

Commission Meeting Number 358

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

POLICE TRAINING COMMISSION

Minutes of Commission Meeting

February 5, 2024

Location: **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 Lou Bordi |
| 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 |

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| National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives | Jiles Ship |
| Citizen Member—Governor’s Appointment | James Polos |
| Citizen Member—Governor’s Appointment | Alexander Shalom |
| New Jersey League of Municipalities | Ray Heck |
| New Jersey Jail Wardens Association | Oscar Aviles |
| New Jersey State Police | Jay Mandziuk |
| Deputy Chief Ryan Knight | Glassboro PD |
| Chief Matt DeCesar | Franklin PD |
| Matthew Flynn | Franklin PD |
| Thomas Macauley | Camden Co Sheriff’s Office |
| Anthony Butler | NJDCJ |
| Taryn Seidner | NJDCJ |
| Eric S. Pennington | City of Newark |
| Mayor Ras Baraka | City of Newark |
| Director Fritz Frage | City of Newark |

Division of Criminal Justice Staff Present

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

AAG Stephen Wenger, Chief, Office of Public Integrity & Accountability

Academy Coordinator Pat Jones, Police Training Commission

Academy Coordinator Forest Kairos, Police Training Commission

Analyst, Tykeria T. Lockhart, Police Training Commission

Chief Investigator, James Byrd, Police Training Commission

Field Representative, John Janowiak, Police Training Commission

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

Field Representative, Donald Robertella, Police Training Commission

Field Representative, Aaron Erven, Police Training Commission

Technical Technician, Angelica Sanchez, Police Training Commission

Police Training Commission Meeting Minutes for February 5, 2024

Administrator John F. Cunningham called the 358th meeting of the Commission to order 11:15 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 introduced Newark Mayor, Ras Baraka, who was present and updated the Commission on the progress of the new Newark Police Academy, which is pending PTC approval.

Administrator Cunningham read correspondence nominating Alexander Shalom as PTC Commissioner.

Administrator Cunningham read correspondence naming Chief Louis Bordi as an Alternate NJSACOP Commissioner.

Administrator Cunningham read correspondence naming John Tate as Ocean County Police Academy Director.

Administrator Cunningham read correspondence naming new Camden County College Police Academy Director Robert J. Doyle.

Commissioner Colucci nominated James Sharrock as the Commissions Vice chair, Commissioner Abbott seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Commissioner Sharrock made a motion to nominate Commissioner Kevin Lyons as the Appeals/Licensing Subcommittee Chair. Commissioner Colucci seconded the motion, the motion carried.

Commissioner Colucci nominated James Sharrock Standards Sub Committee Chair. Commissioner Abbot seconded the motion, the motion carried.

Administrator Cunningham asked Chairperson Robert Nolan to report on the business of the Appeals and Legislation Committee.

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

4A. Consideration of a Request for an Extension for Training Time for Three Juvenile Detention Officers (Ocean County Juvenile Services)

Commissioner Lyons, on behalf of the Appeals Committee, moved and seconded a motion to approve all of the requests. Commissioner Sandoval abstained. The motion was approved. Commission is requesting all officers be placed in next academy class.

4B. Consideration of Request for an Extension of Training time for Juvenile Detention Officer, Nancy Bergeron (Morris County Juvenile Detention).

Commissioner Lyons, on behalf of the Appeals Committee, moved and seconded a motion to approve the requests for Nancy Bergeron. The Commissioners approved 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 a request of a variation for NJ Conditioning to the Physical Conditioning Manual.

The NJDOC would like to implement the Active Mobility Stretching Program. The intent of adding the Active Mobility Program to the Physical Conditioning Program is increase recruit flexibility and reduce injury.

Commissioner Sharrock, on the behalf of the Standard Committee, made a motion to approve the requested variations. Commissioners Dave Scott and Ray Heck abstained. The motion carried and was approved.

2. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 6A** was Consideration of a Waiver of Training Request from Glassboro Police Department, on the behalf of James W. Jones (Enrichment to BCPO).

On January 4, 2024, the Glassboro Police Department, submitted a Notice of New Appointment for James W. Jones, he was appointed on July 25, 2000, a NONA had not been previously submitted. The agency is requesting training credit for course

work previously completed as an enrichment recruit in the Camden County Academy Basic Police Class.

Officer Jones attended and graduated from the Basic Course for Police Officers at the Camden County Police Academy, his attendance was for enrichment purposes only. The course was conducted from January 28, 1991 through May 17, 1991. At the time of his attendance, Officer Jones was a member of the Delaware River Port Authority Police Department.

