

Commission Meeting Number 348

State of New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety
Division of Criminal Justice

POLICE TRAINING COMMISSION

Minutes of Commission Meeting

October 5, 2022

National Guard Training Center
Sea Girt, NJ

Commission Members Present

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Attendee(s)/Representative(s)</u>
Office of the Attorney General, State of New Jersey	John F. Cunningham
New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association	Kevin Lyons
New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police	James Abbott
New Jersey State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police	James Sharrock Ariel Cortez
County Prosecutors' Association of New Jersey	
Sheriffs' Association of New Jersey	Robert A. Nolan
Police Academy Director's Association	Daniel Colucci Thomas DePaul
Commissioner-Department of Education	James Scaringelli
Commissioner-Department of Corrections	Wayne Manstream
Federal Bureau of Investigation	Holly Trask Dean Druga
New Jersey Juvenile Detention Association	Jorge Sandoval
New Jersey State Parole Board	James Dickinson
National Organization of Black	

Law Enforcement Executives

Ed Steed

Citizen Member—Governor’s Appointment

James Polos

Citizen Member—Governor’s Appointment

Vacant

New Jersey League of Municipalities

Absent

New Jersey Jail Wardens Association

Absent

New Jersey State Police

Captain Michael Tierney

Division of Criminal Justice Staff Present

Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey Barile, Deputy Chief, Prosecution Supervision and Training Bureau

Deputy Attorney General Sarah Luciano, Deputy Chief, Prosecution Supervision and Training Bureau

Deputy Attorney General Emily Anderson, Prosecution Supervision and Training Bureau

Academy Coordinator Pat Jones, Police Training Commission

Analyst, Tykeria T. Lockhart, Police Training Commission

Academy Coordinator Unit Supervisor, Kathleen McSorley, Police Training Commission

Chief Investigator, James Byrd, Police Training Commission

Curriculum Unit Supervisor, Tyeka Knight, Police Training Commission

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Administrator John F. Cunningham called the 348th meeting of the Commission to order at 11:10 am.

Administrator Cunningham led the Commissioners in the flag salute. Commissioner Cunningham asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the Law Enforcement and military personnel who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Analyst Tykeria T. Lockhart announced that “notice of the Commission meeting has been publicized in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law by notification to the Secretary of State and five newspapers. The notifications included a copy of the meeting agenda.”

Administrator Cunningham asked the Commissioners to consider the minutes of the August 3, 2022 Commission meeting. Administrator Cunningham advised the Commission that Commissioner Jiles Ship previously advised that he would like to change his vote on a matter from the August 3, 2022 PTC meeting, after the conclusion of the meeting. The Commission stated that the vote cannot be changed after the meeting but that Commissioner’s objection will be noted for the record. Sheriff Nolan made a motion to accept the minutes with this note. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sharrock. The Commissioners voted to approve the motion.

Administrator Cunningham read correspondence pertaining to Gloucester County Police Academy appointing Sean McKenna as the new academy director.

Administrator Cunningham asked Chairperson Kevin Lyons to report on the business of the Appeals and Legislation Committee.

1. Commissioner Lyons reported the following appeals were received since the August 3, 2022 meeting:

Harry Webb v. Gloucester County Police Academy

Recruit was dismissed for failure to attend 80% of the physical conditioning sessions of the Academy. Recruit responded to 30-day letter sent.

Commissioner Lyons, on behalf of the Appeals and Legislation Committee, moved and seconded a motion to accept the dismissal. The Commissioners voted to approve the motion.

2. *Alaa Alateek v. Hudson County Public Safety Training Center*

Recruit was dismissed for having a restraining order filed against her. Letter sent to counsel.

Commissioner Lyons reported that there was no action necessary.

3. *Jonathan Torres v. Cape May County Police Academy*

The PTC received a letter from recruit's counsel on September 9, 2022, withdrawing the recruit's appeal from the PTC.

Commissioner Lyons reported that there was no action necessary.

Commissioner Lyons reported that **Agenda Item 4** was **Consideration of Extensions of Training Time** for County Correctional Police Officers and Juvenile Detention Officers

- 4A Consideration of a Request for an Extension of Training Time for Three County Correctional Police Officers (Salem County Correctional Facility)
- 4B Consideration of a Request for an Extension of Training Time for JDO, Anna C. Turner, Ocean County Juvenile Detention Center
- 4C Consideration of a Request for an Extension of Training Time for JDO, Nicholas L. Boyko, Morris County Juvenile Detention Center
- 4D Consideration of a Request for an Extension of Training Time for JDO, Markee Dixon, Essex County Juvenile Detention (**Add on**)

On behalf of the Appeals and Legislative Committee, Commissioner Lyons moved and seconded a motion to combine Agenda Items 4A – 4C as a consent agenda and approve the extension requests. He also moved and seconded a motion to accept the extension request for Dixon and approve the request. The Commissioners voted to approve the motions.

Commissioner Lyons concluded the Appeals and Legislation Committee Report

Administrator Cunningham asked Commissioner Sharrock to report on the business of the Standards Committee.

1. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 6A was Correspondence** from Raymond Closs, United States Park Police in reference to the established waiver standards for federal officers wishing to be certified as a Special Law Enforcement Officer Class III (SLEOIII)

On September 2, 2022, PTC Administrator Cunningham received correspondence from Raymond Closs, United States Park Police, in reference to the established waiver standards for federal officers wishing to be certified as a Special Law Enforcement Officer Class III (SLEO III). Mr. Closs correctly detailed in his letter that federal officers are eligible to be appointed as a SLEO III, however, they must also meet the training standards established by the Commission.

