



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Municipal Police Training Academy

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Colonel Ann C. Assumpico
Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police
Director, Department of Public Safety

Lieutenant Scott N. Raynes
Executive Director
Municipal Police Training Academy

Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2016

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Chief Anthony Pesare called to order the regular meeting of the Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training (POST) at 10:02 a.m. on **December 8, 2016**.

Chief Pesare asked Donna Lavallee to take a roll call. The following POST members were present: Chief Anthony Pesare, Chief Palmer, Chief Mello, Mr. Shawn Brown. and LTC Kevin Barry as appointed designee for Colonel Ann C. Assumpico. A quorum has been met. Also present were, Captain Darnell Weaver, Lieutenant Scott Raynes, David Ricciarelli, Susan Urso Esq., Mr. Paul Andrews, Esq., Paul Dutra, Donna Lavallee, R.I. Police Chief's Association Executive Director Chief Sydney Wordell (ret), Lt. Michael Chalek, URI Police Department, Major Daniel Barzykowski, Deputy Chief Paul Shanley, Major Dennis Leahey, (ret) Captain Joseph Coffey (Warwick PD), Melissa Leahey, Robin Winslow and Meghan Martinez.

2. Approval of the minutes

Chief Pesare asked for approval of the minutes from the last meetings dated August 18, 2016. Mr. Brown made a motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 18, 2016; Chief Palmer seconded the motion. With all in favor, 5-0, the motion carries.

3. Request from Central Falls PD to grant a 4th attempt for the Firearms testing.

Lieutenant Raynes explained that during Firearms training, a recruit receives three attempts to certify with their weapon. Recruit Ruano, Central Falls PD, failed all 3 attempts; therefore, Colonel Mendonca is requesting the POST to approve a 4th attempt. She will continue with the class and graduate without a certificate. Sometime after graduation when CFPD feels she is ready, she will make her 4th attempt. Lt. Raynes attested that Recruit Ruano is a good recruit-she has done well academically and has had no issues throughout the Academy. Major Barzykowski added that CFPD will work with her continuously to give her the remedial training. Chief Palmer asked how close she was with her scores and Lt. Raynes stated she is very close. Chief Mello made a motion to approve the 4th attempt to Recruit Ruano based upon the standards and plan outlined by Lt. Raynes. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor, 5-0, motion carries.

4. Brown University Request for reduced tuition

Lt. Raynes explained that Brown University is the only department that pays a tuition fee to attend the Academy. Currently the fee is \$4,000.00 per recruit and these monies go directly into the General Funds of the State. Brown University is planning on sending four recruits to the January class and in light of that, is asking for a reduced tuition fee. Back in 2011, they were faced with the same situation and the POST approved a reduced tuition. There was a discussion as to why Brown University is paying a tuition and how the fees were initially established and does the POST have the authority to waive the fee or even reduce the tuition costs. Chief Mello made a motion to table this agenda item until the next POST meeting so that legal counsel may look into it further. Chief Pesare agreed and ask Sue Urso and Paul Andrews to look into this further. The motion was seconded by LTC Barry. With all in favor, 5-0, motion carries.

5. Mental Health First Aid Discussion

Chief Pesare reviewed the reason for this discussion as being during the 2016 legislative session, the general assembly passed into law the Mental Health statute which requires the POST to provide training to all recruits and police officers. A committee was formed and they have been meeting. Chief Pesare met with (ret) Captain Joseph Coffey regarding a Train-the-Trainer program coming to RI and he said the National Council is willing to bring the training here. Chief Palmer stated that he has had both Captain Coffey and Major Leahey to his department for training and both were very helpful. Captain Weaver asked the cost associated with the Train the Trainer. Captain Coffey replied that it is approximately \$1200.00 per officer which they receive 40 hours a training making them fully certified. He said that this can be reduced by 1/3 if there is a smaller group. Chief Pesare asked if it is possible to seek funding from the Trust or DOH or the Legislature. Captain Coffey replied that there are many places to seek money from like insurance companies, grants, etc. He further stated that officers need to be re-certified every three years for a fee of \$29.00. Chief Pesare stated that the goal is to get everyone in the departments trained and in 3 years to get the CRT's in for training. LTC Barry stated he would check with the Grant Administration to see if there is any monies from the Byrne/JAG Grant for this. Captain Coffey stated that the MHFA is an 8 hours program where a clinician must be present. Their fee is usually \$400. Chief Mello stated that he finds it troubling that we must accept this law when it puts such an expense upon the departments at a very high cost. This law is requiring mandated training that costs hundreds of thousands of dollars. Paul Dutra added that the Trust recognizes the value of this training as more than 80% of cases they see involve mentally ill persons. The Trust is actively involved in many phases of assisting monetarily such as Accreditation, etc. Chief Pesare stated there is no timeline associated with this; however, Mr. Brown added that it is incumbent upon us to have some timeline. Sue Urso stated that it is imperative not to ignore the statute and must be reasonable to do due diligence. Chief Pesare asked legal if there is anything in the statute that mandates this training for every police officer in the state. Major Leahey argued that he respectfully disagreed and said there is a timeline due to accreditation. This may become 1 of 10 mandated trainings for Accreditation by the end of next year. If that happens, a lot of money is to be laid out by departments. One of the biggest disadvantages is that this training cannot be tweaked. The CRT program can be tailored to its audience. There are various models of the CRT training and money is only part of the subject. Captain Coffey stated that he has always pushed for the MHFA training. To his knowledge, the CRT training was never involved at the Academy. MHFA is the gold standard of training. There is no denying there is a cost associated with the training; however 10% of the calls of service are associated with special populations. The CRT training should be a compliment to the MHFA training. Major Leahey followed up stating the CRT training is not off the plate. Maybe bring it to the RIPCA and maybe amend the legislature. Captain Weaver stated that every person needs to purchase a manual as well. Chief Mello opted to move forward and abide by the law and stated it should be made clear that this should be the priority for grant funds. Further, he stated that it should be made clear to the legislature that this is an expensive unfunded mandate and expense to the PD's.

