



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Municipal Police Training Academy

Community College of Rhode Island — Flanagan Campus

1762 Louisquisset Pike, Lincoln, RI 02865-4585

Telephone: (401) 722-5808 — Fax: (401) 722-3151

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

July 12, 2018

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Chief Edward Mello called to order the “Special” meeting of the Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training (POST) at 10:05 a.m. on **July 12, 2018**.

Chief Mello asked Donna Lavalley to take a roll call. The following POST members were present: Chief Edward Mello, Colonel Michael Winquist, and Mr. Shaun Brown. Colonel Clements is absent and Maria Deaton will be late. 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.

2. Review of the status of Johnston PD SWAT team re-certification

Lt. Zarrella explained that he received a letter from Lt. Ryan Duffy that the Johnston PD SWAT team has met all of the requirements for compliance and he recommends approval. Mr. Brown made a motion to approve re-certification of the Johnston PD SWAT team and Colonel Winquist seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

Colonel Clements is now present at the meeting, arriving at 10:09 a.m.

3. Discussion on the maximum number of recruits

Chief Mello explained that at the last POST meeting there was discussion which was tabled for today regarding the number of recruits in a class. He asked how many are slated for the July class and Lt. Zarrella responded 59 as of today. Chief Mello asked if he was comfortable moving on with 59 with the presumption that we will lose some in the first week or so, as is past history. Lt. Zarrella replied that he is confident that we can do it with the help from the departments that send instructional staff. He re-iterated that instructors must show up as the focus should be on educating the recruits. Colonel Clements added that on the Providence side, they began with 60 recruits and graduated 53 so very similar to our Academy. He stated that they added to the staff to ensure the best training. Chief Mello began the discussion on whether or not to allow alternates once the Academy begins due to the large class size. Lt. Zarrella stated he didn’t think it would be a problem but must be careful of the loss of instruction, especially during the first few weeks. Chief Mello asked if the POST should reconsider allowing alternates due to the numbers. Chief Wordell asked if they would consider not a stringent yes or no, but base it on the individual department asking for it. Chief Mello agreed and stated it should be the Director’s discretion, taking into consideration all the

factors. He added that it should be reinforced at the next Chief's meeting that instructors need to show up when scheduled. Lt. Zarrella stated that Captain Weaver wanted the class more towards 50 but agreed to keep it where it is now but is adamant that we get support. Right now, we have 6 CTO's in place and the possibility of 2 more from Warwick. He feels the staff is ample right now.

4. Instructor Certification – Academy Instructors

Lieutenant Zarrella stated himself and Donna have worked on the undertaking of Certification/Re-Certification of our entire Instructional staff. The last time this was done was in 2010 and never revisited until now. We have received about 180 applications and credentials to date, which cover almost all of our staff. Chief Mello asked if he was satisfied with all applicants and he feels everyone is qualified and Lt. Zarrella responded yes, most are re-certifications and the new ones have been vetted and all meet at least the minimum requirements.

Colonel Clements asked if we feel we have enough instructors and Lt. Zarrella responded that we have the right number, but we have to rely on them showing up. Chief Mello asked how much time is allotted for Shotgun (8 hours) and brought up the possibility of training in Patrol Rifle as it is more relevant now than the Shotgun. Lt. Zarrella stated he has had this discussion with Capt. Gould and will work to get it in the curriculum.

Colonel Clements asked if we can start keeping a record of when instructors come and we said we do have a log but will be very stringent about record keeping beginning with this class.

(Maria Deaton is now present (10:30 am))

Lt. Zarrella added for the record that Officers Dave DelBonis and Dan Maggiacomo are ALWAYS present and go above and beyond countless times.

Chief Mello and Colonel Winqvist stated that with a push from the Chiefs, the instructors would get there. Chief Mello added that it would be a good idea to keep the expiration date the same for everyone. So no matter when they come before the POST for Certification or Re-Certification, there expiration date will ALL be 7/12/21.

Mr. Brown made a motion to approve all of the recommended instructors put before them today and Colonel Clements seconded the motion. With all in favor, 5-0, motion carries.

Chief Wordell brought up that Chiefs have approached him about the SRO funding and looking for guidance from the POST and RIPCA. Chief Mello asked if we could have a curriculum put before the next POST meeting because there are none currently certified by the POST.

5. Adjournment:

Chief Mello made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 am and Colonel Clements 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' and a long, sweeping underline.

Donna M. Lavalley
Administrative Assistant