

Commission Meeting Number 350

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

POLICE TRAINING COMMISSION

Minutes of Commission Meeting

February 6, 2023

**Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex
25 Market St., 4th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08625**

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	Angelo Onofri
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	David Scott
Federal Bureau of Investigation	Elisabete Santos
New Jersey Juvenile Detention Association	Jorge Sandoval
New Jersey State Parole Board	James Dickinson
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives	Edward Steed

Citizen Member—Governor’s Appointment

James Polos

Citizen Member—Governor’s Appointment

Vacant

New Jersey League of Municipalities

Samuel DeMaio

New Jersey Jail Wardens Association

Oscar Aviles

New Jersey State Police

Captain Michael Tierney

Division of Criminal Justice Staff Present

Attorney General, Matthew Platkin

Deputy Attorney General Alessandra Baldini, Office of Public Integrity & Accountability

Deputy Attorney General Stephen Wenger, Chief, Office of Public Integrity & Accountability

Deputy Attorney General Joseph Walsh, Office of Public Integrity & Accountability

Academy Coordinator Pat Jones, Police Training Commission

Academy Coordinator Debbie Freeman, Police Training Commission

Academy Coordinator Forest Kairos, 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

Field Representative, John Janowiak

Field Representative, Dion Feltri, Police Training Commission

Field Representative, Kim Arroyo, Police Training Commission

Field Representative, Rae Coles, Police Training Commission

Field Representative, Daniel Brown, Police Training Commission

Curriculum Unit Supervisor, Tyeka Knight, Police Training Commission

Police Training Commission Meeting Minutes for February 6, 2023

Administrator John F. Cunningham called the 350th 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 December 7, 2022 Commission meeting. Commissioner Colucci made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sharrock. The Commissioners voted to approve the motion.

The February 6, 2023 PTC meeting was the annual reorganization meeting. James Sharrock was re-elected as Chairman of the Standards Committee. Kevin Lyons was re-elected as Chairman of the Appeals and Legislative Committee. Additionally, Commissioner Sharrock was re-elected as Vice Chairman of the Commission.

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 October 5, 2022 meeting:

Marissa Edwards v. NJ Division of Criminal Justice Academy

Recruit was dismissed from the DCJ Academy as a result and findings of the investigation conducted by OPIA and NJ State Parole Board in regards to violations of the DCJ Academy Rules & Regulations, specifically, Section IV- Professional Conduct, A. & Section VI- Examinations, C.

On behalf of the Appeals and Legislation Committee, Commissioner Lyons moved and seconded a motion to refer the dismissal to the Office of Administrative Law. The Commissioners voted to approve the motion.

Katie Walsh v. NJ Division of Criminal Justice Academy

Recruit was dismissed from the DCJ Academy as a result and findings of the investigation conducted by OPIA and NJ State Parole Board in regards to violations of the DCJ Academy Rules & Regulations, specifically, Section IV- Professional Conduct, A. & Section VI- Examinations, C.

On behalf of the Appeals and Legislation Committee, Commissioner Lyons moved and seconded a motion to refer the dismissal to the Office of Administrative Law. The Commissioners voted to approve the motion.

2. Commissioner Lyons reported that the following appeal was referred to the Office of Administrative Law and no action needed:

Ebony Ashford v. NJ Juvenile Justice Commission Training Academy

3. Commissioner Lyons reported that the following Final Decisions were issued and there was no action needed:

Jeffrey Adams v. Essex County Department of Corrections

Gina Lewis v. John H. Stamler Police Academy

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

- 4A Consideration of a Request for an Extension of Training Time for JDO, Michael Wright, Bergen County Juvenile Detention Center
- 4B Consideration of a Request for an Extension of Training Time for Two County Correctional Police Officers (Somerset County Jail)
- 4C Consideration of a Request for an Extension of Training Time for Youth Worker, Tyrell Hollis, AYC-Harborfields
- 4D Consideration of a Request for an Extension of Training Time for JDO, Erika Piedrahita, Morris County Juvenile Detention Center
- 4E Consideration of a Request for an Extension of Training Time for Two County Correctional Police Officers (Passaic County Sheriff's Office)

On behalf of the Appeals and Legislative Committee, Commissioner Lyons moved and seconded a motion to combine Agenda Items 4A – 4E as a consent agenda and approve the extension requests. The Commissioners voted to approve the motion.

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 5A** was concerning the **PTC Defensive Tactics Course**

The Commission Staff, in consultation with Commission Certified Lead Defensive Tactics Instructors, has completed the curriculum for the Commission Defensive Tactics Instructor Certification Course. The ten-day course will certify individuals to instruct recruits at PTC Certified Academies. The course includes; proper techniques, teach back requirements, as well as, safety protocols. The students must demonstrate proficiency in all aspects of instruction to successfully complete the course.