Mr. Closs would be eligible to receive training credit for Physical Conditioning, and Firearms, he would need to complete the remaining functional areas of the Basic Course for Police Officers to receive certification from the Commission. The current SLEO III statute, 40A: I 4- 146. I 0(4) is clear: the individual must have proof of basic police training approved by the Commission. The United States Park Police Course is not a Commission approved course; therefore, the officer must complete the established waiver training. Routinely, the Commission addresses these matters when received from specific agencies. Administrator Cunningham thought it necessary to bring this correspondence to the attention of the Commission to affirm the established waiver requirements.

Commissioner Sharrock stated that the Standards Committee affirms Administrator Cunningham's statement detailing the waiver requirements stating that only physical training and firearms would be waived, similar to the out of state waivers.

2. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 6B was a Request** to approve the PTC-9, Psychological Clearance Form and the EVOC Vehicle Inspection Form.

On August 3, 2022, the Commission approved; Title 13:1-8.1(b) through (i), requiring all academy candidates receive, and pass a mandatory psychological examination, prior to entry in a Commission approved school. The PTC-9, Psychological Clearance Form was given to the Commissioners for their review. In addition, the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course, Vehicle Inspection Form was presented for review. This form will be completed by the sending law enforcement agency, prior to the academy utilizing a vehicle during EVOC training. The Vehicle Inspection Form will further enhance the safety of recruits and instructors; ensuring the vehicle is safe for operation.

Commissioner Sharrock, on behalf of the Standards Committee, moved and seconded a motion to accept and approve the forms as written. The Commissioners approved the motion.

Commissioner Sharrock concluded the Standards Committee report

Administrator Cunningham reported that **Agenda Item 8A was a Report** of the Law Enforcement Officers Training and Equipment Fund (LEOTEF).

Commissioner Colucci reported that all of the SFY22 grants have been closed. Technical assistance in preparing quarterly expense reports has been provided. Supplemental academy requests for LEOTEF purchases have been reviewed and approved. Grants is currently working on the next round of funding (the 34th LEOTEF distribution) and hope to have it out within the next month.

Administrator Cunningham reported that **Agenda Item 9A** was a Request from Chief Lou Bordi, Voorhees/Berlin Police Department, to review the current Special Law Enforcement Officer (SLEO) insignia patch.

On September 23, 2022, Administrator Cunningham received correspondence from Chief Lou Bordi, Voorhees/Berlin Police Department. Chief Bordi requested the Commission review the current Special Law Enforcement Officer (SLEO) Insignia Patch. In accordance with title 40A:146.1 2, the Commission is empowered to design and issue a patch which should clearly indicate the officer's status as a SLEO and the certification issued. The Commission currently purchases the patches, and in turn issues them to law enforcement agencies statewide. The cost of the patches runs in the thousands of dollars annually. Chief Bordi proposes the incorporation of the SLEO designation into the local agency patch, in lieu of a separate SLEO patch. Although not currently approved, Administrator Cunningham has observed SLEOs on duty with their designation embedded in the local agency patch. Correspondence from Chief Bordi, which included a sample design was given to the Commissioners for review. In addition, copies of the current SLEO insignia patches issued by the Commission were available for review.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to table the issue for sixty days until the next Commission meeting to allow time for a sub-committee to be formed to establish parameters for the patch. The motion carried.

Administrator Cunningham reported that Agenda Item 9B was a Report from the Rules Committee. DAG Sarah Luciano was present and gave an overview of all of the proposed rule changes. This document is attached. Commissioner Nolan stated that he would like Sheriff's Officers specifically named in the definition of "law enforcement officer". A long discussion took place concerning why some entities were specifically mentioned in the definition and others were not. DAG Joseph Walsh was present and advised that the definition is pulled directly from the legislation for licensing and covers all law enforcement officer titles.

DAG Sarah Luciano advised that if the Commission votes on the proposed changes at this meeting, the regulatory process to adopt the changes can be started. Commissioner Sharrock made a motion to accept the changes as written. Commissioner Colucci seconded the motion.

Administrator Cunningham reported that Item 10 was Good and Welfare. During this time, he introduced Thomas Eicher, Director of Office of Public Integrity and Accountability (OPIA). Commissioner Colucci thanked Director Eichert for what he's done for the Police Training Commission as a whole. Administrator Cunningham reported that the PTC will now be under OPIA and he also spoke about the expansion of PTC administrative staff. He mentioned that PTC has acquired DAG Marie McGovern under a mobility agreement and she will start working on the licensing regulations. In addition, interviews have begun for new positions and the PTC is slated to expand to a staff of forty four employees; up from the initial count of five and now currently at a total of seventeen employees. Lastly, Administrator Cunningham stated that the PTC is currently looking at purchasing a learning management system (LMS) with access for all law enforcement officers in the state to be able to complete mandatory training. Administrator Cunningham also thanked the Commission and Director Eichert for their support.

Administrator Cunningham announced the next meeting is Wednesday, December 7, 2022

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Administrator Cunningham asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:06 pm. Commissioner Nolan voted to approve the motion. Commissioner Sharrock seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.