



# CONNECTICUT POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS & TRAINING



## DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

### POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS and TRAINING COUNCIL MEETING CERTIFICATION SUBCOMMITTEE

**Thursday, June 26, 2025**

**Classroom 4 or via Zoom**

**11:00 A.M.**

<https://ctdespp.zoom.us/j/81308228956>

## MINUTES

### ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members Present: Chief Vernon Riddick, Captain Ryan Maynard, Chief Scott Sansom, Mayor Caroline Simmons

Other Attendees: Field Program Consultant Michael Francis, Administrative Assistant Lois Pisani, Director Jessica Blank, Attorney Jessica Gouveia, Field Program Consultant Jennie Rivera, Academy Administrator Karen Boisvert, Field Program Consultant Brian Budd, Chief Thomas Wydra

### CALL TO ORDER

Chief Riddick called the meeting to order at 11:16 a.m.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

1. Approval of the Minutes – February 27, 2025 and April 24, 2025 meetings

Motion is made to approve meeting minutes from February 27, 2025 and April 24, 2025 by Chief Sansom and seconded by Captain Maynard. There was no discussion. There were no abstentions. Motion granted.

2. Firearms qualification for certified review training program

There is discussion by Chief Wydra, Prior to July 1, 1997, the firearms review training for recertification was structured as a one-day eight-hour block of training (five hours of practical and three hours of classroom). In 1997, POSTC modified training to increase the number of hours from eight to nine hours, breaking it out into three annual segments, with three hours of firearms training annually which also required annual qualification. In 2003, POST Council received legal advice that annual qualification was in conflict with general statutes. POST Council then issued a general notice identifying that annual requirements were highly recommended. With assistance of Attorney Gouveia, Chief Wydra drafted a recommendation that POST Council mandate that police officers have three hours of annual firearms training which will include successfully completing the qualification course, as part of required review training.

Attorney Gouveia offers to further clarify if needed but rested on legal authority as set forth in written letter/recommendation.

Motion is made to move item 2 above to full Council by Captain Maynard and seconded by Chief Sansom. There were no abstentions. Motion was granted.

## **CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE**

### **Request for Comparative Certification**

1. Timothy Jones – Southington Police Department  
From New Orleans Police Department, LA
2. Ryan Bloom – Waterbury Police Department  
From Durham Police Department, NC
3. Timothy Keckler – Waterbury Police Department  
From Lincoln Police Department – NH
4. Terence Fogarty – Torrington Police Department  
From Lee County Sheriff's Office, FL

There was a discussion regarding number 4 above (Terence Fogarty) wherein Chief Riddick questions the gap in work history for a period of 10 months. Per Director Blank, Officer Fogarty was unemployed for that ten-month gap.

Motion is made to move items 1-4 above to full Council by Chief Sansom and seconded by Captain Maynard. There were no abstentions. Motion was granted.

**Request for Extension – Recertification – Illness**

1. Sean Rubano - Branford Police Department
2. Michael Rooney - Greenwich Police Department
3. L. Roger Drenth - Greenwich Police Department
4. Lori Feola - Yale University Police Department
5. Brittany Fink - West Haven Police Department
6. Martha Cedeno Ross - Yale University Police Department
7. Debra-Ann O'Mara - Connecticut State Police
8. Michael Dominique - Yale University Police Department
9. Michael Lozada - New Haven Police Department
10. Marcquis Knox Sr. – Prospect Police Department

Motion to move items 1-10 above to full Council was made by Chief Sasom and seconded by Captain Maynard. Captain Maynard abstained from item 7 above. Motion was granted.

