



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Municipal Police Training Academy

Community College of Rhode Island — Flanagan Campus

1762 Louiquisset Pike, Lincoln, RI 02865-4585

Telephone : (401) 205-2500 — Fax: (401) 205-2501

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

Special Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2025

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Colonel Winquist called to order the special meeting of the Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training (POST) at 10:03 a.m. on **January 23, 2025, 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 Michael Correia, Mr. Edward Mello, Colonel Roberson, Maria Deaton. A quorum has been met. Donna Lavalley, Lieutenant Christopher Zarrella, and Keith Hoffman were also in attendance.

2. Vote to approve the following minutes:

- **December 4, 2024 (Special meeting)**

Mr. Mello made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2024, Special meeting; Colonel Roberson seconded the motion. With all in favor, 5-0, motion carries

Colonel Perez and Chief Goncalves have joined the meeting.

3. Review and vote to approve the following laterals:

Nathan S. Rossi – E. Greenwich PD to Newport PD. Lieutenant Turmel is present, and he stated there were no issues with his background check and they have a letter of good standing. He further stated that Officer Rossi is a 4-year veteran officer and just wants to get to a larger department with more opportunities. East Greenwich spoke very highly of him with no concerns. Colonel Winquist stated that the package is complete with all documentation in the file. Chief Correia made a motion to approve the Lateral of Nathan Rossi from E. Greenwich PD to Newport PD; Colonel Roberson seconded the motion. With all in favor, 7-0, motion carries.

Matthew Sepe – Cumberland PD to Lincoln PD. Captain Nightingale is in attendance and stated he has been on the job for 1-3 years and wants to lateral mostly because of the different schedules. Colonel Winquist added that the packet is complete except for a full Psychological Report. Captain Nightingale did submit a letter from Chandler Psychological Services confirming Mr. Sepe had passed a psychological examination. Once received, this report must be sent to Mrs. Lavalley. Chief Correia made a motion to approve the lateral of Matthew Sepe from Cumberland to Lincoln PD; Colonel Roberson seconded the motion. With all in favor, 7-0, motion carries.

Ryan Legare – N. Smithfield PD to Lincoln PD -Colonel Winquist stated that this package is complete as well, except for the full Psychological Report, which must be submitted to Mrs. Lavallee upon receipt. Captain Nightingale did submit a letter from Chandler Psychological Services confirming Mr. Legare had passed a psychological examination. Captain Nightingale stated he has been on the job for 4-5 years and has received all good references, no issues and they have a letter of good standing. Chief Correia made a motion to approve the lateral of Ryan Legare to Lincoln PD; Maria Deaton seconded the motion. With all in favor, 7-0, motion carries.

Kyle Rooney – Narragansett PD to E. Greenwich PD – Major Siple was in attendance and explained that Officer Rooney retired after 20 years with Narragansett PD. He was a long-term Academy instructor and will be a great addition to their department. They plan to put him through an in-house FTO program. Colonel Winquist stated that the package is complete. Colonel Perez made a motion to approve the lateral of Kyle Rooney to E. Greenwich PD; Chief Correia seconded the motion. With all in favor, 7-0, motion carries.

Robert K. Brown, Jr. – N. Providence PD to RIC Campus Police – Chief Mendonca is in attendance and stated that this is a traditional retirement after 20 years with the North Providence PD. Officer Brown is community policing orientated, and he is confident that he will be a great addition to the department. He received a call from the Colonel of N. Providence PD reiterating what a great officer he is. The package is complete, per Colonel Winquist. Colonel Roberson made a motion to approve the lateral of Robert Brown to RIC; Colonel Perez seconded the motion. With all in favor, 7-0, motion carries.

Christopher Lombardi – Pawtucket PD to Foster PD – Captain Tyler Domingos is present and thanked Chief Goncalves for providing the letter of good standing. He said he was with Pawtucket for over 20 years, he knows him personally and he has a great personality. Chief Goncalves added that he was a great asset to her department and retired in good standing as a Lieutenant. The packet is complete. Colonel Roberson made a motion to approve the lateral for Christopher Lombardi; Chief Correia seconded the motion. With all in favor, (Chief Goncalves recused herself), 6-0, motion carries.

Ryan Boraski-Cranston PD to Barrington PD – Colonel Winquist stated that Officer Boraski lateralled to Cranston from Barrington about 3 weeks ago. He was in the FTO program and decided the city environment was not for him and wanted to return to Barrington PD where it was a better fit for him. Chief Correia said Officer Boraski decided to leave, and he didn't want to waste Cranston PD's time and money. He is now returning as the low man, so he gave up a lot to return to Barrington PD and thanked Colonel Winquist for his understanding and assistance in facilitating Officer Boraski's return to Barrington PD. Chief Mello asked how long he was in Barrington before transferring to Cranston and he replied 3 years. Colonel Winquist made a motion to approve the lateral of Ryan Boraski back to Barrington PD; Colonel Roberson seconded the motion. With all in favor (Chief Correia recused himself), 6-0, motion carries.

