

Municipal Police Training Committee
Standards Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
MPTC Headquarters
September 27, 2022

Call to Order

At 9:07 AM, the Standards Subcommittee meeting was called to order.

Subcommittee Members Present

AAG Jennifer Cotter, Superintendent Richard Sullivan, Superintendent Nora Baston, Sheriff Kevin Coppinger, Major Steve McCarthy and Officer Joseph Vieira.

MPTC Staff Present

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

Guests

Scott Amati, Deputy Chief Rey Rodrigues, Chief Peter Buck, Officer Joseph Graham, Courtney Livingstone, and Chief Matthew Rushton.

Approval of the Minutes

Officer Vieira made a motion to approve the Standards Subcommittee Meeting minutes from the August 24, 2022, meeting. Sheriff Coppinger seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken.

AAG Jennifer Cotter	Yes
Superintendent Sullivan	Yes
Officer Joseph Vieira	Yes
Super Nora Baston	Yes
Sheriff Kevin Coppinger	Yes
Major Steven McCarthy	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Police Standards and Training

Temporary Waivers

1. Daniel McDonald

Groveland Police Department

- **Training:** Graduated from the Massachusetts Law Enforcement Training Alliance Basic Reserve Police Academy on February 11, 2021.
- **Work Experience as a law enforcement officer:**
 - **February 2021 to Present:** has worked as a reserve police officer for the Groveland Police Department. He worked patrols in a cruiser and dispatched.
- **Exigency:** The Groveland Police Department is facing serious staffing issues. Two

experienced officers retired in 2022 which has significant impact on the Department.

- SSPO: N/A
- CPR/1st Responder Certified: Yes
- Firearms Certified: Yes
- Anticipated Academy: Lynnfield Police Academy scheduled to begin on November 14, 2022.

Officer Vieira made a motion to approve the Temporary Waiver Request for Officer Daniel McDonald. Superintendent Baston seconded the motion, and a roll call was taken.

AAG Jennifer Cotter	Yes
Superintendent Sullivan	Yes
Officer Joseph Vieira	Yes
Super Nora Baston	Yes
Sheriff Kevin Coppinger	Yes
Major Steven McCarthy	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Out-of-State Exemptions

1. Tim Flaxington

Petersham Police Department

- Training: Graduated from the 696- hour Texas Police Academy on August 15, 2019.
- Work Experience as a law enforcement officer:
 - **August 2019- May 2020**: He worked as a police officer for the Brady Police Department in Brady, Texas.
 - **August 2020- April 2022**: He worked as a police officer for the Estelline Police Department in Estelline, Texas.
 - **May 2020- February 2022**: He worked as the Chief of Police for the Memphis Police Department in Memphis, Texas.
 - **February 2022- Present**: He worked as a patrol deputy sheriff for the Hall County Sheriff’s Office in Memphis, Texas. As a patrol deputy sheriff, he had full law enforcement duties.
- Break-in-Service: None
- POST Certified: Yes, previously in Texas
- CPR/1st Responder Certified: Yes
- Firearms Certified: Yes, will be certified next week in Massachusetts if the exemption is granted.

Sheriff Coppinger made a motion to approve the exemption request for Tim Flaxington. Superintendent Sullivan seconded the motion, and a roll call was taken.

AAG Jennifer Cotter	Yes
Superintendent Sullivan	Yes
Officer Joseph Vieira	Yes
Super Nora Baston	Yes
Sheriff Kevin Coppinger	Yes
Major Steven McCarthy	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Nicole Collins Wellesley College Police Department

- Training: Graduated from the 392-hour Tennessee Law Enforcement Police Training Academy on August 4, 2006.
- Work Experience as a law enforcement officer:
 - **August 2006 to June 2013**: She worked as a police sergeant for the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee. As a police sergeant, she performed law enforcement duties.
 - **June 2013 to March 2017**: She became an executive police captain for Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.
 - **March 2017 to July 2018**: Worked as an Assistant Vice President and Chief for the New York University in New York, New York.
 - **July 2018 to December 2019**: Worked as the police chief for East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tennessee.
 - **January 2020 to October 2020**: She moved to Greensboro, North Carolina to work as a police major for North Carolina A and T State University.
- Break-in-Service: Yes, approximately a 2-year break-in-service.
- SSPO Warrant:
- POST Certified: Yes, previously in Tennessee
- CPR/1st Responder Certified: Yes
- Firearms Certified: Yes, and she will become certified in accordance with MPTC regulations if the exemption is granted.

