

Municipal Police Training Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting

April 21, 2021

Call to Order

At 10:05 AM, Chief Jim Hicks called the monthly meeting of the Municipal Police Training Committee to order. This was a virtual meeting which will be recorded. A roll call was taken for attendance.

Attendees: Voting Members

U/S Terrence Reidy	Present
Chief Jim Hicks	Present
AAG Jim O'Brien	Present
Chief Michael Botieri	Present
Chief Brian Kyes	Present
Chief Scott Livingstone	Present
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Present
Superintendent Richard Sullivan	Absent
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Present
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Present
Major Dan McGinn	Present

MPTC Staff

ED Robert Ferullo, John Melander, Angela Davis, Sheila Gallagher, Andrea Nardone, Shane Rodriguez, Laura Boback, Mary DeFrancesco, Kevin Donnelly, Denise Flagg, Eileen Goodick, Maura Landry, Andrew Lyczmanenko, Noshee Mahmood, Steve Mullaney, Laura Nichols, Ariel Perez, Rose Sauvageau, Alison Taylor, Lara Thomas, Christopher Walsh, and Joseph Witkowski.

Guests

Joseph Cecchi, Marissa Eastwood, Tom Flynn, Ronald Fiset, Thomas Glynn, Lt. James Graham, Jay Green, Chad Hunter, Jeff, Chief Scott Kelley, Jeff McCue, Jerry O'Rourke, Peter Roddy, Jeffrey Scott, Donald Scranton, William Sharpe, Steve Taranto, and Thomas Zarelli.

Chief Hicks informed the audience that the MPTC intends to enter Executive Session pursuant to MGL c. 30A, sec § 21(a)(3), at the end of the regular agenda and will not be coming back into regular session.

Review/Approval of Minutes

AAG O'Brien made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 17, 2021, meeting with minor edits. Chief O'Donnell seconded the motion and a roll call was taken.

U/S Terrence Reidy	Aye
Chief Jim Hicks	Aye
AAG Jim O'Brien	Aye
Chief Michael Botieri	Aye
Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Scott Livingstone	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Not present for the vote
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

Police Standards and Training

Temporary Waivers

The Committee reviewed four (4) temporary waiver requests.

Brandon Bryant	Erving
Juan Mira	Rockport
Michael Renton	West Stockbridge
Emmanuel Terrero	West Newbury

The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve all four (4) temporary waivers.

Chief Livingstone made a motion to approve all four (4) of the temporary waivers. Undersecretary Reidy seconded the motion and a roll call was taken.

U/S Terrence Reidy	Aye
Chief Jim Hicks	Aye
AAG Jim O'Brien	Aye
Chief Michael Botieri	Aye
Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Scott Livingstone	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye

Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

Permanent Exemptions

The Committee considered six (6) requests for permanent exemptions.

Louis Copponi

UMass Worcester

Chief Pierce is requesting a permanent exemption for Louis Copponi to work as a police officer for the University of Massachusetts Worcester Police Department. Officer Copponi graduated from the New Hampshire Police Academy on June 25, 1982. After graduation, Officer Copponi began working as a patrol officer for the Manchester, New Hampshire Police Department. In 1984, he became employed by the New Hampshire State Police, where he remained employed until 2014. As a New Hampshire state trooper, Mr. Copponi completed extensive, specialized trainings and was promoted to Sergeant in 2008. In 2014, Mr. Copponi pursued an opportunity to work as a police officer for the Boston University Police Department. He is certified in CPR/1st responder and is certified in firearms in accordance with MPTC regulations and has completed his in-service requirements for training year 2021.

The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve the permanent exemption for Louis Copponi.

Chief O'Donnell made a motion to approve the permanent exemption for Louis Copponi. Sgt. Vieira seconded the motion and a roll call was taken.