4. Update on Lateral applications

Colonel Winquist reviewed the updates on past laterals:

- a. Scott DaCosta – Tiverton PD – Complete
- b. Yadira Allen – Central Falls PD – Complete
- c. Jaisen Cole – Woonsocket PD – Complete
- d. Spencer Barrows & Ryan Valentim – Brown U. – Pending FTO completion

5. Vote and approval of the following RIMPTA Instructors

- **Lt. Christopher Lo, Warwick PD – BCI, Interview Techniques Instructor**
- **Lt. Matthew Higgins, Warwick PD-First Responder Instructor**
- **Off. Adam Arica, Warwick PD-EVOC Instructor**
- **Off. Christopher Gillis, Warwick PD-Pistol, TAC Med Instructor**
- **Off. Nicholas Reay, Warwick PD-SMART Instructor**
- **Off. Joshua Myer, Warwick PD-Mental Health Instructor**
- **Off. Jason Brodeur, Warwick PD-LEADS, EVOC Instructor**
- **Off. Kyle Fitzsimmons-Warwick PD-Patrol Operations Instructor**
- **Off. Matthew Smith, Warwick PD-Firearms Instructor**
- **Lt. Timothy Kenyon, Warwick PD-Firearms & Report Writing Instructor**
- **Sgt. Nelson Carreiro, Warwick PD-MVC, Courtroom Testimony, Prosecution Instructor**
- **Off. Stanley Hermanowski, Warwick PD-Elderly Affairs Instructors**
- **Off. Terence McMullin, Warwick PD-BCSI, Interview & Interrogation, Death Notif Inst**
- **Off. Michael Rosa, Warwick PD-Patrol Operations Instructor**
- **Off. Andrew Distelhurst, Warwick-POPS-B, Firearms, Patrol Ops Instructor**
- **Sgt. Ryan Lancaster, Warwick PD-Pistol, Patrol Ops, TAC Med Instructor**
- **Off. Jonathan Reiff, Warwick PD-Pistol, Patrol Ops, Tac Med, Active Shooter Instructor**
- **Nicholas Manocchio, Warwick PD-Patrol Operations Instructor**
- **Off. Michael Harris, Warwick PD-Firearms, Pistol, Rifle Shotgun Instructor**

Lt. Zarrella stated that all the instructors meet, or exceed, the minimum standards and are all Basic Instructors. Mr. Mello asked if they were only being certified for the Warwick PD Academy. Lt. Zarrella replied that most of them are already POST-certified as almost all instruct at the Academy. For edification, he added that several of them have already attended the Instructor Development program and are strongly qualified. Chief Correia made a motion to approve all the above-named Instructors; Mr. Mello seconded the motion. With all in favor, 7-0, motion carries.

6. Review and vote to approve the following Firearms Courses:

- Jamestown Police Department
- Newport Police Department
- North Smithfield Police Department
- Rhode Island D.E.M.
- Warren Police Department
- West Warwick Police Department

Lt. Zarrella stated that the courses for all the courses are approved except for Jamestown PD. He asked to table Jamestown until the next meeting. Colonel Roberson made a motion to table the Firearms courses for Jamestown PD until the next meeting; Chief Goncalves seconded the motion. With all in favor, (Mr. Mello recused himself) 6-0, motion carries.

Maria Deaton made a motion to approve the remainder of the Firearms Courses; Chief Correia seconded the motion. With all in favor, 6-0, motion carries.

7. The status of implementing POST requirements of the Rhode Island Law Enforcement Officers' Due Process and Accountability and Transparency Act.

Colonel Winquist stated that he wanted to give a brief update on this subject. He explained that the mandated training was completed in November and 73 officers completed the training. Therefore, the pool of officers is ready to go. The law states that there must be a public meeting and randomly selected from the pool of officers. The Supreme Court Justice has selected the judges and attorneys who will serve on future hearing panels.

As for the website, he has been in contact with State IT and Donna has already updated the new website. There is a link for the POST already and we can just add it.

There was some discussion with Keith Hoffman regarding what would be mandated to put on the website as far as officer's names, etc.

Colonel Winquist has been in touch with the National De-Certification Index office and that will be modified with a drop down for Rhode Island when we are ready.

He explained Share Point, which would be the program for the storage of documents. The issue now is getting the funding for that.

He spoke about getting a re-classification for Donna Lavalley, due to the additional duties she has assumed, and he thanked her for all she has done.

There was also a discussion of the POST statutes that are very conflicting and antiquated. The RIPCA is putting together a study committee to study the statutes that need to be modified and bring it to the legislature. So far, he named himself, Chief Correia, Keith Hoffman, Chief Moynihan and possible Adam Sholes who will be participating. Colonel Weaver will be invited to be part of the study group as well. There was also more discussion on the need for a stand-alone building for the Academy and finding to compensate instructors. Col. Winquist asked any commission member interested in serving on the study committee to contact him.

He further stated that he was made aware of a law being introduced to put additional duties on the POST regarding developing new training courses. He added that legislators often introduce bills without having knowledge of the legal authority and duties of the POST. He intends to be more active and present at the State House when bills affecting the POST are considered. He has invited sponsors of bills related to new training to come to the Academy to what is currently being taught but received no response.

Keith Hoffman will continue to monitor the legislation and suggested that legislative updates should be added to future agendas.

Mr. Mello asked Keith Hoffman if the officer goes through a hearing and is found Not Guilty on all charges, does it get posted to the website? He will do a full analysis.

8. Update-Class 2025-I

Lieutenant Zarrella stated that this is one of the smaller classes with 44 recruits. He discussed the possibility of getting some new laptops for the recruits with some grant money that may become available. He is also asking for Virtual Reality Training. He stated that there are no resources for Records Management for the recruits. It is strictly pen to paper. Colonel Winquist suggested that the recruits bring laptops from their respective departments. He also asked if there was a replacement for Trooper Hanley and he replied, yes, that Trooper Dmitry Drozdov has been assigned to the Academy. Colonel Winquist suggested adding a female instructor to the staff. Lieutenant Zarrella added that Chief Oates kindly sent a female CTO, and he is very thankful for that.

9. Adjournment

Colonel Roberson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 am; Chief Correia seconded the motion. With all in favor, 7-0, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Lavalley
Administrative Assistant