

Commission Meeting Number 364

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

POLICE TRAINING COMMISSION

Minutes of Commission Meeting

February 3, 2025

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 Brian Trotman
New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police	James Abbott
New Jersey State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police	James Sharrock James Sepp
County Prosecutors' Association of New Jersey	Esther Suarez
Sheriffs' Association of New Jersey	Thomas Dellane (Alternate)
Police Academy Director's Association	Daniel Colucci
Commissioner-Department of Education	Absent
Commissioner-Department of Corrections	Trevor Beatty David Scott
Federal Bureau of Investigation	Michael A. Ratta

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	Alexander Shalom
New Jersey League of Municipalities	Ray Heck
New Jersey Jail Wardens Association	Oscar Aviles
New Jersey State Police	Absent
New Jersey State Police Fraternal Association	Wayne Blanchard
Essex County Police Academy	Christopher D’Andrea
NJ Division of Criminal Justice	Richard Aitken
NJ Juvenile Justice Commission	Edward Costanzo Ava Morale Sean Haar

Office of Police Strategy and Innovation Staff Present

Deputy Attorney General Katherine Morris

Deputy Attorney General Edward Simonson

Assistant Attorney General Stephen Wenger

Deputy Attorney General Marie McGovern

Hearing Officer, Bettie Norris, Police Training Commission

Academy Coordinator Pat Jones, 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, Donald Robertella, Police Training Commission

Field Representative, Dion Feltri, Police Training Commission

Field Representative, Kim Arroyo, Police Training Commission

Field Representative, Steve Settles, Police Training Commission

Field Representative, Rae Coles, Police Training Commission

Field Representative, Daniel Brown, Police Training Commission

Field Representative, James Scartozzi, Police Training Commission

Field Representative, Aaron Erven, Police Training Commission

Curriculum Unit Supervisor, Tyeka Knight, Police Training Commission

Management Assistant, Dajhonna Collins, Police Training Commission

Police Training Commission Meeting Minutes for February 3, 2025

Administrator John F. Cunningham called the 364th meeting of the Commission to order at 11:08 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.

Management Assistant, Dajhonna Collins 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 announcing John Booth as Bergen County Police Academy Director.

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 as the Standards Subcommittee Chair. Commissioner Polos seconded the motion, the motion carried.

Commissioner Sharrock was nominated and elected as the Vice Chair 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 December 4, 2024 meeting:
 - 2A. *Leighran George v. Newark Police Academy*
 - 2B. *Michael Danishevsky v. Monmouth County Police Academy*
 - 2C. *Marquise Singleton v. NJ DOC Police Academy*
 - 2D. *Jeffrey Parker, Jr v. John H. Stamler Police Academy*
 - 2E. *Wilson Rosa v. Hudson County Public Safety Training Center*
 - 2F. *Cole Goswick v. Camden County College Police Academy*

2G. *Christopher Demetriou v. Essex County Police Academy*

Commissioner Lyons, on behalf of the Appeals Committee, reported that Agenda Items 2A-2G were dismissed without prejudice for lack of prosecution.

Appeals Withdrawn by Petitioner at Office of Administrative Law or PTC

2G. *Antwain Auletta v. JJC Academy*

Commissioner Lyons, on behalf of the Appeals Committee, stated no action will be taken at this time.

2. Commissioner Lyons, reported that **Agenda Item 3A was NJPTC Law Enforcement License Reinstatements**

Commissioner Lyons, on the behalf of the Appeals Committee, moved and seconded a motion to uphold Five License Reinstatements. The motion was approved.

Carmine De Vone
Jorge Orjuela
Stephen Jones
Jason Burns
Quanel Proctor

Commissioner Lyons, reported that **Agenda Item 3B was NJPTC Law Enforcement License Denials**

Commissioner Lyons, on behalf of the Appeals Committee, stated no action will be taken at this time on Jeremy Keating and Anthony Matthews.