U/S Terrence Reidy	Aye
Chief Jim Hicks	Aye
AAG Jim O'Brien	Aye
Chief Michael Botieri	Aye
Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Scott Livingstone	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

Robert Flaherty

Lynn, PD

The Lynn Police Department is requesting a permanent exemption for Officer Robert Flaherty. Officer Flaherty graduated from the 680-hour Hampton Roads Criminal Justice Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy in Virginia on May 29, 2015. After graduation, Officer Flaherty began working as a patrol officer for the Portsmouth, Virginia Police Department where he is still currently employed. Officer Flaherty has completed numerous specialized trainings. He is certified in CPR/1st responder and is certified in firearms in accordance with MPTC regulations.

The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve the permanent exemption for Robert Flaherty.

Chief Kyes made a motion to approve the permanent exemption for Robert Flaherty. Sgt. Vieira seconded the motion and a roll call was taken.

U/S Terrence Reidy	Aye
Chief Jim Hicks	Aye
AAG Jim O'Brien	Aye
Chief Michael Botieri	Aye
Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Scott Livingstone	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

Matthew Eagleston

Sturbridge PD

Chief Dessert is requesting a permanent exemption for Matthew Eagleston to work as a police officer for the Sturbridge Police Department. Officer Eagleston graduated from a 600-hour full-time police academy in Connecticut on November 3, 2001. After graduating from the academy, he began working as a trooper for the Connecticut State Police where he remains employed. He is CPR/1st responder certified and he became certified in firearms in accordance with MPTC regulations on April 12, 2021.

The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve the permanent exemption for Matthew Eagleston.

Undersecretary Reidy made a motion to approve the permanent exemption for Matthew Eagleston. Chief O'Donnell seconded the motion and a roll call was taken.

U/S Terrence Reidy	Aye
--------------------	-----

Chief Jim Hicks	Aye
AAG Jim O'Brien	Aye
Chief Michael Botieri	Aye
Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Scott Livingstone	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

Scott Kelley

Adams PD

The town of Adams is requesting a permanent exemption for Scott Kelley to work as the Police Chief. Chief Kelly has over twenty-five (25) years of law enforcement experience. Chief Kelly graduated from the 339-hour South Carolina Criminal Justice Training Academy on October 20, 1995. After graduation he began working as a patrol officer for the Iva Police Department in South Carolina. In 1998, he joined the Anderson, South Carolina Police Department where he served in many capacities, including patrol officer, sergeant, and senior investigator until 2013. Chief Kelley became employed with Folly Beach, South Carolina, Police Department in 2013, and was promoted to Lieutenant/Command for Daily Operations. In 2017, Chief Kelley was appointed Chief of Police for Spartanburg Community College where he carries a firearm and exercises full police powers. Apart from Chief Kelley's extensive work history, he has completed over 2300 hours in specialized trainings and holds active certifications as a Field Training Officer, a Firearms Instructor, and Training Manager Developer. He is CPR/1st Responder certified and is certified in firearms in accordance with MPTC regulations.

The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve the permanent exemption for Scott Kelley.

Chief Livingstone made a motion to approve the permanent exemption for Scott Kelley. Undersecretary Reidy seconded the motion and a roll call was taken.

U/S Terrence Reidy	Aye
Chief Jim Hicks	Aye
AAG Jim O'Brien	Aye
Chief Michael Botieri	Aye
Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Scott Livingstone	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye

Sergeant Joseph Vieira
Major Dan McGinn

Aye
Aye

The motion passes.

Lucas Miller

Salem PD

Mayor Kim Driscoll is requesting a permanent exemption for Lucas Miller to assume the position of Chief of Police for the Salem Police Department. Chief Miller started his law enforcement career in 1988 as a police officer in the town of Wellfleet, Massachusetts. He graduated from the New York City Police Department in 1999 and has held various positions within NYPD including Community Police Officer, Narcotics Unit, Patrol Supervisor, Homicide Unit Supervisor, FBI NYPD Joint Terrorism Task Force, Intelligence Unit and Detective Squad Commander. He retired in 2021 with the Rank of Detective Lieutenant. Chief Miller is a graduate of the FBI National Academy Session #271, he holds Top Secret Clearance, and teaches at the NYPD Police Academy. Chief Miller is qualified in CPR/1st responder and Firearms to NYPD standards and will qualify pursuant to MPTC regulations upon his relocation.

The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve the permanent exemption for Luca Miller.

