



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Municipal Police Training Academy

Community College of Rhode Island — Flanagan Campus

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Colonel Darnell S. Weaver
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 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2023

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Colonel Winquist called to order the regular meeting of the Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training (POST) at 10:04 a.m. on **November 16, 2023 at the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy.**

Colonel Winquist took a roll call. The following POST members were present at the meeting: Colonel Michael Winquist, Chief Elwood Johnson, Colonel Michael Correia, Colonel Oscar Perez and Colonel Roberson. A quorum has been met. Chief Goncalves, (ret) Chief Mello, Maria Deaton and Shaun Brown are absent. Also present were Donna Lavalley, Lieutenant Christopher Zarrella, Adam Sholes and Paul Dutra.

2. Review & approval of minutes

- Special Meeting – October 19, 2023. Chief Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2023 POST meetings; Colonel Roberson seconded the motion. With all in favor, 5-0, motion carries.

3. Review of Lateral Applications:

Colonel Winquist stated that this request is for the lateral of Derek Carlino from Jamestown PD to Narragansett PD.. Chief Sean Corrigan is present. Colonel Winquist stated that the package is complete. Chief Corrigan stated that Officer Carlino is highly recommended and he looks forward to having him join the department. Chief Johnson made a motion to approve the lateral certification of Derek Carlino; Colonel Perez seconded the motion. With all in favor 5-0, motion carries.

The next lateral application is for Alexander Grimes from Portsmouth PD to Portsmouth PD as a re-hire. Deputy Chief Morse is present. The Deputy stated that he left in good standing to join the NH State Police and the department welcomes him back. Colonel Winquist stated that the package is complete with the exception of the medical/drug screening and the Psychological Report. Chief Johnson made a motion to approve the lateral transfer for Alexander Grimes contingent upon the receipt of a favorable medical/drug screen and psychological report; Colonel Roberson seconded the motion. With all in favor, 5-0, motion carries.

The next lateral application is for Kevin Kidd from the Charlestown PD to Jamestown Police Department. Chief James Campbell is present for the meeting. Chief Campbell stated that Off. Kidd is retiring from Charlestown and he has received great recommendations. Colonel Winquist stated that all documents are in and the package is complete. Chief Johnson made a motion to approve the

Lateral transfer of Kevin Kidd; Colonel Perez seconded the motion. With all in favor, 5-0, motion carries.

The next lateral application is for Kevin Grant from the East Providence PD to U.R.I. PD. Captain Michael Chalek is present. Capt. Chalek added that he was a Cranston PD officer then went to E. Providence PD but has aged out; therefore, going to U.R.I. Colonel Winquist stated all documents are in with the exception of the medical/drug screen report and Psychological Report. Colonel Correia made a motion to approve the lateral transfer for Ryan Riecke contingent upon the receipt of the favorable medical/drug screening report and Written Psychological Report; Colonel Roberson seconded the motion. With all in favor, 5-0, motion carries.

4. Vote and approval of the following instructors:

- Off. Lewis C. Walton, Tiverton PD – Firearms Instructor
- Off. Matthew Josefson, Cranston PD – SMART Instructor
- Off. Kory Bannon, DEM – Use of Force Instructor
- Off. Ryan Fedo, Providence PD – Use of Force Instructor

Lt. Zarrella stated that all of the above have been reviewed and their credentialing meets the minimum standards or better. Chief Johnson made a motion to approve the above-listed instructors; Colonel Correia seconded the motion. With all in favor, 5-0, motion carries.

5. Review and vote to approve the following Firearms Course:

- Rhode Island Capitol Police

Lt. Zarrella stated that the Capitol Police course has been reviewed and meets the standards. Colonel Perez made a motion to approve the RI Capitol Police Firearms Course; Chief Johnson seconded the motion. With all in favor, 5-0, motion carries.

