

Municipal Police Training Committee
Standards Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting
May 17, 2022

Call to Order

At 10:02 AM, Chief Kyes called the Standards Subcommittee meeting to order.

Subcommittee Members Present

Chief Brian Kyes, Chief Thomas O'Donnell, Superintendent Richard Sullivan, Sheriff Kevin Coppinger and Major Dan McGinn.

MPTC Staff Present

ED Ferullo, Denise Flagg, Andrea Nardone, Lara Thomas, John Melander, Jim O'Brien and Sheila Gallagher.

Guests

Malav Patel, Elsie Sanon, Yessina Gomez, Captain Gianino, Sgt. Lavita, and Felisha Arnold

Approval of the Minutes

Superintendent Sullivan made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2022, Standards Subcommittee meeting with a correction noting that Officer Joe Vieira was not present at that meeting. Chief O'Donnell seconded the motion, and a roll call was taken.

Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Richard Sullivan	Aye
Officer Joe Vieira	Abstain

Vote could not be taken because there was not a majority.

Officer Vieira made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2022, Standards Subcommittee meeting. Chief O'Donnell seconded the motion, and a roll call was taken.

Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Richard Sullivan	Aye
Officer Joe Vieira	Aye

The motion passes.

Police Standards and Training

Temporary Waiver

1. Richard Santuosusso

Rockport Police Department

- Training: Graduated from MLETA Basic Reserve Academy in Topsfield on January 30, 2020.
- Work Experience as a law enforcement officer:
 - **November 2020- Present**: He has worked as a reserve officer for the Rockport Police Department.
- CPR/1st Responder Certified: Yes
- Firearms Certified: Yes
- Expected Academy: He plans to attend the next Lynnfield Police Academy.

2. Robert Slepoy

Salisbury Police Department

- Training: Graduated from MLETA Basic Reserve Academy in Topsfield on June 7, 2016
- Work Experience as a law enforcement officer:
 - **December 2017- Present**: He has worked as a reserve officer for the Salisbury Police Department.
- CPR/1st Responder Certified: Yes, and he is EMT
- Firearms Certified: Yes
- Expected Academy: He plans to attend the Lynnfield Police Academy in November 2022.

3. Alex Lavigne

Hadley Police Department

- Training: Graduated from the Western Massachusetts Basic Reserve Police Academy on January 25, 2020.
- Work Experience as a law enforcement officer:
 - **June 2020- October 2020**: He has worked approximately forty (40) hours as a reserve officer for the Belchertown Police Department.
 - **June 2021- Present**: He has worked thirty (30) – forty (40) hours a week as a reserve officer for the Hadley Police Department.
- CPR/1st Responder Certified: Yes
- Firearms Certified: Yes
- Expected Academy: He plans to attend the next Western Massachusetts Police Academy.

Chief Kyes made a notation that anyone seeking a waiver should not be using a reserve officer to work forty (40) hours a week until the Committee grants the waiver.

Officer Vieira made a motion to make a favorable recommendation to approve all three (3) temporary waivers for Santuosusso, Slepoy and Lavigne. Superintendent Sullivan seconded the motion and a roll call was taken

Chief Brian Kyes	Yes
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Yes
Superintendent Richard Sullivan	Not present for the Vote
Officer Joe Vieira	Yes
Sheriff Kevin Coppinger	Yes

The motion passes.

Bridge Eligibility

The Middlesex Sheriff's Office is requesting that that the Committee consider the Sheriff's Hybrid Academy equivalent to the MPTC approved 120-hour reserve academy. Chief Kyes relayed information that he received from Sheriff Coppinger. In the mid-2000s, Sheriff DePaula developed a hybrid academy which included half the Corrections Academy and additional hours that covered the Reserve Academy. Anyone who attended this academy received training from MPTC certified instructors and were appointed as Deputy Sheriffs after graduating from this Academy.

The MPTC does not have internal documentation indicating that this hybrid academy was approved. Chief Kyes mentioned that the Standards Subcommittee wants to be mindful of the decision that it makes. All Standards Subcommittee members agreed that it should hold off on making a decision until it received more information.

Sergeant LaVita said that the academy he attended was nineteen (19) weeks long. Chief Kyes asked a few questions about the program. After further discussion, Chief Kyes suggested that the Standards Subcommittee table voting on this request until the Standards Subcommittee receives more information.

1. Jason Lavita

Middlesex Sheriff's Office

- Training: Graduated from the 532- hour Middlesex Sheriff's Office Training Academy on December 17, 2004.
- **NOTE: Sgt. LaVita was appointed as a deputy sheriff December 17, 2004.**
- Courses Included: The courses taught at the 31st Middlesex Sheriff's Office BTO were taught by MSO officers as well as MPTC-qualified instructors from the North East Regional Police Institute (NERPI). **law, Body Searches, 1st, 4th and 8th Amendments, Communication Skills, Constitutional Law, Defensive Tactics, Ethics and**

Professionalism, Defensive Driving (See attached curriculum from 31st Basic Training Class)

- Work Experience as a law enforcement officer:
 - **January 2005 to October 2012:** Worked at the Billerica House of Correction and the Cambridge Jail for the Middlesex Sheriff's Office.
 - **October 2012 to September 2017:** Supervise and transports inmates to and from scheduled court appearances for the Middlesex Sheriff's Office.
 - **September 2017 to April 2018:** Worked as a Training Academy Instructor to train new recruits and assists with defensive tactics for the Middlesex Sheriff's Office.
 - **April 2018 to the Present:** Works a Training Academy Sergeant for the Middlesex Sheriff's Office.
 - May 2013- to Present: NEMLEC SWAT operator and sniper
- Additional Trainings: Sig Armorer Certification, Firearms Instructor
- Break-in-Service: None
- SSPO: Not Applicable
- CPR/1st Responder Certified: Yes, but needs to take the recertification for this year.
- Firearms Certified: Yes
- Issue: Whether Deputy Sheriff's total training from the Sheriff's Academy and additional trainings qualify for eligibility into the Bridge Academy?