Chief O'Donnell made a motion to approve the permanent exemption for Lucas Miller. Chief Kyes seconded the motion and a roll call was taken.

U/S Terrence Reidy	Aye
Chief Jim Hicks	Aye
AAG Jim O'Brien	Aye
Chief Michael Botieri	Aye
Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Scott Livingstone	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

Nicholas Tessier

West Brookfield PD

Chief O'Donnell is requesting a permanent exemption for Officer Nicholas Tessier. Officer Tessier graduated from the Central Massachusetts Reserve Intermittent Police Academy in 2015, and the 29th Special State Police Academy on July 27, 2018. He has worked as a full-time campus police officer for Worcester State University, where he carries a firearm, has arrest powers, and works in conjunction with the Worcester Police

Department. He has been working as part-time police officer for the West Brookfield Police Department since June 2020, where he is involved in routine patrols. Officer Tessier has completed numerous specialized trainings and is certified as a sexual assault investigator. He is certified in CPR/1st responder and qualified in firearms in accordance with MPTC regulations.

The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve the permanent exemption for Nicholas Tessier.

Sgt. Vieira made a motion to approve the permanent exemption for Nicholas Tessier. Chief Livingstone seconded the motion and a roll call was taken.

U/S Terrence Reidy	Aye
Chief Jim Hicks	Aye
AAG Jim O'Brien	Aye
Chief Michael Botieri	Aye
Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Scott Livingstone	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

Chief Bezio of the Ashfield Police withdrew the request for a permanent exemption for Michael Gralenski prior to the full committee meeting.

Disciplinary Appeals Hearings

There was one (1) discipline appeal hearing that was held on April 20, 2021. A decision will be sent out and an update will be provided next month.

Open Discussion

No items discussed.

Executive Director's Report

Recruit Officer Training Update

The MPTC adopted a policy regarding academy attendance and COVID-19 vaccinations. The policy applies to any academy that starts after April 1, 2021. Under

this policy, if a student officer is vaccinated and is absent due to COVID, those absences would be considered excused. If a student officer chooses not to be vaccinated and has absences related to COVID, those absences will be considered unexcused. This policy is in-line with other training agencies across the state.

The MPTC tracks vaccinations weekly. With increased vaccinations, the MPTC is starting to ease restrictions and increase class size. The MPTC continues to follow CDC and DPH guidelines.

Boston: The current class of ninety-seven (97) students is scheduled to graduate on June 10, 2021. The next class is scheduled to begin on June 28, 2021, with 110 student officers.

Boylston: The next class starts on April 26, 2021, with forty-six (46) students. The following class is scheduled to begin on December 6, 2021, with forty-eight (48) seats.

Cambridge/Northeastern: The current class has twenty-two (22) students. The next class is scheduled for January 2022.

Cape Cod: The current class has forty-three (43) students. Graduation is scheduled for May 27, 2021.

FSU: The next class is scheduled to begin on May 17, 2021, with twenty-two (22) students.

Lowell: The next class is scheduled to begin on June 7, 2021.

MBTA: no update

Merrimack: The next class is scheduled to begin on August 30, 2021, with twenty-five (25) students.

NECC: The most recent class graduated on April 16, 2021. The next class is scheduled to begin June 7, 2021.

Plymouth: The current class has thirty-seven (37) students. Graduation is scheduled for July 23, 2021. The next class is scheduled to begin on September 20, 2021, with forty-six (46) seats.

Randolph: There are two (2) classes currently running. The next class is scheduled to begin on November 21, 2021.

Reading: The next class is scheduled to begin May 10, 2021, with twenty-four (24) students. This class will be run by acting interim director Michael Grady.

Springfield: The most recent class graduated on April 2, 2021. The next class is

anticipated in the fall.

State Police: A RTT is scheduled to begin on May 24, 2021. There are currently no plans for a SPMA academy.

Western Mass: The current class has sixteen (16) students. Graduation is scheduled for August 20, 2021. The next class is scheduled to begin on October 25, 2021.

Worcester: The current class has twenty-five (25) students. Graduation is scheduled for July 9, 2021.