Commissioner Lyons, reported that **Agenda Item 3C was NJPTC Law Enforcement Revocations**

Stephanie DeGrazio- NJ DOC

Appealing suspension/revocation of LEO license due to being charged with 3rd degree possession of a controlled dangerous substance; 4th degree assault by auto or vessel with bodily injury while in violation of N.J.S.A. 39:4-50; and 4th degree cruelty and neglect of children

Commissioner Lyons, on behalf of the Appeals Committee, stated no action will be taken at this time.

3. Commissioner Lyons reported that **Agenda Item 4A was a Consideration of Extensions of Training Time** for Juvenile Detention Officers.

4A. Consideration of a Request for an Extension for Training Time for Keith Solomon 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 extension requests for Agenda Item 4A.

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 a consideration of a Waiver of Method of Instruction Request for Dr. Arun Rajaram, MD, FAAOS.

Request from Director Gary Giardina, Robert A. Lyons Police Academy, to waive the Method of Instruction (MOI) requirement for the Police Training Instructor Certification for Director for Doctor Rajaram and retired Superior Court Judge Freid.

Commissioner Sharrock, on behalf of the Standards Committee made a motion to deny the waiver request. Motion carried.

2. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 6B** was the Report of Ocean County Police Academy Satellite Facility Approval.
3. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 6C** was the Report of Gloucester County Police Academy Certification- Fire Academy Satellite Update.
4. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 7A** was Bergen County Police Academy Instructor Issues

On August 23, 2024, the PTC received an email referral from the Office of Public Integrity and Accountability, concerning the Bergen County Police Academy. The primary concerns listed in the complaint involved excessive Physical Training Sessions, utilization of recruit gear bags as exercise equipment, and hand cleaning of floors and other areas. The investigation was assigned to Steve Settles, PTC Field Investigations Unit.

Separate from the initial complaint we addressed the presence of Emergency Medical

Technicians being on site during training hours.

Investigator Settles gathered information from the recruits utilizing the survey method, he conducted personal interviews with academy staff, inclusive of Kenneth Ehrenberg, Academy Director. Following the fact finding, Investigator Settles prepared a detailed report which was included for the Commissioners to review.

Administrator Cunningham reviewed the investigative findings and related documents, and spoke in detail with Director Ehrenberg in reference to the corrective actions taken by the academy to remedy the concerns. Three memorandums from Director Ehrenberg to the academy staff were provided to the Commissioners. Administrator Cunningham found the corrective action sufficient in addressing the immediate concerns. In addition, Commission Staff will reinforce the importance of a professional instructor cadre.

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).

1. Commissioner Colucci reported that Quarterly expense reports for the 2nd Quarter of State Fiscal Year 2025 are being reviewed and processed. Supplemental academy requests for LEOTEF purchases have been reviewed and approved. Application documents and budgets are being reviewed and processed as they are received.

The 3rd quarter of SFY 2025 will end on March 31, 2025. Quarterly reports for the 3rd quarter will be due on April 15th.

2. Administrator Cunningham reported that **Agenda Item 9A** was a report of PTC Hearing Officer Candidate: Bettie Norris

Commissioner Polos made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:16 am. Commissioner Colucci seconded the motion. Commissioner Richards abstained. Motion was approved. Commissioner Colucci made a motion to end Executive Session at 11:29 am. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sharrock.

Administrator Cunningham asked the committee to vote on the approval of appointee Bettie Norris as a PTC Hearing Officer. Eight Commissioners voted in favor. Six Commissioners opposed the approval. The approval of Hearing Officer Bettie Norris was passed.

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

Administrator Cunningham gave an update to the Commission on licensing renewals. Also stating that March 1st the PTC will began accepting renewal applications for the 2025 cycle. November 1, 2025 will be the cutoff for renewal applications.

Administrator Cunningham introduced and welcomed DAG Katherine Morris to the PTC.

Administrator Cunningham asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:49 am.

Commissioner Sharrock voted to approve the motion. Commissioner Colucci seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Administrator Cunningham announced the next meeting is Wednesday, April 2, 2025