

Municipal Police Training Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes
MPTC Headquarters, Randolph, MA
August 21, 2024

Call to Order

On August 21, 2024, at 10:09 a.m., Chief James Hicks called the monthly meeting of the Municipal Police Training Committee to order at 42 Thomas Patten Drive, Randolph, MA. Advance notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with the open meeting laws. 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
Deputy Chief Christine Amendola	Present
Superintendent Nora Baston	Present
Chief Brian Clark	Present
Chief Edward Conley	Present
Sheriff Kevin Coppinger	Present
Sergeant Detective Eddy Chrispin	Present
Sheriff Christopher Donelan	Present
Atty. Stacey Pichardo	Present
Major Jon Provost	Present
Secretary Terrence Reidy	Present
Superintendent Richard Sullivan	Present

EOPSS/MPTC Staff

Executive Director Jeff Farnsworth, Undersecretary Gina Kwon, Atty. John Melander, Atty. James O'Brien, Atty. Gina Masotta, Atty. Andrea Nardone, Tanya Hardiman, Lisa Caputo, James Gribaudo, Amy Fanikos, Aiesha Grenier, Kris Gottlander-Gentile, Denise Mellon, Brian Merrick, Kristen Lydon, Yola Cabrillana, Hannah Gianfriddo, Felisha Arnold, Steven Cromack, Jean Auguste, Gina Papagiorgakis, Kathleen Berry, John Mazza, Eric Lederman, Sabrina Perez-Martinez, Cassandra Cahill, Charmagne Pearson, and Denise Flagg.

Guests

Jeffrey Scott, Bruce Stebbins, Nurys Camargo, and Eric Atstupenas.

Announcements

Chief Hicks welcomed Chief Farnsworth to his first meeting as the Interim Executive Director of the MPTC.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Sheriff Donelan and seconded by Chief Clark to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2024, meeting. A vote was taken, and the motion passed with five abstentions (Secretary Reidy, Atty. Pichardo, Superintendent Sullivan, Superintendent Baston, and Sergeant Detective Chrispin).

Police Standards and Training

Temporary Waivers

There were no temporary waiver requests on the August agenda.

Out-of-State Exemptions

There were three out-of-state exemption requests on the August agenda:

Jack Stafford	Burlington PD
Domenico Cerasani	Westfield State University PD
Nicholas Parham	Northeastern University PD

At its meeting earlier today, the Standards Subcommittee reviewed and made a favorable recommendation to approve the exemption requests for Officers Stafford, Cerasani, and Parham.

A motion was made by Sheriff Coppinger and seconded by Superintendent Sullivan to approve the out-of-state exemptions for Officers Stafford, Cerasani, and Parham. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Bridge Academy Exemptions

Bridge exemption requests for Officers numbered 637 through 641 on the August Bridge Academy A-H Class List were reviewed and recommended by the Standards Subcommittee. Coursework was completed and payroll has been verified.

A motion was made by Sheriff Donelan and seconded by Chief Clark to approve the Bridge exemption requests for Officers numbered 637 through 641 on the August Bridge Academy A-H Class List. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

A bridge exemption request for Officer numbered 425 on the August Bridge Academy I-P List was reviewed and recommended by the Standards Subcommittee. Coursework was completed and payroll has been verified.

A motion was made by Sheriff Coppinger and seconded by Atty. Pichardo to approve the Bridge exemption request for Officer numbered 425 on the August Bridge Academy I-P Class List. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Bridge exemption requests for Officers numbered 336 through 337 on the August Bridge Academy Q-Z List were reviewed and recommended by the Standards Subcommittee. Coursework was completed and payroll has been verified.

A motion was made by Sheriff Coppinger and seconded by Superintendent Sullivan to approve the Bridge exemption requests for Officers numbered 336 through 337 on the August Bridge Academy Q-Z Class List. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Budget. Chief Farnsworth reported that the MPTC budget was cut but we are still in good shape. The Northeast De-escalation Center has been put on hold for now, which should allow us to continue operating and training as normal.

Facilities. MPTC Chief Operating Officer Kristen Lydon reported that our East Falmouth facility is on track to open in December 2024 and the first academy class has been posted for December 9, 2024. We also broke ground in Marlboro for the new Central MA academy and firing range.

Recruit Training. MPTC Chief of Training Andrea Nardone presented updates on recruit academies, including academy start dates, graduation dates, and demographics.

In-Service and Specialized Training. Chief of Training Nardone presented an update on in-service and specialized training. She noted that we have a few weeks of in-service classes scheduled at Southbridge, but we will be winding down in-service at that facility in the fall.

Bridge Academy. Chief of Training Nardone presented an update on the Bridge program, as it continues to wind down. She referenced the recent stats included in the Committee's packet for today's meeting.

ASHER John Mazza offered an update on the ASHER program. He reported that we continue to make significant progress. Since August 1, 2024, we have delivered three additional AIRR classes and a number of others are coming up.

Old Business

Working Groups.

- Fitness. Chief of Training Nardone reported that Basic Training Manager Amy Fanikos and Fitness Manager Melissa Metzke have been working to roll out the Week 1 PT pilot program.
- Campus Police. Chief Farnsworth reported that this group met last week in Milford and there are concerns regarding the firearms bill. Their October meeting will be held in Milford.

POST/Police Reform. POST is working on department certification and use of force guidelines, and there has been much discussion on those topics.

