

PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION

June 21, 2022

8:30 AM

**Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission  
Remote Participation**

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

**Documents Distributed in Advance of Meeting:**

- Draft Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2022
- Notice of Certification
- Notice of Conditional Certification
- Notice of Denial of Recertification
- Approval for Executive Director to Hire Certain Employees (Proposed)

**In Attendance:**

- Chair Margaret R. Hinkle
- Commissioner Hanya Bluestone
- Commissioner Lawrence Calderone
- Commissioner Larry Ellison
- Commissioner Marsha Kazarosian
- Commissioner Charlene Luma
- Commissioner Kimberly P. West

1. Call to Order

- The Chair recognized a quorum and stated the Commission would not be taking public comment during this meeting, but that questions could be directed to Executive Director Zuniga and Commission staff.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. June 1, 2022

- Commissioner Kazarosian moved to approve the minutes from the June 1, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Bluestone seconded the motion. Commissioners Bluestone, Calderone, Ellison, Kazarosian, Luma, West and the Chair voted to approve the minutes from the June 1, 2022 meeting.

3. Executive Director Report – Enrique Zuniga

a. Officer Recertification (A-H)

- Executive Director Zuniga reviewed the Commission's efforts to recertify nearly 9,000 officers with last names A through H, and reported the Commission is on track to recertify those officers by July 1.
- Executive Director Zuniga stated that while the Commission continues to validate data submitted in connection with recertification application, the Commission's immediate focus is on processing and issuing full certifications and conditional certifications.

- Executive Director Zuniga then reviewed the information required by the Commission to process an application for recertification, the standards for recertification, and how the Commission corroborates that the submitted data meets the standards for recertification. He also reviewed the submission process and how the Commission reviews each submission.
  - To date, of the 439 agencies within the Commission's scope, 387 agencies have submitted information for officer recertification, 25 have requested extensions, and 27 agencies are still pending. The Commission plans to contacts the 27 agencies with pending applications to encourage them to submit applications for certification or to request an extension.
  - Commissioner Calderone asked if Executive Director Zuniga could share the list of 25 agencies which have requested extensions on the recertification process. Executive Director Zuniga stated he would share a list, and provided that Boston Police Department and the State Police, the two largest law enforcement agencies in the state, are among the 25 departments which have requested extensions.
  - Executive Director Zuniga reviewed the process for requesting an extension on the recertification process.
  - Executive Director Zuniga then reviewed preliminary aggregate metrics for officers who have submitted applications for recertification and recertification decisions. He noted the vast majority of officers have been fully recertified.
  - Executive Director Zuniga reviewed the three types of exceptions that may prevent an officer from receiving full recertification, and the most prevalent exceptions giving rise to conditional certifications.
  - Commissioner Calderone asked Executive Director Zuniga to clarify the "union concern" that some officers provided in lieu of responding to the questionnaire. Executive Director Zuniga stated he was unsure what the exact concern is, but stated that the Commission is still requiring officers to complete the questionnaire within 90 days of conditional recertification.
  - Commissioner Ellison asked Executive Director Zuniga how officers with pending complaints against them are handled in the recertification process. Executive Director Zuniga stated the Commission will rely largely on the Chief's attestation of an officer's good moral character, but would investigate where there is no attestation to an officer's good moral character.
  - Executive Director Zuniga then reviewed the next steps in the recertification process.
4. Delegation of Hiring Authority to the Executive Director – General Counsel Ravitz
- General Counsel Ravitz reviewed a request to delegate hiring authority for certain employees to the Executive Director. He stated the request is similar to a request in March that was approved, and includes a few new positions (namely deputy general counsel and an investigator/compliance agent).
  - Commissioner Bluestone moved to approve the delegation. Commissioner Calderone seconded the motion. Commissioners Bluestone, Calderone, Ellison, Kazarosian, Luma, West and the Chair approved the delegation.

5. Matters not anticipated by the Chair at the time of posting
  - There was no new business.
6. Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, specifically *Scott Hovsepian, et al. v. Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission*, No. 2284CV00906, Suffolk Superior Court, and *New England Police Benevolent Association, Inc. et al. v. Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission*, No. 2285CV00555, Worcester County Superior Court.
  - The Chair stated that the Commission would next take a vote to enter into executive session to discuss strategy in the two pending litigation matters, which are now consolidated in Suffolk Superior Court.
  - Commissioner Bluestone moved to enter into executive session to discuss strategy in the two pending litigation matters. Commissioner Luma seconded the motion. Commissioners Bluestone, Calderone, Ellison, Kazarosian, Luma, West and the Chair voted to enter into executive session to discuss the two pending litigation matters. The Chair stated the Commission would not reconvene in open session after the executive session.