



# **RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

## ***Municipal Police Training Academy***

*Community College of Rhode Island — Flanagan Campus*

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

Lieutenant Christopher J. Zarrella  
Executive Director  
Municipal Police Training Academy

### Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training Meeting Minutes

**February 22, 2018**

#### **1. Welcome and Roll Call**

**Chief Edward Mello** called to order the regular meeting of the Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training (POST) at 10:10 a.m. on **February 22, 2018**.

Chief Mello asked Donna Lavalley to take a roll call. The following POST members were present: Chief Edward Mello, Chief Palmer and Mr. Shaun Brown. Colonel Hugh Clements was absent. A quorum has been met. Also present were Lieutenant Christopher Zarrella, David Ricciarelli; Susan Urso Esq.; Paul Andrews, Esq., Paul Dutra; Donna Lavalley; R.I. Police Chief's Association Executive Director Chief Sydney Wordell and Lt. Mike Chalek.

#### **2. Discussion/Approval of minutes:**

Chief Mello asked for approval of the minutes from the last meetings dated November 27, 2017. Mr. Brown made a motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 27, 2017; Chief Palmer seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, the motion carries.

#### **3. Discussion on Academy General Order 9.100 (Absences/Tardiness/Limited Participation)**

Lieutenant Zarrella explained that this class was hit hard with the influenza over the last several weeks; thereby causing some recruits to reach their 2-day allowed absences and in one instance, to go over. Had this outbreak not happened on a Friday, there would have been numerous recruits exceeding their allowable sick days. Lieutenant Zarrella asked if the staff could have some latitude to use their discretion when something like this occurs. Chief Mello asked if the policy should be amended as the "two day allowable absence" has been in affect well before the class was lengthened to 20 weeks. Dave Ricciarelli stated that it is not so much about the number of days missed but about the material missed. Chief Palmer thought it is realistic to give the staff more discretion. Sue Urso stated that the policy, Under Section 4,B puts the onus on the sponsoring agency but Section F covers extenuating circumstances. Chief Mello suggested that Lt. Zarrella craft language within the policy already in place and continue this to the next meeting with the proper policy change.

#### **4. Discussion on maximum number of recruits permitted per class**

Chief Mello stated he put this item on the agenda to re-visit this issue as he thought a limit of 50 was set before at a prior meeting. Lt. Zarrella stated that the seating capacity at Camp Fogarty is maxed out at 62. 60 is a "doable" number provided we have the staff to do it. Without the CTO's,

you cannot effectively manage that amount of recruits. Chief Mello asked if before the cap of 50 is reinforced, can we go through the next cycle and see how it goes. Lt. Zarrella stated that he would encourage municipalities to keep the numbers up. The instructional staff all say it is manageable with a commitment from agencies to provide CTO's. Chief Wordell added that in previous years, it has been last minute to get CTO's and it would help to get these commitments in place earlier. He would be willing to assist with that. Chief Mello suggested that if the maximum number of seats are reserved, say 62, and we have not enough CTO's to manage, he would call an emergency meeting and adjust the class size. The POST would interject and convene a meeting at that point. It was discussed that the training would suffer if the staff is not adequate. Chief Palmer asked who would get turned away? Would it be on a first come basis because some of the smaller departments would suffer. Dave Ricciarelli stated it only happened a few times long ago and it was decided by the POST on department need. Mr. Brown suggested that the departments need to commit to CTO's as it is part of their responsibility if they want the numbers up.

Chief Mello made a motion to set the seat maximum at 60 and based upon the number of applications received and based on a commitment of CTO's from municipalities. If the numbers need to be adjusted up or down, the Director shall ask the POST for guidance. Chief Palmer seconded the motion.

Chief Mello added that the motion should include the cap is 60 with the condition of a commitment of four (4) CTO's. That number would be adjusted up or down depending upon the application number. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion passes.

