

**Municipal Police Training Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Randolph Headquarters
June 21, 2023**

Call to Order

Chief James Hicks called the June 21, 2023 monthly meeting of the Municipal Police Training Committee to order at 10:34AM. A quorum of the fifteen-member Committee was present. The meeting was recorded and broadcast over Microsoft Teams.

Attendees: Voting Members

Chief James Hicks	Present
Chief Edward Conley	Present
Sheriff Kevin Coppinger	Present
AAG Jennifer Cotter	Present (not voting)
Superintendent Lanita Cullinane	Present
Sheriff Christopher Donelan	Present
Chief Thomas Gammel	Present
Chief Jennifer Gundersen	Present
Chief Kyle Heagney	Present (not voting)
Major Steven McCarthy	Present
Chief Kelly Nee	Present
AAG Stacey Pichardo	Present
Secretary Terrence Reidy	Present
Superintendent Richard Sullivan	Present
Officer Joseph Vieira (Ret)	Present
Superintendent Nora Baston	Absent

EOPSS/MPTC Staff

Executive Director Robert Ferullo, Atty. John Melander, Atty. James O'Brien, Atty. Andrea Nardone, Jay Gribaudo, Tanya Hardiman, Lara Thomas, Atty. Gina Masotta, Atty. Denise Flagg, Kristen Lydon, Denise Mellon, Felisha Arnold, Elsie Sanon, Kathleen Berry, John Mazza, Ron Paula, Kaylee Baker, Ariana Temelini, Itzelanie Chacon, Amauna Christmas, and Brian Merrick.

Guests

Reynaldo Rodriguez, Joseph Cecchi, Beth Halloran, Casey McGrath, and Joseph Graham.

Announcements

- Atty. Jennifer Cotter has resigned from the Standards Subcommittee and Committee due to her new role at the Attorney General's Office. Atty. Cotter has enjoyed being a part of both Committees. Atty. Cotter has appreciated being a part of the Committees' growth and looks forward to seeing future accomplishments from the Committees.
- Chief Conley has been appointed to the Standards Subcommittee.

- Sheriff Coppinger has been appointed as the new Chair of the Standards Subcommittee.
- Atty. Stacey Pichardo, Deputy Chief of the Criminal Bureau, has been appointed as the AG's representative to the Committee. Atty. Pichardo is very excited to be a part of the MPTC.
- Atty. Gina Masotta has joined the MPTC staff as Deputy General Counsel. Atty. O'Brien and Secretary Reidy are happy to welcome her to the MPTC and believe that she will be a great asset.
- Chief Thomas Gammel has officially been appointed to the Committee by the Governor as a voting member.
- At the end of today's regular session, the Committee will enter executive session and not return to regular session.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ret. Officer Vieira made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2023 meeting. The motion was seconded by Sheriff Donelan, and a vote was taken. The minutes were approved with two (2) members abstaining from the vote.

Police Standards and Training

Temporary Waivers

There are no temporary waiver requests this month.

Out of State Exemption Requests

Exemption requests for the following two (2) officers were reviewed and recommended for approval by the Standards Subcommittee:

- Jared Andrews, Oak Bluffs PD
- Michael Magnante, Salem State PD

A motion was made by Superintendent Cullinane and seconded by Officer Vieira, and a vote was taken. The motion to approve the exemption requests for the two (2) officers mentioned above was approved unanimously.

Bridge Academy Exemptions

Bridge exemption requests for Officers 611 through 616 on the A-H List have been reviewed and recommended by the Standards Subcommittee. Coursework was completed and payroll has been verified.

Officer Vieira made a motion to approve Bridge exemption request numbers 611 through 616 on the Bridge Academy A-H List. The motion was seconded by Major McCarthy, and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Bridge exemption requests for Officers 243 through 319 on the I-P List have been reviewed and recommended by the Standards Subcommittee. Coursework was completed and payroll has been verified.

Chief Nee made a motion to approve Bridge exemption request numbers 243 through 319 on the Bridge Academy I-P List. The motion was seconded by Chief Gammel, and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Bridge exemption requests for Officers 17 through 28 on the Q-Z List have been reviewed and recommended by the Standards Subcommittee. Coursework was completed and payroll has been verified.

Chief Gundersen made a motion to approve Bridge exemption request numbers 17 through 28 on the Bridge Academy Q-Z List. The motion was seconded by Sheriff Donelan, and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Interruption-in-Service/Academy Requirements

Joseph Graham was invited to the Standards Subcommittee and Committee meetings today to present his request for accommodations. Officer Graham left his department in 2017 and did not return to policing but in 2022 did obtain a master's degree in Criminal Justice. He is requesting that the Committee waive the five-year break in service rule and allow him to enroll in the Bridge Academy so that he can return to police work. Officer Graham is requesting kindness and understanding of his situation, as the 5-year break in service rule was not in place when he left his department. Chief Hicks stated that the 5-year break in service CMRs have been in place for over 3 years and were of public knowledge.