**Request for Extension – Recertification - Injury**

1. Terence Lott - Danbury Police Department
2. Robert Cafaro - Orange Police Department
3. Richard Bango - Shelton Police Department
4. Alejandro Molina - Stamford Police Department
5. Audrey Jefferson - West Haven Police Department
6. Stefano Mauriello - Woodbridge Police Department
7. Kelly Baerga - Hartford Police Department
8. Juan Martinez - Hartford Police Department
9. Andreas Spoerk – Connecticut State Police
10. Sean McKay – Connecticut State Police
11. Christopher Bird – Bristol Police Department
12. Lisa Colon – Hartford Police Department
13. Jose Rivera – Hartford Police Department
14. Gabriel Garcia – Hamden Police Department
15. Daniele Mauriello – Waterbury Police Department
16. Tammy Adler – Waterbury Police Department
17. Christina Sampaio – Manchester Police Department
18. Phillip Hadden – Trumbull Police Department

Motion is made to move items 1-18 above to full Council by Chief Sansom and seconded by Captain Maynard. Captain Maynard abstained from item 9 and 10 above. Motion was granted.

Discussion regarding item 18 above by Director Blank stating that POST received a request on June 24, 2025 to extend Officer Hadden one year due to an on-the-job injury which requires surgery.

**Request for Extension – Recertification – Military Orders**

1. Jessica Stroud - Hartford Police Department
2. Reza Malekivash - Hartford Police Department
3. Jeffrey Morande – Hartford Police Department
4. Thomas Flaherty - Connecticut State Police
5. Joseph McDonald III – Hamden Police Department
6. Justin Martin – Hamden Police Department

Motion is made to move items 1-6 above to full Council by Captain Maynard and seconded by Chief Sansom. Captain Maynard abstained from item 4 above. Motion was granted.

**Request for Extension – Recertification – Other**

1. Jason Pontz – Consumer Protection – Gaming Division
2. Tomasz Kaczerski – Manchester Police Department
3. Peter Farr – Prospect Police Department
4. Wojciech Podgorski – Ansonia Police Department
5. Commissioner Ronnell Higgins – Police Officer Standards and Training Council

Motion is made to move items 1-5 above to full Council by Captain Maynard and seconded by Chief Sansom. Captain Maynard abstained from item 5 above. Motion was granted.

Discussion was had, Chief Riddick asked Director Blank to clarify the request on item 1 above. Director Blank summarized that Officer Pontz worked for Manchester Police in December 2022 and also worked for DCP in February 2021. Reactivation was approved in March 2025 and between March and now, he was unable to complete training due to lack of availability.

**Request for Extension – Recertification – Administrative Leave**

1. Trevor Canace - New Haven Police Department
2. Steven Caldwell - Greenwich Police Department
3. Joel Ethier - Norwich Police Department
4. John Giordano - Shelton Police Department
5. Ryan O'Connell - Norwich Police Department
6. Matthew Perkowski – Trumbull Police Department

Chief Riddick asks Director Blank to summarize each request above.

Per Director Blank, Officer Canace is on administrative leave pending a termination hearing on June 25, 2025. Officer Canace is on leave due to two investigations (violation of pursuit policy

and use of force and pursuit). POST Administrative Staff does not approve the request for extension.

Chief Riddick and Director Blank confirmed that the same recommendation that POST Administrative Staff does not approve the request for extension is for all six requests above.

Per Director Blank, Officer Caldwell is on administrative leave pending the outcome of an internal affairs investigation. Director Blank was provided with copies of two arrest warrants for Officer Caldwell which are included in the meeting packet.

Per Director Blank, Officer Ethier is on administrative leave pending the outcome of an internal affairs investigation. We have received information that the officer is on administrative leave due to potential violation of evidence handling, procedures and department policy.

Per Director Blank, Officer Giordano is on administrative leave due to an open investigation of a larceny allegation. CT State Police is currently investigating the matter. There have not been any arrests. Chief Riddick asked for clarification that no IA has been started and Director Blank stated that she believed that to be true based on the information given to her.

Per Director Blank, Officer O'Connell is on administrative leave due to an internal affairs investigation. Officer O'Connell was arrested by the CT State Police for a larceny charge. Due to the arrest he was unable to fulfill his training obligations.

