

Municipal Police Training Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2021

Call to Order

Chief James Hicks called the monthly meeting of the Municipal Police Training Committee to order at 10:14 AM. Chief Hicks welcomed the Committee members and guests. This was an in-person meeting and it was recorded. The broadcast over Zoom was shut down because third-parties gained unauthorized access to the screen and were displaying inappropriate content.

ED Ferullo introduced POSTC Executive Director Enrique Zuniga and POSTC General Counsel Randall Ravitz to the Committee.

Attendees: Voting Members

John Melander for Secretary Terrence Reidy	Present
Chief Jim Hicks	Present
AAG Jim O'Brien	Present
Chief Frank Frederickson	Present
Chief Jennifer Gundersen	Present
Chief Brian Kyes	Absent
Chief Kelly Nee	Absent
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Present
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Absent
Superintendent Richard Sullivan	Absent
Sheriff Kevin Coppinger	Absent
Sheriff Chris Donelan	Present
Sgt. Det. Lanita Cullinane	Absent
Officer Joseph Vieira	Present
Maj. Dan McGinn	Present

MPTC Staff

ED Robert Ferullo, Sheila Gallagher, Andrea Nardone, Shane Rodriguez, Dori-Ann Ference, Denise Flagg, Lia Avelino Ford, Tanya Hardiman, Ariel Perez, and Lara Thomas.

Guests

Joseph Cecchi, Steven DeMarco, Randall Ravitz, Jeffrey T. Scott, Andrew Turco, and Enrique Zuniga.

Review/Approval of Minutes

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2021 Committee meeting. The motion was seconded and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Police Standards and Training

Temporary Waivers and Permanent Exemptions

The Standards Subcommittee did not meet this morning for lack of a quorum. Discussion and voting on temporary waiver and permanent exemption requests was postponed until the December meeting so that the Committee would have the benefit of the input and recommendation of the Standards Subcommittee.

There was discussion about the need for a streamlined procedure for the permanent exemption requests because there is expected to be a significant increase in the number of these requests from Bridge Academy graduates. Going forward, a checklist of the requirements for each request will be provided to all members of the Committee in advance of the meeting. The Standards Subcommittee will continue to evaluate and consider each request, but the Committee will consider the requests as a block, unless a Committee member identifies one that should be discussed and considered individually. Under the current guidelines, the Standards Subcommittee can continue to meet virtually.

ED Ferullo has been working with Major McGinn on the issue of permanent exemptions for SSPOs. The State Police certification unit will provide the MPTC with two lists of SSPOs. The first list will be SSPOs that would have met MPTC standards for a permanent exemption at the time they obtained their SSPO warrant. These individuals will be brought before the Committee as a block seeking permanent exemptions. The second list will be SSPOs that have reserve academy training who will be required to attend the Bridge Academy.

Disciplinary Appeals

There was one instructor certification revocation hearing held since the last Committee meeting. The decision of the Standards Subcommittee has not yet been rendered.

Executive Director's Report

Recruit Officer Training Update

Boston: In session with 90 student officers with an expected graduation date of January 7, 2022.

Boylston: Next start date is December 6, 2021 with a tentative graduation date of May 17,

2022. The class has 43 student officers with 5 available seats.

Cambridge/Northeastern: Next start date: January 17, 2022, with 40-50 student officers.

Cape Cod: Next start date: January 3, 2022.

FSU: Next start date: May 16, 2022.

Lowell: Next start date: May 2, 2022, with 55 available seats.

MBTA: Next start date: February 7, 2022.

Merrimack: In session with 22 student officers with a tentative graduation date of May 2022.

NECC: In session with 35 student officers with a tentative graduation date of November 19, 2021. Next start date: January 10, 2022, with 48 student officers.

Plymouth: In session with 54 student officers with a tentative graduation date of February 18, 2022. Next start date: April 4, 2022, with 48 student officers.

Quinsigamond – In session with 13 student officers with a tentative graduation date of May 2022. Next start date: September 12, 2022.

Randolph: In session with 48 student officers with a tentative graduation date of April 4, 2022. Another class is expected to begin in Randolph on January 17, 2022.

Reading: Next start dates: January 17, 2022, and June 20, 2022.

Springfield: Next start date: January 10, 2022.

