

Municipal Police Training Committee
Standards Subcommittee Meeting
MPTC Headquarters – Randolph
December 20, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

On December 20, 2023, at 9:04 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. Because of technology issues, the meeting was paused and re-called to order at 9:13 a.m.

Subcommittee Members Present

- Chair Kevin Coppinger
- Chief Edward Conley
- Chief Jennifer Gundersen
- Major Jon Provost

MPTC Staff Present

- Jim O'Brien
- Felisha Arnold
- Denise Flagg
- Jay Gribaudo
- Gina Masotta

II. APPROVAL OF SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

A motion was made by Chief Gundersen and seconded by Chief Conley to approve the Standards Subcommittee minutes from the November 15, 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 December agenda.

Out-of-State Exemptions

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

1. Jason A. Bettencourt

Peabody PD

- Training as a Law Enforcement Officer: (Basic/In-Service/Specialized)
 - Graduated August 30, 2017 from the 524-hour FLETC Uniformed Police Training Program UPTP-714. (At its 9/27/23 meeting, the MPTC Committee voted to “approve the FLETC Uniform Police Training Program as the equivalent of a fulltime MPTC Police Academy.”)
- Work Experience as a Law Enforcement Officer (6 years)
 - August 2017 – July 2023: Fulltime uniform federal police officer for the Department of Defense assigned to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, ME.
- In-Service/Specialized Training: Yes, in ME.
- Break in Service: No.
- CPR/1st Responder Certified: Yes – 6/15/23 (American Red Cross – First Aid/CPR/AED).
- MPTC Firearms Certified: Yes – 7/11/23 (Glock).
- MPTC Police Officer Core Competency Exam: Yes – 10/18/23 (80%).

A motion was made by Chief Conley and seconded by Chief Gundersen to recommend to the full Committee that Jason A. Bettencourt be granted an exemption from the requirement of completing a fulltime MPTC operated/authorized Police Academy. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. David E. Hammack

Shirley PD

- Training as a Law Enforcement Officer (Basic/In-Service/Specialized)
 - November 2, 2006: graduated from a 616-hour Georgia Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy.
 - 2006 – 2012: Received an additional 1,274 hours of law enforcement training in GA.
 - 9/10/12 – 5/9/13: Completed a 173.95-hour Full Time Waiver Program in VT.
 - 2012 – 2018: Received an additional 338.55 hours of law enforcement training in VT.
- Work Experience as a Law Enforcement Officer (7+ years)
 - May 2008 – July 2012: Fulltime police officer/senior accident reconstruction investigator with the Gwinnett County Police Department, Lawrenceville, GA.
 - September 2012 – 2015: Senior patrolman for the West Dover, VT Police Department.
 - 2017 – 1/3/19: Senior patrolman for the West Dover, VT Police Department.
- In-Service/Specialized Training: Yes, in GA and VT.
- Break in Service: Yes, almost five years.
- CPR/1st Responder Certified: Yes – 12/16/23 (CPR) and 12/19/23 (First Aid).

- MPTC Firearms Certified: Yes – 12/19/23 (Handgun).
- MPTC Police Officer Core Competency Exam: Yes – 12/18/23 (84%).

A motion was made by Chief Gundersen and seconded by Chief Conley to recommend to the full Committee that David E. Hammack be granted an exemption from the requirement of completing a fulltime MPTC operated/authorized Police Academy contingent upon his completion of the last five years of in-service training by January 3, 2024. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Peter D. Violette

Groton PD

- Training as a Law Enforcement Officer (Basic/In-Service/Specialized)
 - Graduated December 18, 1987 from a CJTC Reserve/Intermittent Training Program in Tewksbury, MA.
 - Graduated November 20, 1992 from a New Hampshire Recruit Academy for fulltime police officers.
- Work Experience as a Law Enforcement Officer (30+ years)
 - November 1992 – May 1995: Fulltime patrol officer for Rindge, NH PD.
 - May 1995: Ashburnham, MA PD applied for an out-of-state exemption.
 - June 27, 1995: Police Standards meeting to consider the exemption request.
 - June 1995 – January 1996: Fulltime police officer for Ashburnham PD.
 - January 1996 – January 2019: Fulltime police officer for Shirley PD.
 - January 2019 – Present: Fulltime police officer for Groton PD.
- In-Service/Specialized Training: Yes.
- Break in Service: No.
- CPR/1st Responder Certified: Yes (TY23 in-service complete).
- MPTC Firearms Certified: Yes (TY23 in-service complete).

A motion was made by Chief Gundersen and seconded by Chief Conley to recommend to the full Committee that it reconfirm Peter D. Violette's exemption from the requirement of completing a fulltime MPTC operated/authorized Police Academy. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Thomas P. Greeley

Weymouth PD

- Training as a Law Enforcement Officer (Basic/In-Service/Specialized)
 - Graduated March 29, 1988 from a CJTC Reserve/Intermittent Training Program in Plymouth, MA.
 - Graduated October 28, 1992 from Metropolitan (D.C.) Police Department Training Academy Class 92-3.
- Work Experience as a Law Enforcement Officer (30+ years)
 - 1992 – 1993: Full-time police officer for Metropolitan PD, Washington D.C.
 - June 1993: Hingham, MA PD applied for an out-of-state exemption.
 - June 1993: CJTC staff made an affirmative recommendation to approve the exemption.
 - 1993 – 2000: Patrol officer for Hingham PD.