Per Director Blank, Officer Perkowski is on administrative leave due to a charge of sexual assault in the 1<sup>st</sup> degree and assault in the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree. There was no specific amount of time requested for an extension.

Motion is made to move items 1-6 above to full Council by Chief Sansom and seconded by Captain Maynard. Captain Maynard abstained from item 5 above. Motion was granted.

Chief Wydra was communicating live with New Haven Chief Jacobson who told Chief Wydra that Officer Trevor Canace (above) has resigned. A discussion took place as to leaving this matter on the agenda and it was determined to leave this on the agenda as POST had not received formal paperwork regarding this resignation.

Attorney Gouveia discusses how to come out of forfeiture status. In order to come out of forfeiture status the officer would have to comply with training requirements. The removal from forfeiture status would go to POST Council for review and approval. Attorney Gouveia mentions that any decision regarding certification has to come from POST Council. POST Council chairman authorized POST administrative staff to give provisional approval to a certification request if all requirements appear to be fulfilled, which lasts until the next point at which POST Council can consider and take formal action. This process allows officers to get back on the street while waiting for POST Council's approval.

### **Request to Reactivate Certification**

1. Edward Rivera – Connecticut State Community College Police Department

There was a discussion by Director Blank regarding Mr. Edward Rivera's request. She summarized that Mr. Rivera was out of work for six years and four months prior to his request for reactivation. Mr. Rivera was a certified police officer for Bridgeport Police Department for 20 years and retired in 2018. Mr. Rivera worked at UCONN Police and resigned in 2019.

2. Shayna Kendall – New Haven Police Department

Motion is made to move items 1-2 above to full Council by Chief Sansom and seconded by Captain Maynard. No abstentions. Motion was granted.

### **Request for Extension – Probationary Candidate Status**

None.

### **Request for Basic Training Academy**

1. Request for Satellite Academy – Milford Police Department
2. Request for Satellite Academy – New Britain Police Department
3. Request for Satellite Academy – Waterbury Police Department

Discussion was had. Chief Wydra reported as follows:

- Milford's request to operate an academy to start November 7, 2025 was received on June 3, 2025.
- New Britain's request to operate an academy to start September 12, 2025 was received on June 6, 2025. This academy will have 50 recruits. They also currently have a class of 32 recruits set to graduate in October.
- Waterbury's request to operate an academy to start December 4, 2025 was received on June 18, 2025. This academy will have 32 recruits.

Chief Wydra summarized that these requests are standard, and the academies have been operating for quite some time. He indicated that POST endorses the academies. Currently, New Haven has a class starting in June. Law Enforcement Council has a class starting in August. POST will be starting a class on July 11, 2025 as well as in October, 2025.

Chief Wydra went on to say the landlord at Rentschler Field provided POST with a letter that they will be starting a construction project developing a solar panel field in the parking lot at Renschler. This project is scheduled to commence in the second quarter of 2026. This

construction project will prevent POST from utilizing Rentschler field for our EVOC training. POST is in need of other options for EVOC Training. While POST approves all the satellite academies, all academies will all be striving to secure a venue for EVOC training, which is a significant part of training.

Motion is made to move items 1-3 above to full Council by Chief Sansom and seconded by Captain Maynard. No abstentions. Motion was granted.

Chief Riddick discusses that maybe a casino reservation would provide us with a space for EVOC training.

Captain Maynard explained that they have explored over 40 potential locations but are running out of options. The Connecticut State Police and Department of Administrative Services are involved in the process. The group discussed potential temporary solutions, including using properties owned by other agencies, and the need for a location with at least 25 acres of paved space.

Chief Riddick suggested sending a letter to all chiefs requesting their help in finding a suitable site, emphasizing the urgency of the situation.

#### **Executive Session**

None.

Motion is made to Adjourn by Chief Sansom and seconded by Captain Maynard. Motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.