##### **5. Review/Discuss the Governor's budget proposal to fund the Academy**

Mr. Brown stated that the State budget proposal includes a provision that the communities will pay tuition to fund the Academy. The concerns are 1.) The communities provide training officers to the Academy and 2.) Communities will stop sending instructors if they have to pay for their recruits. There is a need to send communities to the Senate and House to educate as to how the program functions.

Chief Wordell stated that this article has been heard in Finance. Testimony was given by Colonel Assumpico and a brief outline of how it runs but no numbers were provided. His last conversation with Ms. Goldstein from Governor Raimondo's office and he stated that the Chiefs would like a sit down to talk about the budget proposal. He made a spreadsheet which encompasses all of the curriculum at the Academy, along with each instructor and the hours that give. He used \$50/hour as a base. He came up with a range of 6,030 hours of instruction from the municipalities and an overall money value of approximately \$497,890.00. He had an overtime figure of \$3500.00 for the CTO's but Chief Mello asked him to remove that figure as most departments do not pay overtime. Chief Mello stated this is an astronomical number of hours and the point that Mr. Brown is trying to make. Chief Palmer asked if the Governor's office is open to review and can it be discussed with the Governor that the municipalities give about 88% of training at the Academy. Chief Wordell went on to state that this spreadsheet is an educational piece that he developed with the assistance of Donna Lavalley and would like the blessing of the POST to go forth with it as he continues his discussions with the Governor's office. He stated that the proposal on the table now is based on 60 recruits per class, the charge of \$5,000/per recruit would bring in \$600,00 of revenue. He stated that the Governor's office knows he is here today presenting this information and he will call tomorrow and set up an appointment to meet with the Governor. He will extend the offer to Colonel Mendonca if he would like to be present as well. If not, he asked if he can be the representative. He will also add in the numbers for Orientation and the Physical Agility testing. Chief Mello made a motion that the POST supports the presentation that Chief Wordell submitted with the calculations and the

amendments agreed upon and Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

#### **6. Discussion on relocation of the Academy to Camp Fogarty**

Chief Mello stated there is also a budget proposal on the table to move the Academy to Camp Fogarty. He asked Lt. Zarrella if this is a good idea logistically. Is there a fee? Will it accommodate the entire staff, files and in-service training? What is the fee for CCRI?

Lieutenant Zarrella replied that the facility is good and he does not know about the availability of any additional rooms or space. The staff now shares a very small office with the military. Donna Lavalley stated that CCRI rent has been paid until June 30, 2018 and is around \$19,000-\$20,000/year. Chief Wordell asked what would happen if there were a declaration and they had to vacate the base? And what about all of the in-service training provided in the Academy Classroom? He stated the House Finance proposed CCRI be eliminated. Dave Ricciarelli stated that we use the Classroom for training at least 100 days/year and it is a cost saving activity at CCRI as they provide all internet, IT services, etc.

It was decided to continue this discussion at the next Chief's meeting.

#### **7. Discussion on PoliceApp.com**

Chief Palmer said his department uses Police App and a concern came up with Paragraph 4 of the contract that his solicitor came upon. If sued by an unsuccessful applicant for unlawful discrimination, the Town would be liable to pay legal fees for Police App employees. He contacted Paul Dutra of the Trust with his concern about the language. He also suggests corresponding this to the Police Departments to make them away so they can ratify their contracts. Paul Dutra said the issue was with the contract written by Police App. The cities and towns would be liable for not only their employees but the Police App employees. It was neatly worded and a good catch by the Hopkinton Solicitor. They were very easy to deal with and made the change. Chief Mello asked if the Trust could notify all departments that have contracts with them and Paul Dutra said this is just one of many contracts that departments encounter. Chief Wordell suggested that it would be done through the Chief's Association.