6. Discussion on the Governor's Feasibility Study

Colonel Winquist stated that the RI Police Chief's Association Executive Board has been in conversation with the Governor's Office regarding the future of a facility for the Academy and moving forward to have a new facility. The RIPCA submitted a letter to have a feasibility study put in the next budget. At the last POST meeting there was some discussion regarding have the POST send a supporting letter as well. Chief Wordell added that he suspects the study would cost anywhere between \$50,000 and \$100,000. He further asked that with the Job Task Analysis underway, will that include physical space needed? Lieutenant Zarrella responded that it will give us some idea of what resources will be needed based on the curriculum. He used the example of EVOC. The company is polling the entire state as part of the JTA. Colonel Winquist added that Rhode Island is the 2nd longest Academy in the country and the JTA may change that length. Colonel Roberson asked if anyone has spoken to other PD's where this company performed a JTA and Lt. Zarrella stated he re-searched them and they are very well respected.

There was then a discussion as to once the analysis is done and a preliminary report is completed, would there be an opportunity to open it up to the public. Paul Dutra brought up the point that the Trust took on the role of updating the Use of Force Policy in 2020. They had the benefit of Jerry Coyne from the AG's Office. He stated it is important if you do that to define the specifics that get presented to the public as you want to say this is it and not change policies but stay transparent. Colonel Winquist suggested maybe use the RIPCA PR person.

Chief Wordell went on to tell of his visit to the Fire Academy in Exeter. He was in awe of their training site. They pulled out of under the umbrella of DPS and are an entity of their own, with paid instructors.

He further stated that it is a shame that we do not have an Academy building of our own with the history on the walls. How much longer must we do things this way. There is plenty of ammunition of why we need better for our training. Chief Johnson asked how did the Fire Academy get passed? He feels the public is completely unaware of the facilities the recruit train in. Chief Wordell answered that we need to be strategic on how to go forward. Colonel Winquist would like to arrange the POST members go to visit the Fire Academy before he writes the Letter of Support. Chief Wordell will arrange the visit.

7. Discussion on Department Patrol Rifle Qualification Courses

Lt. Zarrella stated that the last Academy class was the first to utilize the Patrol Rifle/Taser training. Most agencies have transferred from shotguns to rifles. Therefore, a Rifle/Taser course was developed. The course is just a familiarity with the weapon and the recruit must still qualify with their department. With that said, some departments started sending us their Qual courses for Patrol Rifle. Do we need/should we require a yearly qualification? Does it need legislative review? As it stands now, the Pistol Qualification course is a statutory requirement. Do we want to open that door with the Patrol Rifle?

Paul Dutra stated that it is recommended to their members that this weapon be included with the Qual Course on an annual basis. Chief Johnson suggested to check with Christine Crocker.

Lieutenant Zarrella stated he will have the subject matter experts make recommendations for a good basic qual course for the state.

8. Update on the current recruit class 2023-II and the upcoming class, 2024-I

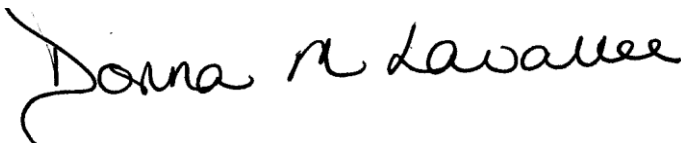
Lieutenant Zarrella said we anticipate graduating 60 recruits on December 15th. They will be starting Role Play in another week and he asked everyone to spread the word that we need bodies to assist. Also, he is still in need of two CTO's for the next class. With the class size as large as 65, he must have 6 CTO's. He thanked the Chiefs as their support has been huge. He understands the resources we have are terrible but they have no choice but to work through them. He commended the new Firearms staff. For the first time, we had a 100% pass. They did an outstanding job and he pointed out Sgt. Harold Guise who took the role of Lead Instructor.

Chief Winquist brought up the subject that some departments are being told by URI testing that they may not be conducting Psychologicals for recruits after the end of the year due to the closing of the downtown Providence campus. It is very important that we have this service continue as we need a second venue. He, Chief Wordell and Colonel Lync will be meeting with Chief Jagoda to join the fight to keep it going. Captain Chalek expects that the services will be viable for awhile.

9. Adjournment

Chief Johnson made a motion at 11:25 am to adjourn the meeting; Colonel Correia seconded the motion. With all in favor, 5-0, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna M. Lavallee
Administrative Assistant