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

2. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 6A was a Report** of an Academy Satellite Approval.

Administrator Cunningham received an application from Camden County College Police Academy on September 1, 2022, which requested certification of the Camden County Youth Detention Center, 8 Woodbury-Turnersville Road, Blackwood, N.J., as a satellite training facility. The application was reviewed by PTC Academy Coordinator Patricia Jones and found to be in order. The proposed satellite facility was inspected by PTC Field Representative, Raymonetta Coles on September 1, 2022, and found to be compliant with PTC requirements. Field Representative Janowiak recommended approval of the application. In accordance with applicable provisions of the PTC Rules (N.J.A.C. 13:1-2.2), and in the capacity as the designated Chair of the Commission, Administrator Cunningham, on behalf of the Commission, approved the application to certify the Camden County Youth Detention Center. as a satellite training facility.

3. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 7A was a Suspension of PTC Instructor, Krishnadat Munusami, Hudson County Police Academy**

On December 9, 2022, Commission Staff was notified of a complaint received in reference to Instructor Krishnadat Munusami. The complaint was received by the Essex County Police Academy and referred to the Commission by Anthony Perillo, Essex County Academy Director, via email. The complaint was received, via phone, from Nilsa Munusami, spouse of Instructor Munusami, and was initially in reference to Camila Tapia, a recruit in the Basic Course for County Correctional Police Officers. Nilsa Munusami's complaint was in reference to a potential overly friendly relationship between Instructor Munusami and Recruit Tapia. The complaint investigation was assigned to Investigator Kimberly Arroyo, Commission Field Investigations Unit. Investigator Arroyo conducted phone and personal interviews, gathered documents, submitting a written report on January 19, 2023. As a result, Instructor Munusami's PTC Instructor Certification was suspended, pending action by the Commission.

Based on the information gathered during the course of the investigation, it was noted that Instructor Munusami violated Sections: 5.4 and Sections 5.5 of the Police Training Commission Standards of Conduct for Instructors Code;

Section 5.4 – *Instructors shall not engage in any action that could be reasonably perceived as providing favored or preferential treatment to one or more recruits/trainees.*

Section 5.5 – *Instructors shall not socialize with one or more recruits/trainees during school training hours nor during off duty hours, at the school or elsewhere, for the duration of recruit/trainee status. This prohibition does not apply to situations where an instructor and recruit/trainee are related.*

Commissioner Sharrock, on behalf of the Standards Committee, moved and seconded a motion to uphold the instructor suspension. The Commissioners approved the motion; Commissioner Aviles abstained.

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 quarterly expense reports for the 1st and 2nd Quarter of State Fiscal Year 2023 are being reviewed and processed. Technical assistance in preparing quarterly expense reports has been provided. Supplemental academy requests for LEOTEF purchases have been reviewed and approved. All application/award packages for SFY 2023 LEOTEF Funds (34th distribution) were distributed on December 8, 2022 by email.

Administrator Cunningham reported that **Agenda Item 9A** was concerning the **Special Law Enforcement Officer Insignia Patch**.

Agenda Item 9A, is a follow up to the October 5, 2022, discussion concerning the Special Law Enforcement Insignia Patch (SLEO), the Commission tabled the matter pending submission of a sample patch that would meet the requirements of Title 40A:146.12, which mandates a SLEO wear a patch designating their status as a Special Officer. The statute designates the Police Training Commission as the entity to design the patch.

Administrator Cunningham received a sample patch design, which is in compliance with Title 40A:146.12. The sample patch contains the designation as a Special Law Enforcement Officer and the corresponding level as a Class I, II, or III.

The Commissioners voted to approve the patch design.

Administrator Cunningham reported **that Agenda Item 9B** was concerning the **Police Licensing Rules**

A draft of the licensing rules were provided to the Commissioners and DAG, Stephen Wenger, Chief, Office of Policing Policy was available to answer any questions and provide more information. Commissioner Lyons thanked all involved in the process for putting together a solid set of rules that can act as a foundation for licensing going forward. Attorney General Matthew Platkin was also present and thanked the Commission for all of their hard work.

The Commissioners reviewed, debated and discussed the rule proposal and a motion was made unanimously to move the rules forward for publication.

Administrator Cunningham announced the next meeting is Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Administrator Cunningham asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:00pm. Commissioner Nolan voted to approve the motion. Commissioner Sharrock seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.