

**Municipal Police Training Committee**  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**Zoom Meeting**

**May 19, 2021**

**Call to Order**

At 10:02 AM, Chief Hicks called the monthly meeting of the Municipal Police Training Committee to order. This was a virtual meeting which was 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	Absent
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Present
Superintendent Richard Sullivan	Present
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Present
Officer Joseph Vieira	Not present for roll call
Major Dan McGinn	Present

**MPTC Staff**

ED Robert Ferullo, John Melander, Sheila Gallagher, Andrea Nardone, Mary Bragg, Pat Caggiano, Mary DeFrancesco, Jack Dillon, Kevin Donnelly, Denise Flagg, Dori Ference, Joanne Gardiner, Eileen Goodick, Nicole Hamwey, Lynda Kearns, Maura Landry, Andrew Lyczmanenko, Laura Boback Martin, Noshee Mahmood, Laura Nichols, Larry Norman, Ariel Perez, LisaAnn Reich, Rose Sauvageau, Alison Taylor, Lara Thomas, and Christopher Walsh.

**Guests**

Derik Bettencourt, Joseph Cecchi, Sheriff Nick Cocchi, M. Cooney, Sheriff Kevin Coppinger, Donna DaViega, Nicholas DeAngelis, Chief Earl Dessert, Frank Frederickson, Ronald Fisette, Joanne Heres, Lisa Lane McCarty, Jeff McCue, Mike Miksch, Jim Mulcahy, Chief Kelly Nee, Jerry O'Rourke, David Quirbach, Peter Roddy, Chief Michael Sallese, Jeffrey Scott, Josh Stokel, Chief Deanna Strout, Steve Taranto, Chief Scott Trombly, Rebecca Whitaker, Mike Wynn, and Thomas Zarelli.

Chief Hicks announced that the MPTC will Executive Session pursuant to MGL c. 30A, sec § 21(a)(3) at the end of the Committee meeting and will not return to full session.

Chief Hicks welcomed Sheriff Cocchi, Sheriff Coppinger and Chief Nee to the meeting. They will be officially joining the MPTC in July 2021.

**Review/Approval of Minutes**

**AAG O'Brien made a motion to approve the minutes for the April 21, 2021, meeting with two (2) minor edits. 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 Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Richard Sullivan	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Officer Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

**The motion passes.**

**Police Standards and Training**

**Temporary Waivers**

The Committee reviewed six (6) temporary waiver requests.

<b>Austin Alves</b>	<b>Rochester</b>
<b>Trae Balardini</b>	<b>Dalton</b>
<b>Joshua Bradley</b>	<b>Dalton</b>
<b>Brandon Murphy</b>	<b>Stow</b>
<b>Fredy Buruca</b>	<b>Rockport</b>
<b>Michael Pietroforte</b>	<b>Dunstable</b>

The Dalton Police Department withdrew the temporary waiver for Lucas Perry prior to the meeting.

The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve all six (6) temporary waivers. These waivers will expire on December 31, 2021, per the language of the police reform legislation.

**Officer Vieira made a motion to approve all six (6) 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 Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Richard Sullivan	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Officer Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

**The motion passes.**

### **Permanent Exemptions**

The Committee considered five (5) requests for permanent exemptions.

#### **Derik Bettencourt**

#### **Lowell**

Chief Richardson is requesting a permanent exemption for Derik Bettencourt to work as a police officer for the Lowell Police Department. Officer Bettencourt graduated from the New Hampshire Police Academy on August 18, 2017. After graduation, Officer Bettencourt began working as a patrol officer for the Barnstead Police Department in New Hampshire. In August 2019, Officer Bettencourt was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Sergeant Bettencourt left the Barnstead Police Department in November 2020 to seek a position with Werner Enterprises. If the exemption is granted, Sergeant Bettencourt will become certified in CPR/1<sup>st</sup> responder and firearms in accordance with MPTC regulations once he relocates to Massachusetts.

The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve the permanent exemption for Derik Bettencourt contingent upon him becoming certified in CPR/1<sup>st</sup> responder and firearms in accordance with MPTC regulations.