#### **8. Discussion on proposed pieces of legislation regarding Mental Health**

Chief Mello stated he received a letter from the sponsors of the Legislation that was passed on Mental Health training. The letter asked for a status report of recruits and officers trained. He said he would have to get the records from the Academy staff and bring it back to them. Chief Wordell stated the current Legislation that has been introduced in the House (Bill Number 7083 and 7085) and restricts the curriculum. It very specifically states an annual commitment to increasing the number of officers trained. Sue Urso asked what is different than the last legislation. Paul Dutra stated that he and Christine Crocker had this discussion recently. Statute 8.3 is the original legislation which sets forth the curriculum that would have to be part of in-service training and while it talked about the POST's ability to set forth training requirements, he was not aware of the POST having to set any such requirements. 8.4 requires training. Dave Ricciarelli stated that recruits received this training from 2007; however, the National Council does not recognize it. Only the recruits from 2017-I meet their requirements. Chief Wordell asked the question, "As a Chief, do we object to it?" Should they testify or not? Sue Urso said she would look up the language on what latitude the POST has over in-service training for Police Officers. Chief Palmer asked if we could legally challenge this. Chief Mello stated the curriculum from 2007 on wasn't branded under the

MHFA USA. He further stated that the language in the Bill didn't make sense. Chief Wordell said he would speak with Senator Lombardi to see what prompted this. Sue Urso will look at the previous legislation. Chief Palmer expressed his frustration that all MHFA training from 2007 on doesn't count.

**9. Request for Re-Certification of the Warwick PD SWAT Team**

Lt. Zarrella stated that the Warwick PD SWAT team was up for re-certification. Members of RITOA reviewed their standards and have confirmed that the Warwick SWAT Team meets all of the requirements for re-certification. Mr. Brown made a motion to re-certify the Warwick PD SWAT team; Chief Palmer seconded the motion, with all in favor 3-0, motion carries.

**10. Request for Instructor Certification**

- Lt. Steven Guilmette, Johnston PD (Shotgun Instruction)
- Off. Daniel Maggiacomo, Warwick PD (Patrol Operations, Shotgun, Firearms, Role Play Instruction)
- Off. David DelBonis, E. Greenwich PD-Master Instruction Re-Certification (Patrol Operations, Firearms, Shotgun, Role Play Instruction)

Chief Mello asked if they need the Instructor Development course? He replied no, the course outline is sufficient. Chief Brown made a motion to certify the above-listed new instructors and to re-certify Off. DelBonis' re-certification and Chief Palmer seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

**11. Request for approval of Firearms Qualifications Courses**

Lieutenant Zarrella said he had eight Firearms courses to present for certification. They have been reviewed by himself and Captain Gould and he recommends approval.

- Coventry Police Department
- Cranston Police Department
- Cumberland Police Department
- Gloucester Police Department
- Jamestown Police Department
- Narragansett Police Department
- New Shoreham Police Department
- Pawtucket Police Department

Chief Mello made a motion to certify the above Firearms courses with the exception of Jamestown and Chief Palmer seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

Chief Palmer made a motion to certify the Jamestown P.D. Firearms course and Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor, 2-0 (Chief Mello recused himself), motion carries.

## **12. Update on Continuing Education**

Captain Ricciarelli reviewed some trainings that are on schedule for the upcoming months.

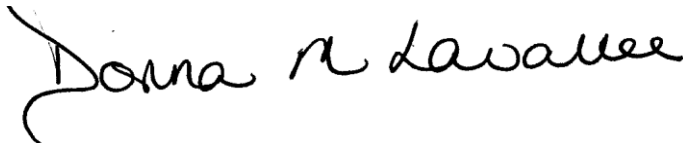
## **13. Update on Class 2018-I**

Lt. Zarrella stated that the current recruit class is in Week 7 with 54 recruits. All reports are there are no issues.

## **14. Adjournment:**

Chief Mello made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 am and Chief Palmer seconded the motion, With all in favor, 3-0, 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, sweeping initial 'D'.

Donna M. Lavalley  
Administrative Assistant