Officer Jones should not have been issued PTC Certification, as he attended for enrichment purposes only. The Delaware River Port Authority is not covered under the Police Training Act; therefore, their officers are not required to attend a Police Training Commission Certified Course for Police Officers. Officer Jones has been employed as Police Officer with the Glassboro Police Department since July of 2000. The agency is requesting that Officer Jones receive training credit for the Basic Police Course he attended in 1991, and subsequent annual in-service training he has completed.

Deputy Chief Ryan Knight, Glassboro Police Department was present to answer questions and provide additional information. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Sharrock, on behalf of the Standards Committee, moved and seconded a motion to grant James W. Jones waiver with additional training to be determined by Administrator Cunningham. The motion carried and was approve.

3. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 6B** was Consideration of Consideration of a Waiver of Training Request from Franklin Township Police Department, on the behalf of Cody Ellio (Enrichment to BCPO).

On September 21, 2023, the Franklin Township Police Department submitted a Notice of New Appointment for Cody Elliot. He was appointed on September 12,2023. The agency is requesting training credit for course work previously completed as an enrichment recruit in the Camden County Academy Basic Police Class.

Officer Elliot attended and graduated from the Basic Course for Police Officers at the Camden County Police Academy, his attendance was for enrichment purposes only. The course was conducted from January 14, 2019, through June 5, 2019. At the time of his attendance, Officer Elliot was a member of the Delaware River Port Authority Police Department.

Officer Elliot should not have been issued PTC Certification as he attended for enrichment purposes only. The Delaware River Port Authority is not covered under the Police Training Act; therefore, their officers are not required to attend a Police Training Commission Certified Course for Police Officers. The agency is requesting that Officer Elliot receive training credit the Basic Police Course he attended in 2019.

Commissioner Sharrock, on behalf of the Standards Committee, made motion to approve the waiver. Commissioner Lyons abstained. The motion carried and was approved.

4. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 6C** was a Consideration of a Waiver of Training Request from Camden County Sheriff's Office, on the behalf of Greg Adams and Rafael Stoppazzolla (Enrichment to SLEO II).

In anticipation of Licensing, PTC staff had been working with agencies to ensure their rosters were correct and included all current law enforcement officers. While reviewing the roster of the Camden County Sheriff's Department, it was discovered that they had several uncertified Special Law Enforcement Officers (SLEO II). The agency had appointed retired municipal officers, New Jersey Troopers, and Delaware River Port Authority Officers (DRPA) to the SLEO II title, without notifying the Commission. In addition, they did not file the appropriate waiver paperwork to have the officers certified for the SLEO II title, the officers have worked several years uncertified. Commission staff worked with the agency to complete the waiver paperwork for the retired municipal officers and the NJ Troopers, both titles are eligible for Retired BCPO to SLEO II waivers, the officers are now certified. The active or former DRPA officers are not eligible for waivers to SLEO II. therefore, they were denied by staff.

The Camden County Sheriff's Department is appealing the staff decision to deny waivers for current DRPA Officer George MacAdams, appointed SLEO II on September 15, 2014, and Rafael Stoppazzollo. DRPA Officer. June 2016 through January 2022, appointed SLEO II September 2023. Both individuals attended the Basic Course for Police Officer at the Camden County Police Academy for enrichment purposes, they were employed by the DRPA while attending the BCPO. during the following time frames; MacAdams: 1/26/1998 through 5/14/1998, Stoppazzolla: 8/1/2016 through 12/21/2016. The DRPA is not covered by the Police Training Act, therefore, attendance at a PTC Certified Course is for enrichment only.

Commissioner Sharrock, on behalf of the Standards Committee, made motion to deny the waiver. Commissioner Lyons abstained. The motion carried and was denied.

5. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 6D** was Consideration of The Instructor Code of Conduct Form.

The standards of conduct set forth in this document have been adopted by the New Jersey Police Training Commission (PTC) to define the expected and prohibited behavior for every person certified by the PTC to instruct in police training courses, in accordance with the provisions of the Police Training Act, (N.J.S.A. 52:17B-66 et seq) and the regulations promulgated thereunder. This code of conduct establishes the foundation of responsible instructor bearing and demeanor for those who train recruits as well as experienced officers. The Commission expects every instructor to set an example in terms of appearance, competence, courtesy, knowledge, dignity, deportment and professional bearing for the recruits/trainees entrusted to their care and control. Instructors are required to follow all requirements as outlined herein.