Superintendent Baston made a motion to approve the exemption request for Nicole Collins. Superintendent Sullivan seconded the motion, and a roll call was taken.

AAG Jennifer Cotter	Yes
Superintendent Sullivan	Yes
Officer Joseph Vieira	Yes
Super Nora Baston	Yes
Sheriff Kevin Coppinger	Yes
Major Steven McCarthy	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

AAG Cotter made an amended motion to approve the exemption request for Nicole Collins contingent upon her completing the requirements for the exemption as well as complete the legal updates, CPR, and firearms requirements to make up for the break-in service. Officer Vieira seconded the motion, and a roll call was taken.

AAG Jennifer Cotter	Yes
Superintendent Sullivan	Yes
Officer Joseph Vieira	Yes
Super Nora Baston	Yes
Sheriff Kevin Coppinger	Yes
Major Steven McCarthy	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Scott Amati **Massachusetts Environmental Police**

- Training: Graduated from the 960-hour Recruit Academy from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Division of Law Enforcement on March 22, 2002.
NOTE: The Environmental Police fell under the MPTC in 2010.
- Work Experience as a law enforcement officer:
 - **September 2002 -April 2005**: worked for Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Officer/Investigator. He enforced statues related to hunting, fishing, boating and domestic security.
 - **2005 to Present**: He began working for the Environmental Police Department and has elevated through the ranks. He is currently a Captain for the Environmental Police in Massachusetts.
- Break-in-Service: None
- SSPO: Not applicable
- CPR/1st Responder Certified: Yes
- Firearms Certified: Yes

Officer Vieira made a motion to approve the exemption request for Captain Scott Amati and he is exempt from taking the online exemption test. Major McCarthy seconded the motion, and a roll call was taken.

AAG Jennifer Cotter	Yes
Superintendent Sullivan	Yes
Officer Joseph Vieira	Yes
Super Nora Baston	Yes
Sheriff Kevin Coppinger	Yes
Major Steven McCarthy	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Requesting Attendance to Bridge Academy

Issue: Whether Katherine's out-of-state work hours would count towards the 2400- hour requirement needed for the Bridge?

4. Katherine Levy

Brandeis University Police Department

- Training: Graduated from the 682-hour Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy on July 10, 2020. She had hundreds of hours in additional training including 620 hours for Field Training. In total, her training record indicates she has over 1855 hours of training.
- Work Experience as a law enforcement officer:
 - **July 10, 2020 – May 9, 2022**: She worked as a police officer for Arlington County, Virginia.
- Break-in-Service: None
- POST Certified:
- CPR/1st Responder Certified: Yes
- Firearms Certified: Yes, and she will have to get certified in Massachusetts if she is allowed to enroll in the Bridge Academy.
- NOTE: Katherine Levy previously sought an exemption from the MPTC Committee in July 2022, and the Committee denied this request because she failed to fulfill the 2-year work requirement that is specified in our CMRs. Katherine would now like to enroll in the Bridge Academy

The Standards Subcommittee discussed whether Katherine Levy's out-of-state hours as a law enforcement officer would count towards the 2400-hour requirement needed to receive a Bridge Exemption. Since Katherine Levy was not working on July 1, 2021, in Massachusetts, she was not conditionally certified by POST. If the Standards Subcommittee allowed Katherine to enroll in Bridge, she would not be allowed to work until she completed the Bridge Academy.

AAG Cotter asked whether this would be an issue for the full Committee since it will have an impact on future candidates. The Standards Subcommittee discussed this issue further and decided that this request should be brought before the full Committee.

Officer Vieira made a motion to take no action and have the request to the full Committee. Major McCarthy seconded the motion, and a roll call was taken.