Officer Vieira made a motion to table the request for Bridge Eligibility. Superintendent Sullivan Vieira seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken.

A roll call was taken	
Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Richard Sullivan	Aye
Officer Joe Vieira	Aye

The motion passes.

2. Reynaldo Rodriguez

Quinsigamond College

- Training: Graduated from the August 4, 1995, Campus Police Officers Academy at New Braintree.
 - **40 Hour MPTC Firearms Training**
- Work Experience as a law enforcement officer:
 - **June 1994 to November 2006:** Worked at Worcester State College.
 - **November 2006 to the Present:** Works for Quinsigamond Community College and has elevated through the ranks from Lieutenant to Deputy Chief of Police

Administration.

- Additional Information: He serves as the MPAC Accreditation Manager, Internal Affairs Investigator, Records Manager and oversees detective and community outreach program.
- Additional Trainings: MPTC certified instructors in Who We Are, Report Writing, Problem Solving, Communications Skill, Interview and Interrogation, Hate Crimes, Juveniles Gangs, Controlled Substances, Fair and Impartial Policing, ICAT Train-the-Trainer.
- Break-in-Service: None
- SSPO: Yes, expires on January 25, 2025
- CPR/1st Responder Certified: Yes
- Firearms Certified: Yes
- Issue: The Campus Police Academy is not the same as the SSPO New Braintree Academies. Is his training adequate or does he need to attend a Bridge Academy?

Chief Kyes explained that officers who graduated from the 19-week SSPO Academy in New Braintree were exempt from attending a full-time academy. The Committee made this decision after comparing the curriculum from that series of SSPO academies to a full-time, municipal police academy. Additionally, the officers attending the specified SSPO academies were in the same class as municipal officers. Deputy Chief Rodriguez graduated from a non-SSPO academy for campus police officers and he is requesting that the Committee consider his training program equivalent to the SSPO Academy.

Chief O'Donnell and Superintendent Sullivan agreed with Chief Kyes and stated that it is not the location that is relevant but rather the program the Deputy Chief had attended. The curriculum which was provided does not appear to be comparable to the training offered to the officers who attended the SSPO academy. The Standards Subcommittee needed more information before making a decision on this request.

Chief O'Donnell made a motion to tablet the request to be exempt from the MPTC Bridge Academy. Officer Vieira seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken.

Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Richard Sullivan	Aye
Officer Joe Vieira	Aye

The motion passes.

Break-In-Service

This request was handled as an advisory letter and was not heard by the Standards Subcommittee Meeting. He attended a full-time academy in Massachusetts and then proceeded to work in federal law enforcement for a number of years. John Mazza does not currently have a job with a municipal police department and therefore it would be premature to request the Standard Subcommittee to make a determination without a sponsor.

3. John Mazza

- Training: Graduated from MCJTC Basic Reserve Academy in Agawam on February 4, 1988, and he also graduated from MCJTC Full-Time Police Training Academy in Agawam on December 29, 1989. He also graduated from the US Homeland Security Special Agent Training Course on December 22, 2000, and the US Homeland Security Criminal Investigator's Course on October 4, 2000.
- Work Experience as a law enforcement officer:
 - **1989 to 2000**: Worked as a police officer for the Southwick Police Department.
 - **2000-2005**: Worked as a Special Agent in the Boston Field Office, where he led criminal investigations and worked with local law enforcement including Boston Police to prepare for the Democratic National Convention.
 - **2005 to 2010** – Worked as a Special Agent, Vice Presidential Protective Division and Dignitary Protective Division.
 - **2010 to 2013** – Worked as a Secret Service Special Agent for National Identity Theft Coordinator and Criminal Investigations Division, Region Agent Section Program Manager.
 - **2014 to 2018** – Worked as Senior Special Agent for Boston Field Office who is responsible for mentoring and developing new agents and leading complex criminal investigations.
 - **2018 to Present** – Works as Senior Special Agent, Head of Springfield, MA Office of the US Secret Service, responsible for Western MA and portions of Central MA. Responsible for the management of all investigative, protective, and administrative matters, and the prioritization of Secret Service duties.
- Break-in-Service: Yes
- SSPO: Not Applicable
- CPR/1st Responder Certified: Yes
- Firearms Certified: Yes
- Issue: Whether his work experience as a Secret Service Officer qualifies as a break-in-service and if so, what alternative training program would the Committee recommend pursuant to 3.04.

Bridge Exemption List

Captain Gianino was removed from this list since he is also a graduate of the 31st MSO Academy and is similarly situated to Sergeant LaVita.

Officer Vieira made a motion to make a favorable recommendation to approve the Bridge Exemption List with the exception of Captain Gianino. Superintendent Sullivan seconded the motion and a roll call was taken

Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Richard Sullivan	Aye
Officer Joe Vieira	Aye

The motion passes.

At 11:07 AM Office Vieira made motion w to adjourn the Subcommittee meeting. Chief O'Donnell seconded the motion and a roll call was taken.

Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Richard Sullivan	Aye
Officer Joe Vieira	Aye

The motion passes.

The motion passes.