SPMA: RTT is scheduled to begin in Spring 2022.

Western Mass: In session with 49 student officers with a tentative graduation date of April 8, 2022. Next start date: June 6, 2022.

Worcester: Next start date: April 2022, with 28 student officers.

Merrimack will provide the Committee with a presentation on the status of its pilot program at the January meeting. Academy Director Joseph Cecchi provided a brief update on the Quinsigamond pilot program. The Academy started with 23 students and is now at 13 students. AD Cecchi indicated that most of the individuals that dropped out were finding it difficult to balance their personal and work responsibilities with the requirements of the academy. He indicated many of the individuals indicated to him that they intended to return next year to the academy.

Staffing Update

Chief Hicks announced that Jim O'Brien will be joining the MPTC as its General Counsel and Chief of Staff effective December 6, 2021.

The MPTC separated 143 instructors as of November 16, 2021, as a result of the Governor's vaccine mandate. There are an additional 59 individuals who are working through the process with HRD and we could lose as many as 40 more instructors from this group. There were no losses to the MPTC full-time staff.

The MPTC statewide coordinator positions for MILO Force Control Simulator Training, Defensive Tactics, and Speed Management/ Standardized Field Sobriety Testing are now vacant.

Facilities Update

Lynnfield project – This facility will replace the Reading Academy and will be able to accommodate two 60-person academies simultaneously. There is also space that will be focused on conducting practice for the Coopers standards.

Southbridge project – This will be a specialized training facility and will support the Boylston Academy. The facility will be occupiable by January 1, 2022, and will support defensive tactics and other academic classroom classes and will allow for other EOPPS agency trainings.

Milford conference facility – this facility will provide classroom space and will be shared with other state agencies.

Smith and Wesson training facility – ED Ferullo is working toward finalizing a shared lease with Springfield Police Department for firing ranges at this facility which would give the MPTC night and weekend access to the ranges.

Cape Cod – ED Ferullo is evaluating the possibility of establishing an MPTC police academy on Cape Cod.

DCAMM has assigned a project manager to the MPTC for purposes of investigating and studying the benefits and costs of consolidating the police academies into a single, full time training institution with full time instructional staff.

Old Business

Discussion of Unique Law Enforcement Agencies

There are several agencies that have officers that are reserve trained and are required to be trained by the MPTC to be certified but are not agencies that the MPTC is

required to train. This is likely a topic that will need to be addressed by a joint working group between the MPTC and POSTC. A list of these agencies will be generated for the December meeting.

Constables have contacted both the MPTC and POSTC asking for written confirmation to be provided to law enforcement agencies about what the police reform legislation did and did not do to the powers of constables.

Police Reform

The MPTC and POSTC are working together to establish minimum certification standards for law enforcement officers as required by the police reform legislation. The standards must be applied to any officers who graduate from the academy after December 1, 2021. The working group provided a draft of the standards and a draft attestation that a hiring agency could submit to the MPTC and POSTC that would satisfy most of the minimum standards required by the legislation.

There are 150 agencies that have officers in academies right now that will graduate after December 1, 2021. There will have to be a system established to confirm that these officers meet the minimum certification standards. The goal will be to confirm the minimum certification requirements are met prior to admission to a police academy in the future. The Committee reviewed the draft standards and attestation. POSTC will be reviewing the document and voting on it on Monday. Committee members will be provided with an electronic copy of the document to review and can provide any comments to Andrea Nardone. It is expected that a special meeting will be held to discuss and vote on the final drafts of these documents before the December meeting.

There was also discussion about the need to coordinate with POSTC on a process for certification of officers upon graduation from the academy.

Bridge Academy

398 officers are currently enrolled. By the end of the week there will have been 3 sessions of EVOC training, 3 sessions of firearms training, and 1 session of DT completed. 25 tests have been administered to 14 different officers. There are 6 officers on track to be completed by early December.

April 1, 2021, is the deadline for enrollment into the Bridge Academy A-H.

Open Discussion

Body cameras have been purchased to be used in academy training.

After December 1, 2021, any officers who receive a permanent exemption will have to be certified by POSTC. There will need to be a process established by which POSTC is notified of permanent exemptions that are granted.

New Business

No items were discussed.

Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:13 PM.