**AAG Jennifer Cotter
Superintendent Sullivan
Officer Joseph Vieira**

**Yes
Yes
Yes**

Super Nora Baston
Sheriff Kevin Coppinger
Major Steven McCarthy

Yes
Yes
Yes

Break-in-Service

5. John Bates

Dartmouth Police Department

- Training: Graduated from the Worcester National Guard Police Academy on May 1, 2015, and the United States Army Police Academy on July 25, 2013.
- Work Experience as a law enforcement officer:
 - **June 2016 to September 2017**: He was deployed on active duty at the Maarng Retention and Recruitment Battalion at Hanscom Air Force Base.
 - **November 2017 to October 2018**: He was deployed on active duty at the Maarng Retention and Recruitment Battalion in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
 - **April 2020 to June 2020**: He was deployed on state active duty in Taunton.
 - **October 2020 to October 2021**: He was deployed on active duty to Maarng Task Force Phoenix in McCallen, Texas.
 - **December 2021 to May 2022**: He was deployed on active duty at the Maarng for St Luke's Hospital in New Bedford.
- Break-in-Service: Yes, more than 5 years. He has never worked as a municipal police officer.
- SSPO: Not applicable
- CPR/1st Responder Certified: Yes
- Firearms Certified: Yes

The CMRs allow officers who graduate from an academy and are deployed on active duty to seek a waiver from the MPTC. John Bates did not seek a waiver while he was deployed.

Major McCarthy made a motion to deny the exemption request for John Bates Superintendent Sullivan seconded the motion, and a roll call was taken.

AAG Jennifer Cotter
Superintendent Sullivan
Officer Joseph Vieira
Super Nora Baston
Sheriff Kevin Coppinger
Major Steven McCarthy

Yes
Yes
Abstained from Vote
Yes
Yes
Yes

The motion passed with one (1) abstention.

Campus Police Academy #4

Deputy Rey Rodriguez and Officer Joseph Graham graduated from the Campus Police Academy #4 in 1995. The Campus Police Academy # 4 preceded the first SSPO Academy which was held in New Braintree in 1995. Both the state police and a cadre

of MPTC instructors ran the Campus Police Academy #4 and the SSPO Academy. The course curriculum for Campus Police Academy #4 and SSPO #1 Academy were almost identical. The Campus Police Academy was slightly longer than the SSPO Academy.

Officer Vieira made a motion to approve that the Campus Police Academy #4 was substantially equivalent to the SSPO #1 Academy. Sheriff Coppinger seconded the motion, and a roll call was taken.

AAG Jennifer Cotter	Yes
Superintendent Sullivan	Yes
Officer Joseph Vieira	Yes
Super Nora Baston	Yes
Sheriff Kevin Coppinger	Yes
Major Steven McCarthy	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Bridge Exemption List

Officer Vieira made a motion to make a favorable recommendation to approve the Bridge Exemption List numbers 488-520. Superintendent Sullivan seconded the motion, and a roll call was taken.

AAG Jennifer Cotter	Yes
Superintendent Sullivan	Yes
Officer Joseph Vieira	Yes
Super Nora Baston	Yes
Sheriff Kevin Coppinger	Yes
Major Steven McCarthy	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Animal Control Officers

The primary issue before the Standards Subcommittee was whether animal control officers for police departments perform the functions of a law enforcement officers. General Counsel Jim O'Brien explained that the recently, the MSCPA and Animal Rescue League of Boston were designated as law enforcement agencies under police reform. In the past, animal control officers were not considered to perform law enforcement duties. After much discussion, Officer Vieira asked that the Harwich and Beverly Police Departments provide additional documentation outlining duties and responsibilities of the animal control officers within their departments.

Officer Vieira made a motion to table a vote for both requests regarding the duties that animal control officers perform until additional documentation is provided to vet the duties they perform. Superintendent Sullivan seconded the motion, and a

roll call was taken.

AAG Jennifer Cotter	Yes
Superintendent Sullivan	Yes
Officer Joseph Vieira	Yes
Super Nora Baston	Yes
Sheriff Kevin Coppinger	Yes
Major Steven McCarthy	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Hampden County Sheriff's Office

No one was present from Hampden County Sheriff-s Office to address the dual titles of three of their deputy sheriffs who graduated from the Bridge Academy and were seeking an exemption. The Committee took no action and tabled this issue.

At 11:09 AM, Sheriff Coppinger made a motion to adjourn the Subcommittee meeting. The motion Officer Vieira seconded the motion, and a roll call was taken.

AAG Jennifer Cotter	Yes
Superintendent Sullivan	Yes
Officer Joseph Vieira	Yes
Super Nora Baston	Yes
Sheriff Kevin Coppinger	Yes
Major Steven McCarthy	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.