

Commission Meeting Number 352

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

POLICE TRAINING COMMISSION

Minutes of Commission Meeting

June 7, 2023

**Monmouth County Sheriff's Office
2500 Kozloski Rd., Freehold, NJ 07728**

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
County Prosecutors' Association of New Jersey	Angelo Onofri
Sheriffs' Association of New Jersey	Robert A. Nolan
Police Academy Director's Association	Daniel Colucci
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	Samuel Plumeri
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

Absent

New Jersey Jail Wardens Association

Oscar Aviles

New Jersey State Police

Captain Michael Tierney

Division of Criminal Justice Staff Present

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 June 7, 2023

Administrator John F. Cunningham called the 352nd meeting of the Commission to order at 12:05 pm.

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 read correspondence from Essex County Executive, Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., appointing Guy Cirillo as the new Director of the Essex County Police Academy. He also read correspondence from Bergen County Police Academy OIC, Lt. Damian Pope, appointing Lt. Brett Rothenburger as the new Bergen County Police Academy.

Administrator Cunningham asked the Commissioners to consider the minutes of the April 5, 2023 Commission meeting. Commissioner Sharrock made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Colucci. The Commissioners voted to approve the motion.

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 April 5, 2023 meeting:

Revocation of PTC Instructor Certifications issued to Manuel Gonzalez

Officer Manuel Gonzalez was assigned as a range instructor at Essex County Police Academy. His PTC Instructor Certification has been suspended based on failing to reinforce/implement firearms range safety protocols.

Mr. Gonzalez and his attorney were present to provide additional information and answer any questions.

On behalf of the Appeals and Legislation Committee, Commissioner Lyons moved and seconded a motion to request a fact-finding investigation be conducted to determine the actions of Rangemaster Sherwood, Essex County Police Academy. Commissioner Sharrock abstained and the motion passed.

Revocation of PTC Instructor Certification issued to Krishnadat Munusami

Officer Krishnadat Munusami was assigned as an instructor at the Essex County Police Academy. His PTC Instructor Certification has been suspended based on an investigation into his outside communications with recruits.

On behalf of the Appeals and Legislation Committee, Commissioner Lyons moved and seconded a motion to table this appeal. The motion was approved.

Nicholas Mossey v. Morris County Public Safety Training Academy

Recruit appeals their dismissal from Morris County Public Safety Training Academy for failing to report a police encounter in a timely manner in accordance with PTC rules.

On behalf of the Appeals and Legislation Committee, Commissioner Lyons moved and seconded a motion forward the appeal to OAL. Commissioner Colucci abstained. The motion was approved.

Marisa Edwards v. Division of Criminal Justice Academy

Commissioner Lyons reported that the appeal was sent to OAL and there was no action needed.

Dylan Dunne v. New Jersey DOC Training Academy

Appellant was dismissed from a basic training course for a positive drug test. This appeal was filed with the OAL on March 8, 2022. Appellant withdrew his appeal from the OAL on April 10, 2023. No action needed.

Commissioner Lyons reported that **Agenda Item 4** was **Consideration of Extensions of Training Time** for Sheriff's Officers Juvenile Detention Officers and Youth Workers

- 4A Consideration of a Request for an Extension of Training Time for Youth Worker, Tyrell Hollis (AYC-Harborfields)
- 4B Consideration of a Request for an Extension of Training Time for Sheriff's Officer, Maibis Puente Leon (Essex County Sheriff's Office)
- 4C Consideration of a Request for an Extension of Training Time for Two Juvenile Detention Officers (Ocean County Juvenile Services)

On behalf of the Appeals and Legislative Committee, Commissioner Lyons moved and seconded a motion to combine Agenda Items 4B-4C and 4E-F as a consent agenda and approve the extension requests.

Commissioner Lyons also moved and seconded a motion to approve Agenda Item 4A, noting that this will be the last extension request that the Commission approves for Tyrell Hollis.

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 5A** was **Revisions** to the Basic Firearms Course Manual. This is the first revision on the manual since 2009. The manual has been updated to incorporate statutory, guideline, and policy changes issued over the past several years. In addition, it reflects best practices in Firearms Training for new recruits, giving them the skills and knowledge, they need to better serve the citizens. The manual also includes mandated range safety requirements, clearly defining the role of an instructor.

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

2. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 5B** was an **Update** to Functional Area 8: Emergency Medical Care

This matter was tabled from the April 5, 2023 Commission Meeting. The concerned presented members of the Commission centered on a vendor certification requirement. This matter has been discussed at length, the academies will be required to teach all the components of the First Responder Course; however, they will not be required to contract with a specific vendor for certification.