**Chief Kyes made a motion to approve the permanent exemption of Derik Bettencourt contingent upon his becoming certified in CRP/1<sup>st</sup> responder and firearms in accordance with MPTC regulations. 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 Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Richard Sullivan	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Officer Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

**The motion passes.**

**Darren Cook**

**Sturbridge**

Chief Dessert is requesting a permanent exemption for Darren Cook to work as a police officer for the Sturbridge Police Department. Officer Cook graduated from the 650-hour Connecticut Basic Police Officer Recruit Training Program on March 14, 2001. After graduation, Officer Cook began working as a patrol officer for the University of Connecticut Police Department where he issued motor vehicle citations, responded to calls, and was involved in numerous investigations. The police force for the University of Connecticut carry firearms, exercise police powers and work with the local municipal police departments in the area. Since 2004, Officer Cook, has risen through the ranks of the University of Connecticut Police Department. In 2017, he was promoted to Lieutenant where he currently works. If the exemption is granted, Lieutenant Cook will become certified in CPR/1<sup>st</sup> responder and firearms in accordance with MPTC regulations once he relocates to Massachusetts.

The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve the permanent exemption for Darren Cook contingent upon him becoming certified in CPR/1<sup>st</sup> responder and firearms in accordance with MPTC regulations.

**Chief O'Donnell made a motion to approve the permanent exemption of Darren Cook contingent upon his becoming certified in CRP/1<sup>st</sup> responder and firearms in accordance with MPTC regulations. 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 Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Richard Sullivan	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Officer Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

**The motion passes.**

**Daniel McCarthy**

**Taunton, PD**

The Taunton Police Department is requesting a permanent exemption for Captain Daniel McCarthy. Captain McCarthy graduated from the Rhode Island Police Academy on December 9, 1994. After graduation, Captain McCarthy began working as a patrol officer for the Warwick Police Department on November 24, 1994, where he stayed until February 3, 2000. In January 2000, Captain McCarthy started working for the Taunton Police Department. At that time, Captain McCarthy recalls seeking a permanent exemption from the MPTC. Unfortunately, the Taunton Police Department cannot locate records related to this request. However, Captain McCarthy provided a letter from Charles Dunlap in 1997, who worked for the MPTC and indicated that Captain McCarthy's credentials would satisfy the criteria for a permanent exemption. Captain McCarthy has worked for the Taunton Police Department since 2000. He has had no breaks-in-service and he is up to date in all in-service requirements. Captain McCarthy is certified in CPR/1<sup>st</sup> responder and firearms in accordance with MPTC regulations.

The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve the permanent exemption for Daniel McCarthy.

**Undersecretary Reidy made a motion to approve the permanent exemption of Daniel McCarthy. Officer 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 Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Richard Sullivan	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Officer Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

**The motion passes.**

**Kevin Sager**

**Hopkinton, PD**

The Hopkinton Police Department is requesting a permanent exemption for Officer Kevin Sager to work as a police officer for the Hopkinton Police Department. Officer Sager graduated from the 720-hour Maine Criminal Justice Police Academy on December 14, 2007. After graduation, Officer Sager began working as a patrol officer for the South Portland Police Department in Maine. In January 2019, he was promoted to Sergeant for the same department where he is still currently employed. He is certified in CPR/1<sup>st</sup> responder and firearms in accordance with MPTC regulations.

The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve the permanent exemption for Kevin Sager.

**Chief Kyes made a motion to approve the permanent exemption of Kevin Sager. 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 Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Richard Sullivan	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Officer Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

**The motion passes.**

**Jeffrey Wojcik**

**Hampden, PD**

Chief Trombly of the Hampden Police Department is requesting a permanent exemption for Officer Jeffrey Wojcik. Officer Wojcik graduated from the 120-hour MPTC Basic Reserve Academy at the Agawam Academy on May 29, 1999. He also graduated from the 560-hour Special State Police Academy in New Braintree on June 1, 2001. Officer Wojcik has worked as a campus police officer for twenty-two (22) years. He started his career at Mount Holyoke College as a public service officer and rose through the ranks to police sergeant within the department. In 2016, Officer Wojcik left Mount Holyoke College and joined the police department at Amherst College. Mount Holyoke College police officers and Amherst College police officers carry firearms, have arrest powers and work with the local municipal police officers and the Hampden County deputy sheriffs. Apart from his employment as a campus police officer, Officer Wojcik has worked as a part-time police officer for the Hampden Police Department for the nine (9) years. He is certified in CPR/1<sup>st</sup> responder and firearms in accordance with MPTC regulations.

The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve the permanent exemption for Jeffrey Wojcik.

**Undersecretary Reidy made a motion to approve the permanent exemption of Jeffrey Wojcik. Superintendent Cotter seconded the motion and a roll call was taken.**

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

**The motion passes.**

### **Disciplinary Appeals Hearings**

Chief Kyes provided a summary of the discipline appeal hearing that was held on April 20, 2021. The written decision was emailed to all parties. The student officer from South Hadley Police Department was written up for a Class I violation. The Subcommittee unanimously upheld the violation but recommended that, due to mitigating circumstances in this case, the student officer should be given an opportunity to enroll in a subsequent academy.