Ret. Officer Vieira made a motion to not allow an accommodation or entry into the Bridge Academy for Officer Graham. The motion was seconded by Major McCarthy and a vote was taken. The motion passed with one (Sheriff Donelan) opposed.

Webster Police Officer Joshua Collins recently passed the PT requirements for entry into the Lynnfield Academy.

Executive Director's Report

Recruit Academy Update. Chief of Training Andrea Nardone reported on the recruit academies.

Academy Start Dates. Chief of Training Nardone presented the upcoming Academy start dates.

Bridge Academy Update. Deputy Chief of Training Lara Thomas presented updates on the Bridge Academy. We are communicating with departments and individual officers to keep officers moving through the academy.

General Counsel/Chief of Staff Jim O'Brien added that enrollment for I-P officers recently closed in April 2023. He noted that after enrollment closed for A-H officers in April 2022, the Committee drew a firm line and voted that officers who did not enroll on time would not be able to enroll later. General Counsel/Chief of Staff O'Brien asked the Committee for a similar vote with respect to I-P officers.

Ret. Officer Viera made a motion to prohibit enrollment for any I-P officers who did not enroll before enrollment closed (unless POST previously received a deferral request). The motion was seconded, and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Specialized Training was presented by Chief of Training Nardone.

Academy demographics was presented by Chief of Training Nardone. This data is self-reported by recruits.

ASHER. John Mazza presented on ASHER training status. Our primary focus is AAIR. We currently have 96 instructors and expect another 36 to complete their training in July. We need additional instructors, venues, and students. We are also in need of initial equipment at a cost of about \$100,000. We now have 24 ALERRT trainers. We need approximately 90 level 1 instructors and curriculum review. Chief Hicks asked if we could investigate Homeland Security funding for the equipment.

Also discussed was incorporating 16 hours of level 1 training into Active Shooter training. MSP has already done this. A meeting will be held with PTAC instructors to discuss this.

Budget Update. Executive Director Ferullo discussed the FY 2024 MPTC Budget. Our budget is tighter than in recent years. We plan to offer less vendor-based specialized training programs for FY 2024.

We can run up to 15 academies in 2024 with a waitlist.

Facilities Update:

East Falmouth - There is a meeting to discuss the start of construction next week. Currently we have a potential Fall 2024 opening.

Boylston – The lease expires in 2025. We are looking at options.

Wireless networks are scheduled to be installed in Lynnfield and Holyoke soon.

New Non-Voting Business

SRO Training. We will vote on the MJPOA requirements for SRO training at the July meeting. Executive Director Ferullo recapped the June 20th Massachusetts Bar Association meeting on SRO training. Secretary Reidy voiced his concern about school safety. The MPTC must focus and highlight what has been done by MPTC and departments. Chief Hicks emphasized at the MJPOA meeting what the MPTC is doing. Chief Conley mentioned that the Gloucester PD's SRO was recently voted the top SRO in the country.

Bill H2546 - An Act to exempt the Executive Director of the Municipal Police Training Committee from earnings limitations. An update on this bill was given to the Committee.

Old Business

Elimination of Rifle training. Departments that did not respond to our first survey were re-contacted. The consensus remains that Chiefs and training officers would like rifle training in the recruit curriculum. We will review the curriculum with an eye towards streamlining the rifle training moving forward. We will need departments to supply appropriate equipment for their student officers.

Police Reform. Those interested should watch the recordings of recent POST-C meeting regarding CMRs. Comments are open until June 23rd.

Working Groups. Executive Director Ferullo offered an update on the working groups.

New Business

Western Mass Sheriff's Training Programs. Atty. O'Brien requested guidance from the Committee as to whether eight specifically identified Western Mass. Sheriff's Training Programs count for Bridge Academy eligibility purposes. A spreadsheet of the eight Training Programs was provided to members. Sheriff Donelan shared the history of these Training Programs from 2004 to 2013. A comparatively small number of deputy sheriffs went through the trainings, which were run by the Hampden County Sheriff's Department. Each program was approved by EOPSS/MPTC.

Ret. Officer Vieira made a motion to accept the eight specifically identified Western Mass. Training Programs as meeting the reserve/intermittent training requirement for Bridge Academy enrollment. The motion was seconded, and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There was a motion and second to adjourn the meeting at 12:05PM. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next monthly Committee meeting is scheduled for 10:00AM on July 19, 2023.