Instructors are also responsible for maintaining compliance with all individual departmental rules, regulations, and standards of conduct while instructing at a certified academy or training center. Instructors will not post photographs or video of the training day on social media platforms, nor will they supply same to media outlets.

The Commission has established the highest standards of conduct to guide the performance of every instructor in each school. The responsibility to train officers to be respected and effective public servants is of paramount importance within the law enforcement profession. Because instructors are perceived as role models, they must exemplify a commitment to public service with honor. They must personify the law enforcement core values of honesty, integrity, courage, compassion, fairness and respect. Instructors are expected to set a positive example for the recruits/trainees to emulate. The Police Training Commission is committed to ensuring that each recruit/trainee receives comprehensive instruction from a competent, dedicated and professional cadre of instructors.

Commissioner Sharrock, on behalf of the Standards Committee, moved and seconded a motion to approve the Instructor Code of Conduct Form. The motion was approved.

6. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 6E** was Consideration of The NJ Department of Corrections Trainee Manual Update.

New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC) Staff Training Academy Class Rules and Regulations. It is the intent of the NJDOC Academy to offer a non-residential option to the trainees.

Commissioner Sharrock, on behalf of the Standards Committee made motion to approve the NJ Department of Corrections Trainee Manual Update. Commissioner Scott seconded the motion, Commissioner Heck abstained. The motion carried and was approved.

7. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 6F** was Alternate Route Certifications.

In preparation for Licensing, PTC staff came across fourteen officers who attended the Alternate Route Program, but were never properly certified by their respective agencies. Administrator Cunningham had the agencies submit all of the required documentation to the police academies attended by the officers so that they could be certified. Subsequently, all required paperwork has been received and the officers have since been issued PTC certifications.

Commissioner Sharrock, on behalf of the Standards Committee approved.

8. Commissioner Cunningham indicated that **Agenda Item 6G** was Enrichment to BCI Waiver, NJ Division of Criminal Justice.

On January 25, 2024, the Commission received waiver requests, submitted by the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, to grant waivers for Enrichment BCI to BCI. The request was submitted by Weldon Powell, Chief New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, on behalf of Jason Krayl, and Samer Abboud. Detectives Krayl and Abboud attended the Basic Course for Investigators at the Division of Criminal Justice Training Academy; Krayl attended BCI 2007-2, and Abboud attended BCI 2006-2. Detectives Krayl and Abboud attended the BCI for "enrichment purposes only", therefore they were not issued Police Training Commission Certification.

On the behalf of the Standards Committee, Commissioner Sharrock moved and second a motion to approve the waiver requests for both Detectives. The motion was approved

Commissioner Lyons made a motion for PTC staff to conduct research into the certification process. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sharrock and approved.

Commissioner Sharrock concluded the Standards Committee report.

1. 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 quarters of State Fiscal Year 2024 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 2024 LEOTEF Funds (35th distribution) were distributed on December 12, 2023.

2. Administrator Cunningham reported that **Agenda Item 9A** was Consideration of the Resume for PTC Hearing Officer Candidate, Wayne J. Forrest. Commissioner Sharrock made a motion to approve the hiring of Forrest. Seconded by Colucci. Commissioners approved motion.
3. Administrator Cunningham reported that **Agenda Item 9B** was Consideration of the Resume for PTC Hearing Officer Candidate, Derick Loury. Commissioner Sharrock made a motion to approve. Seconded by Onofri. Commissioners approved motion.

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

1. Administrator Cunningham gave an update to the Commission on the Bergen County Police Academy. He advised that he has met with all new instructors at the academy and staff will be applying for a new operational certification. He also stated that he addressed the PTC expectations for the academy. Administrator Cunningham approved the academy to run a PEP program only but they do not yet have approval to run a BCPO. The PTC has received the investigative report from the Prosecutor's Office, but PTC will be conducting their own investigation into this matter.

2. Commissioner Colucci asked for a status report on the vehicles ordered for PTC staff. Administrator Cunningham advised the vehicles should be expected mid-March. The vehicles are now less than 150 days away from being delivered.
3. Elizabeth Santos, FBI, presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for her service on the Commission and announced her retirement.

Administrator Cunningham asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:01pm. Commissioner Sharrock made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Nolan.

Administrator Cunningham announced the next meeting is Wednesday, April 3, 2024