as follows: "Enrollment. Candidates accepted into a police academy must meet the following minimum requirements: (a) Be 21 years of age or older..." There was consensus among the members of the Subcommittee present that the language in the CMR is clear and requires that a candidate be 21 years old by the start of the academy. There was extensive discussion about the reason for the age requirement, whether it should be revisited when the CMRs are updated, and the age requirements for civil service and LTCs. Jim O'Brien noted that there were multiple student officers in the last National Guard Academy class who were under 21 years old. He reported that he spoke to Chief Hicks about this issue and Chief Hicks believes there is a distinction between academies attended by sponsored candidates and the National Guard Academy where candidates are not sponsored. Chief Hicks noted that he must appoint a candidate before they can go to an academy and civil service rules require the candidate to be 21 years old.

A motion was made by Superintendent Sullivan and seconded by Superintendent Baston that candidates accepted into a police academy must meet requirements (a) through (i) in 550 CMR 3.06(1) by the start of the academy. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. UPDATES ON DISCIPLINARY DIMISSAL APPEALS

Jim O'Brien reported that he is working on the decisions for the disciplinary dismissal appeal hearings that occurred on September 27, October 2, and October 3 of 2023. He expects to get drafts to the Subcommittee members within the next couple weeks.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:30 a.m., a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Standards Subcommittee meeting. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.