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

3. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 5C** was **Revisions** to the Basic Firearms Course for County Prosecutors

This will be the first revision to the since 2017. The manual has been updated to incorporate statutory, guideline, and policy changes issued over the past several years. In addition, it reflects curriculum changes in Use of Force, and Defensive Tactics, recently incorporated into the Basic Course for Police Officers.

Morris County Prosecutor, Robert Carroll, Captain Brad Seabury, and Lt. Mark Castellano from the Morris County Prosecutor's Office made a presentation concerning the issue. They voiced their concerns and stated what they think would be beneficial for the course.

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

4. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 5D** was regarding the Resiliency Training Program

Administrator Cunningham previously had a discussion with Danielle La Russo, Chief Resiliency Office, concerning the incorporation of the two-day Resiliency Training Program into Basic Law Enforcement Courses. PTC does offer an overview of the Resiliency Program to recruits as part of Instructional Unit 1.9, Suicide Prevention for the Law Enforcement Officer, with the full program being offered as an in-service training. Should Resiliency be approved, it will add sixteen hours to all basic law enforcement courses; BCPO, BCI, SLEO II, SCPO, CCPO, and JCPO. In addition, Administrator Cunningham discussed with Ms. La Russo the demands which will be placed on the instructor cadre, specialized training, as well as, PTC Certification is mandated; he was informed they could meet the need.

After a lengthy discussion, the Commission voted to table the matter until further research is completed.

5. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 5E** was the **Revised** Basic Course for County Correctional Police Officers.

This is the first full revision since 2011. The course has been updated to reflect recent changes to law enforcement polices, and guidelines. In addition, the course now, more closely mirrors the curriculum contained in the Basic Course for State Correctional Police Officers.

Commissioner Sharrock, on behalf of the Standards Committee, moved and seconded a motion to approve the revisions as written. The Commissioners voted to approve the motion. The revisions will be effective January 1, 2024.

6. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 6A** was a **Discussion** Concerning Title 13:1-7.

Administrator Cunningham received a request from Commissioner James Sharrock in reference to Title 13:1-7.1, Commissioner Sharrock would like to discuss the potential for improper interpretation of the section. 13:1-7.1 School Directors "Each Commission-approved school shall be under the immediate control of an individual who is designated for the purposes of these rules by the title "school director." The school director shall perform general administrative functions. The school director must be permanently assigned to the Commission-approved school, and shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the school. The school director shall be

physically present at the Commission-approved school on a regular and consistent basis. School directors shall also maintain a current Commission Instructor Certification. The Commission shall have the authority, after consultation with the agency responsible for operating a school, to remove a school director from all duties and responsibilities for the administrative and day-to-day operations of a Commission-approved school for a violation of Commission [Rules] rules, policies or directives. Notice of removal shall be, in writing, and shall be served upon the school director and the agency responsible for operating the school. A school director suspended or dismissed by the Commission may request a hearing before the Commission in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., and the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, N.J.A.C. 1:1”

No further action was taken on this as it was now slated to go to public comment.

7. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 7A** Report of a Suspension of PTC Instructor, Christopher Ortiz, Gloucester County Police Academy

On March 22, 2023, Administrator Cunningham received a request from Sean McKenna, Director, Gloucester County Police Academy, to suspend the Police Training Commission Instructor Certification of Sergeant Christopher Ortiz, Vineland Police Department. Sergeant Ortiz had been arrested, and subsequently, suspended from his agency. Administrator Cunningham approved the request and sent a letter stating same to Director McKenna.

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 3rd quarter of State Fiscal Year 2023 (1/1/22 – 3/31/22) have been 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 application/award packages have been reviewed and executed. All 16 academies have received their funding for the 34th LEOTEF distribution. The 4th quarter of State Fiscal Year 2023 ends on 6/30. Quarterly reporting for the 4th quarter is due by 7/17.

Administrator Cunningham reported that **Agenda Item 10A was Good and Welfare**

Administrator Cunningham introduced newly hired PTC staff members to the Commission. He also reported that Isa M. Abassi was appointed as Officer in Charge of the Paterson Police Department.

Assistant Attorney General Joseph Walsh spoke to advise the Commission that OPIA intends to request legislation to allow the training for Abassi to be mandated by the Attorney General’s Office.

Administrator Cunningham reported that **Agenda Item 10B was Good and Welfare**

Sean Lavin, NJ Fraternal Order of Police, spoke and advised the Commission that the FOP had some concerns about certain parts of the licensing bill as it relates to social media, due process definition, revocation requirements and reporting.

Administrator Cunningham asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:24pm
Commissioner Sharrock voted to approve the motion. Commissioner Scaringelli seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Administrator Cunningham announced the next meeting is Wednesday, August 2, 2023