Acadis Access for Officers Suspended by POST/Agency. At a previous meeting, MPTC staff sought guidance from the Committee as to whether an officer should have access to Acadis in the following situations: (1) the officer has been suspended by POST and (2) the officer has been administratively

suspended by their department, but no action has been taken by POST. The Committee previously voted that officers suspended by POST should not have access to any MPTC training. The question of whether officers who are suspended by their department, but not by POST, should have Acadis access was left open. There was discussion today about a bright line rule that would require departments to report suspensions to MPTC staff and that Acadis access be turned off, but with potential for an avenue to appeal for access. Chief Hicks asked MPTC staff to draft a proposal.

MPTC Executive Director Position. Chief Hicks reported that the position has been posted and he distributed a copy of the job posting, which was approved by the Search Committee. He turned it over to Undersecretary Kwon to speak about the interview process and some of the nuances surrounding which meetings will be public. Undersecretary Kwon noted that the job posting is set to close on September 3, 2024. She said that, generally speaking, anything done at the Search Committee-level will be kept in Executive Session, while anything done at the Committee-level will be in an open meeting. The Search Committee can conduct preliminary screening interviews in Executive Session, but final interviews must be done by the full Committee in an open meeting. Chief Hicks reiterated that final candidate recommendations to the Secretary must be made by the full Committee, not just the Search Committee. There was discussion about how doing preliminary interviews in Executive Session, as opposed to in public meetings, will likely yield a bigger pool of candidates. Chief Hicks made it clear that he didn't want to take authority away from anyone on the full Committee. He asked for a vote from the full Committee on the process, as discussed today.

A motion was made by Sheriff Donelan and seconded by Chief Clark that the full Committee places its authority in the Search Committee to make candidate recommendations to the Secretary of Public Safety for the MPTC's Executive Director position. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Chiefs Conference – Training Topics/In-Service Credit. Atty. Flagg and Atty. Eric Atstupenas presented the syllabus for the upcoming MACOPA conference, scheduled for September 17-19, 2024. They explained that the topics are the same as those being taught for TY25 in-service, but with a focus on a chief's perspective. They asked for a vote from the Committee to approve crediting conference attendees with having completed their TY25 in-service training requirements for the topics covered by the syllabus.

A motion was made by Chief Clark and seconded by Chief Conley to approve the syllabus as presented today for the MACOPA conference and to credit attendees with having completed their TY25 in-service training requirements in the topics covered by the syllabus. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Cannabis Control Commission. Commissioners Bruce Stebbins and Nurys Camargo from the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) gave a presentation to the Committee regarding the CCC's plan to roll out social cannabis consumption in Massachusetts. A social consumption establishment is an entity that sells marijuana and allows consumers to consume the product on its premises. The Commissioners reported that they are developing a social consumption regulatory framework. They are still in the formulation stage and have not produced any draft regulations yet. They have conducted outreach and had extensive discussions with other jurisdictions that have already rolled out social cannabis consumption. The Commissioners said they believe community outreach and

education is critical. They have held listening sessions and met with departments and organizations, and they hope to have a public education/awareness campaign when this rolls out. They will seek to create license types that are lucrative and do not require a lot of capital for businesses to get off the ground. They stressed that public health and safety, as well as collaboration with local communities and agencies, remain top priorities for the CCC. They heard from the Mass Chiefs that there is a training component of this that is critically important.

Secretary Reidy thanked Commissioners Stebbins and Camargo for coming and for their presentation. He reported that he has had many positive conversations with them, but he has serious safety concerns regarding social cannabis consumption in Massachusetts. He spoke about the death of Trooper Thomas Clardy and how difficult it is to prosecute and convict a defendant for operating under the influence of marijuana. He emphasized that the CCC is not ignoring these concerns, and they want to work with us.

Chief of Training Nardone talked about how we would have to add cannabis detection to recruit training. But there are no SFSTs or other tests for marijuana accepted by courts, which makes training on this topic very challenging. There are not a lot of instructors willing to do it because there is a liability risk to it.

The Commissioners reported that the CCC is hoping to have draft regulations out by the end of December. Consumption sites likely won't open until the end of next year.

Items Not Requiring A Vote

Staffing. MPTC General Counsel/Chief-of-Staff Jim O'Brien updated the Committee on recent staffing changes at the MPTC. He reported that Noshee Mahmood is now a Special Projects Lead, working closely with Chief of Training Nardone in the Training Bureau. Lynda Kearns is now the Instructor Certification Coordinator in our Standards and Delivery Division. Felisha Arnold is now the Statewide Programs Coordinator in our Standards and Delivery Division. Elsie Sanon is now the Basic Training Special Projects Director in our Basic Training Division. Kim Schwendeman is a Holyoke Academy Program Coordinator in our Veteran Training Division.

In-Service TY25. Steven Cromack presented the TY25 in-service syllabus to the Committee. He reported that it went out to all departments and is posted to the MPTC's website.

MPTC Regulations (550 CMR 3.00) – Revised/Updated. Chief Hicks reminded the Committee members that we have discussed potential revisions to the MPTC Regulations, 550 CMR 3.00, at previous meetings, and a draft of those revisions was provided. He said the regulations will be on next month's agenda and asked that Committee members be prepared to discuss the potential revisions.

Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held on September 25, 2024, in Randolph, MA.

Adjournment

At 12:12 p.m., a motion was made by Sheriff Donelan and seconded by Chief Clark to adjourn the meeting. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.