LTC Barry added that he will do a study as to how much we are looking to get from the Byrne/JAG grant.

6. Psychological Testing Policy requirements discussion

Chief Pesare stated that the POST passed a policy to have other psychologists participate in the Psychological testing. Captain Ricciarelli solicited information that is needed to vet the screening process and to follow best practices and developing an application process for credentialing of the candidates. He thanked Captain Ricciarelli for his tireless work on this matter. The most important part is that the members be in good standing and sign an Ethics Affirmation. Chief Mello asked if we would consider to ask the individual to include a fee structure and also what their practice is about Police Departments sharing the test. He also asked if they should be limited to Rhode Island practices. Captain Ricciarelli replied that they would have to be and further stated that if we follow IACP guidelines, we will follow the national standards. We must also follow RI guidelines so everything should be consistent. Mr. Brown asked if there should be a section regarding performance included. This should indicate the ability to see a candidate within a specific timeline. And when a Chief seeks someone to do the testing, does he have to get approval from anyone? Chief Pesare responded that an application would be filed and approved by the POST. Chief Mello brought up the issue with the lateral transfer a few years ago and stated it is not required by law to be re-psyched. The POST has no authority for lateral transfers. Lieutenant Colonel Barry stated that he doesn't believe you need a full psychological for lateral transfers. Lieutenant Chalek stated that he is not aware of any department that can't get an appointment with Dr. Gallagher. She has always been very accommodating and the University feels that URI Testing services should be the sole vendor. If it's the best standards that we are trying to follow, Testing Services is the only place that's been doing this for years. They should be the only sole provider. Sue Urso asked if they should be limited to Rhode Island. Captain Ricciarelli replied that they can petition the Dept. of Health for a temporary license. She further stated that if we want to limit it to Rhode Island applicants only, that needs to be spelled out. Chief Pesare concluded the conversation stating that as Chair, he doesn't feel the POST is in a position with a sole source provider. Chiefs should have an option. He further stated that URI Testing Services does not need to apply for certification by the POST. He recommends approval of this and putting the practice into place. Chief Mello made a motion for the POST to allow certified psychologists to test applicants for a police officer position. Chief Pesare seconded the motion and with all in favor, 5-0, motion carries.

7. Request for Approval of Firearms Qualification courses

Lieutenant Raynes said he had numerous Firearms courses to present for certification. They have all been reviewed by himself and Captain Gould and he recommends approval. The only course he would like tabled for the next meeting is Richmond PD as they still missing some documentation.

- Bristol Police Department
- Brown University Police Department
- Burrillville Police Department
- Cranston Police Department

- Cumberland Police Department
- East Greenwich Police Department
- Gloucester Police Department
- Newport Police Department (Patrol Rifle & Pistol)
- New Shoreham Police Department
- North Kingstown Police Department
- North Smithfield Police Department
- Pawtucket Police Department
- Rhode Island Airport Corporation
- Rhode Island Capitol Police
- Rhode Island Airport Corp Police
- Rhode Island Capitol Police
- Rhode Island Environmental Police
- Richmond Police Department
- Scituate Police Department
- South Kingstown Police Department
- Warwick Police Department
- West Greenwich Police Department
- Woonsocket Police Department

Mr. Brown made a motion to certify all of the above Firearms courses with the exception of Richmond PD and Chief Mello seconded the motion. With all in favor, 5-0, motion carries.

8. Update on Continuing Education

Captain Ricciarelli had a handout included in the packet with all upcoming trainings planned for the next six months. He also stated we are looking into sending two officers to receive MHFA Certification. Mr. Brown asked if we were up to date with our instructional staff. Lt. Raynes stated we are looking to increase the Firearms staff and he and Capt. Gould would be getting together soon to discuss that.

9. Update on Class 2016-II & Class 2017—I

Lt. Raynes stated that Graduation is scheduled for December 20th at 11:00 am. The incoming January class is going to be another large class and we are fortunate that Warwick PD will be providing Off. McGuire as the CTO. He thanked Chief Pesare for his assistance in lending us Off. Tim Brady for the entire class.

10. Adjournment:

Chief Pesare stated that some tough issues were tackled at today's meeting and he thanked everyone for their participation and wished everyone Happy holidays. Mr. Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 am and Chief Mello seconded the motion, With all in favor, 5-0, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna M Lavalley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Donna M. Lavalley
Administrative Assistant