- February 2000 – May 2022: Fulltime police officer for Weymouth PD.
- May 2022 – Present: Special police officer for Weymouth PD.
- In-Service/Specialized Training: Yes.
- Break in Service: No.
- CPR/1st Responder Certified: Yes (TY23 in-service complete).
- MPTC Firearms Certified: Yes (TY23 in-service complete).

A motion was made by Chief Gundersen and seconded by Chief Conley to recommend to the full Committee that it reconfirm Thomas P. Greeley's exemption from the requirement of completing a fulltime MPTC operated/authorized Police Academy. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Joseph R. Bellino

Suffolk University PD

- Training as a Law Enforcement Officer (Basic/In-Service/Specialized)
 - Graduated September 15, 2000 from the 507-hour 9th MA SSPO Police Academy.
 - Graduated March 26, 2004 from the 133rd Session of the NH Police Academy.
- Work Experience as a Law Enforcement Officer (22+ years)
 - 2000 – 2003: Police officer with the Suffolk University Police Department.
 - 2004 – Present: Fulltime police officer with the Londonderry, NH Police Department, rising to the rank of Lieutenant for the past five years.
- In-Service/Specialized Training: Yes (certified instructor Firearms/DT/Active Shooter).
- Break in Service: No.
- CPR/FA Certified: No. (FLETC Tactical Medical for First Responders 5/22/23.)
- MPTC Firearms Certified: No. (NH Firearms Instructor Recertification 9/12/22.)
- MPTC Police Officer Core Competency Exam: No.

After almost 20 years of working as a fulltime police officer in New Hampshire, Lieutenant Bellino is seeking to return to Massachusetts and rejoin Suffolk University PD. MPTC Chief-of-Staff/General Counsel Jim O'Brien explained that he does not view Lieutenant Bellino's situation as one that requires an out-of-state exemption because he graduated from the 9th MA SSPO Police Academy, which the Committee has approved as the equivalent of a fulltime MPTC operated/authorized Police Academy, and has been working as a police officer ever since. But our CMRs do not address whether Lieutenant Bellino must successfully complete the MPTC core competency test or undergo any training before performing police duties in Massachusetts again.

Captain Coletta of Suffolk University PD and Lieutenant Bellino were present at the meeting and spoke about Lieutenant Bellino's extensive in-service training in New Hampshire. Chief Conley explained that the issue is not that Lieutenant Bellino lacks training; but there have been significant changes in Massachusetts law and policing over the last few years, so the core competency exam can be important for officers like Lieutenant Bellino who have not been working in Massachusetts. Chief Gundersen noted that she recently had an officer transfer into her department from New

Hampshire and she is aware that police officers in New Hampshire do not receive the same type of first responder training as officers in Massachusetts.

A motion was made by Chief Gundersen and seconded by Chief Conley to approve Joseph R. Bellino's basic training as meeting the minimum standard required by the MPTC, contingent upon him successfully taking the MPTC core competency exam and completing all three components of First Responder (First Aid) in-service training. 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 628 on the December Bridge Academy A-H Class List.

A motion was made by Chief Gundersen and seconded by Chief Conley to recommend to the full Committee that it approve the Bridge exemption request for Officer numbered 628 on the December Bridge Academy A-H Class List. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Standards Subcommittee considered Bridge exemption requests for Officers numbered 415 and 416 on the December Bridge Academy I-P Class List.

A motion was made by Chief Gundersen and seconded by Chief Conley to recommend to the full Committee that it approve the Bridge exemption requests for Officers numbered 415 and 416 on the December 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 124 through 158 on the December Bridge Academy Q-Z Class List.

A motion was made by Chief Gundersen and seconded by Chief Conley to recommend to the full Committee that it approve Bridge exemption requests for Officers numbered 124 through 158 on the December Bridge Academy Q-Z Class List. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Bridge Hours

1. Brian Willard

Weymouth PD

At its last meeting, the Standards Subcommittee considered whether hours worked by Officer Brian Willard as a special police officer for Weymouth PD should be credited toward the Bridge Training Program. Officer Willard is currently assigned to Weymouth PD's Natural Resource Division as a Natural Resource Officer under the command of the Special Operations Division. One of his duties as a Natural Resource Officer is Animal Control. After hearing from Weymouth

PD Chief Richard Fuller regarding Officer Willard's duties and responsibilities, the Subcommittee voted unanimously at its last meeting to recommend to the full Committee that Officer Willard's work hours be credited. Jim O'Brien noted that Officer Willard was only on the Subcommittee's agenda again today as a reminder that the matter would be before the full Committee today.

V. UPDATES ON DISCIPLINARY DISMISSAL APPEALS

Jim O'Brien reported that he is trying to schedule hearing dates for three student officers dismissed from the Holyoke Academy in connection with the test integrity issue and has been in touch with their attorneys. The Subcommittee members present expressed a preference for scheduling the hearings on a meeting date.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:55 a.m., a motion was made by Chief Conley and seconded by Major Provost to adjourn the Standards Subcommittee meeting. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.