Facilities Update

The MPTC continues to work on projects to replace the facilities in the eastern and western parts of the state. ED Ferullo will provide updates to the Committee before any decisions are made on those projects.

The MPTC is also looking for a central training facility to conduct Cooper standards tests as well as temporary training space in Southbridge to support short term training needs related to police reform. Updates on these projects will be provided in the coming months.

The MPTC is working with DCAMM to start the study required by recent legislation regarding the feasibility of consolidating the police academies.

Staffing update

ED Ferullo introduced new members of the MPTC staff. Ariel Perez is the Chief Fiscal Officer. Laura Boback, Andrew Lyczmanenko, and Noshee Mahmood have joined the Acadis team as records analysts. The MPTC intends to utilize staff to proactively reach out to departments and confirm that the training records in Acadis are up-to-date.

New Business

Specialized Training

The MPTC is currently focusing on Fair and Impartial Policing and another diversity-based program called “Bubbles and Bridges” between now and October. These programs can be delivered in a COVID-safe environment if there is another surge.

The MPTC anticipates conducting specialize training beginning in October and is working on the curriculum for a detective training class. When the MPTC starts up in-person specialized training again in October, the goal is to bring each training to various parts of the state so that a consistent training product is available throughout the Commonwealth. Eight (8) additional sexual assault investigator trainings have been added to the calendar between now and the end of the calendar year with more to be added in calendar year 2022, to keep up with demand.

OLD BUSINESS

Police Reform

The members of the POST Commission have been named since the last meeting. Chief Hicks and EOPSS have been in touch with some of the members. Chief Hicks may ask the Committee to schedule additional, subject specific meetings before the police reform legislation takes effect on July 1, 2021.

Use of Force Regulations

Draft regulations and model policy are under review by EOPSS. The Standards Subcommittee will review the drafts before presenting to the full Committee.

Working Groups

Several working groups have been formed to deal with different aspects of police reform. The working groups are expected to meet before next month's meeting. The leads for each group will provide updates to the Committee when appropriate.

Bridge Academy

ED Ferullo expects to provide a framework for the Committee to review next month. The goal is to provide a 200-hour academy, including 120 hours of practical skills training and eighty (80) hours of on-line course work with a test that the student must pass to graduate. The MPTC is considering several options, including having a la carte options and making options available throughout the state. ED Ferullo indicated there will need to be cooperation with the various departments so that trainings have adequate attendance. It will not be fiscally possible to conduct training that do not have minimum attendance requirements.

It may become necessary to consider alternatives to Fort Devens for firearm trainings. Fort Devens now requires municipalities to obtain \$2 million liability insurance policies with Fort Devens listed as a recipient on the policy. ED Ferullo has begun looking for alternative structures.

ED Ferullo had productive meetings with the sheriffs and with the constables. Sheriff Nicholas Cocchi will take the lead on data collection for the sheriffs and will work with the Acadis team.

Instructor Code of Conduct

The Subcommittee reviewed the draft Code of Conduct. The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve the Code of Conduct with two (2) modifications. First, adding language that there is appeal process for an instructor whose certification has been suspected or revoked by the Massachusetts Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission. Second, to make minor language changes to make the code of conduct applicable to all MPTC instructors.

AAG O'Brien made a motion to approve the proposed Instructor Code of Conduct with those two (2) modifications. Chief Botieri seconded the motion and a roll call was taken.

U/S Terrence Reidy	Aye
Chief Jim Hicks	Aye
AAG Jim O'Brien	Aye
Chief Michael Botieri	Aye
Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Scott Livingstone	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

Executive Session

Chief Hicks informed the audience that the MPTC intends to enter Executive Session pursuant to MGL c. 30A, sec § 21(a)(3) and will not be coming back into open session.

Chief Botieri made a motion to enter executive session. Chief O'Donnell seconded the motion and a roll call was taken.

U/S Terrence Reidy	Aye
Chief Jim Hicks	Aye
AAG Jim O'Brien	Aye
Chief Michael Botieri	Aye
Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Scott Livingstone	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

The Committee entered an Executive Session at 11:30AM.