There were three (3) instructor revocations hearings. The formal written decisions have not been rendered. Each instructor's certification was reinstated.

### **Open Discussion**

No items discussed.

Chief Kyes noted that the in-service program for 2021-2022 has more hours dedicated to mental wellness and suicide awareness than what the police reform legislation required. The MPTC reported that all in-service classes are in development and should be available at the end of August. The curriculum for Responding to Emergencies involving Mentally Ill Persons is being reviewed for input by mental health professionals who will co-teach the material.

### **Executive Director's Report**

#### **Recruit Officer Training Update**

Twelve (12) of the sixteen (16) academies are currently running. The MPTC website has been updated with information regarding the next start date for each academy. All upcoming classes should be able to run at full capacity (48 students) and currently have seats available.

**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 110-120 student officers.

Boylston: The current class has forty-six (46) students. The next class is scheduled to begin on December 6, 2021.

Cambridge/Northeastern: The current class is graduating soon. The next class is scheduled to begin in January 2022.

Cape Cod: The current class is set to graduate on May 27, 2021.

FSU: The current class has eighteen (18) students.

Lowell: The next class is scheduled to begin on June 7, 2021, with twenty-seven (27) students.

MBTA: The current class has seventeen (17) students and is scheduled to graduate on June 11, 2021. The next class is scheduled to begin July 19, 2021, with approximately fifty (50) students.

Merrimack: The pilot program is scheduled to begin in August 2021, with twenty-four (24) students.

NECC: The next class of approximately forty (40) students is scheduled to begin June 7, 2021.

Plymouth: The current class is scheduled to graduate on July 23, 2021. The next class is scheduled to begin on September 20, 2021.

Quinsigamond: The pilot program is scheduled to begin on September 13, 2021.

Randolph: There are two (2) classes currently in session. The next class is scheduled to begin on November 1, 2021.

Reading: The current class has twenty-two (22) students. This next class is scheduled to begin on January 17, 2022.

Springfield: The next class is anticipated to start late fall/early winter.

SPMA: RTT is scheduled to begin on May 24, 2021.

Western Mass: 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.



### Staffing update

The Fiscal team is looking to expand and will implement an automated payroll system to eliminate contract employees from using paper payment vouchers.

### Statewide policy update on police and fire training programs and the COVID vaccine

EOPSS is moving toward having MPTC and fire training programs implement a COVID vaccination policy consistent with the parameters set forth by DPH. A draft policy will be provided to the Committee in the coming weeks for further discussion.

### NECC transition to MPTC facility

It is expected that there will be a draft proposal ready for the June meeting discussing the possibility of the MPTC assuming control of the NECC academy and facility.

## **Old Business**

### Police reform issues

Chief Mike Wynn was introduced to the group. He has been named a member of the POST Commission.

### Update on working groups

Most of the working groups had an initial organizational meeting and will begin meeting every other week. The leads for each working group will report on the status of their respective group at the next meeting.

### Bridge Academy

There is a suggested infrastructure for the academic portion of the bridge academy. The next step is to determine how to facilitate the skill development courses. There will also have to be decisions made as to whether exemptions will be allowed for certain courses.

There are ongoing conversations about the integration of campus police instructors into the MPTC certification program. There are also ongoing efforts to obtain additional training facilities for firearms and facilities and equipment for EVOC training.

### Use of Force Regulations

Draft regulations and model policy have been reviewed by EOPSS and the working group. The State Police are now reviewing the regulations. The draft regulations should be ready for discussion at the June meeting.

## **New Business**

### Specialized training

There is one more Fair and Impartial Policing train-the-trainer class scheduled. There are four (4) more Bubbles to Bridges (a civil rights class) scheduled between now and the end of the calendar year. The classes have seventy-five (75) seats per class.

IACP Frontline Leadership Conference and the Women’s Leadership Conference both begin in October and will run through the fiscal year. The classes will be run across the state. There are also six (6) NASRO trainings scheduled this year that will work toward the SRO certification required by the police reform legislation.

**Executive Session**

The next MPTC meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2021. This will hopefully be an in-person meeting but will likely have a Zoom link available for non-participant observers to access.

The Committee recognized that Chief Botieri is retiring and this is his last meeting.

Chief Hicks informed the audience that the MPTC intends to enter executive session pursuant to MGL c. 30A, sec § 21(a)(3) to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2021 executive session. The MPTC will not be coming back into regular session.

**Chief Botieri made a motion to enter executive session. 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 Thomas O’Donnell	not present for the vote
Superintendent Richard Sullivan	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Officer Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

**The motion passes.**

The Committee entered an Executive Session.