

Commission Meeting Number 366

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

POLICE TRAINING COMMISSION

Minutes of Commission Meeting

June 4, 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	Brian Trotman
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	Esther Suarez
Sheriffs' Association of New Jersey	Mark Spitzer
Police Academy Director's Association	Daniel Colucci
Commissioner-Department of Education	Absent
Commissioner-Department of Corrections	Kristina Chubenko Trevor Betty
Federal Bureau of Investigation	Justin Notarfrancesco
New Jersey Juvenile Detention Association	Jorge Sandoval
New Jersey State Parole Board	Samuel Plumeri

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	
New Jersey State Police Fraternal Association	Wayne Blanchard
NJSP	Dwayne Golden Amber Hart
OAG	Krysten Russell
MCPO	Hoda Soliman Elethia Baldwin
Westampton Police Department	Robert Austin Brain Ferguson
Attorney	Valerie Palma DeLuisi Nicolas J. Palma
Penns Grove Police Department	Richard Rivera

Office of Police Strategy and Innovation Staff Present

Deputy Attorney General Edward Simonson

Deputy Attorney General Marie McGovern

Academy Coordinator Pat Jones, Police Training Commission

Acadis Unit Supervisor, Tykeria T. Lockhart, Police Training Commission

Curriculum Unit Supervisor, Tyeka Knight, 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, Aaron Erven, Police Training Commission

Training Technician, Curriculum Unit, Carmen Rabottino, Police Training Commission

Training Technician, Curriculum Unit, Bruce Van Der Vliet, Police Training Commission

Management Assistant, Dajhonna Collins, Police Training Commission

Police Training Commission Meeting Minutes for June 4, 2025

Administrator John F. Cunningham called the 366th meeting of the Commission to order at 11:22 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 read correspondence from the FBI appointing Justin Notarfrancesco as their representative.

Administrator Cunningham asked the Commissioners to consider the minutes of the April 2, 2025 Commission meeting. Commissioner Sharrock made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Colucci. The Commissioners voted to approve the motion.

Administrator Cunningham asked Chairperson James Scaringelli to report on the business of the Appeals and Legislation Committee.

1. Commissioner Scaringelli reported the following appeals were received since the April 2, 2025 meeting:

Commissioner Scaringelli, on behalf of the Appeals Committee, reported that **Agenda Items 2A-2C** were:

- 2A *Bradley Luzuriaga v. Newark Police Academy*
Dismissed from academy on January 23, 2025 for use of illicit drugs
- 2B *David Broncati v. Mercer County Police Academy*
Dismissed from academy on March 31, 2025 for violation of the Rules and Regulations 3.6 by cheating on an examination
- 2C *Davon Kennedy v. Atlantic County Police Academy*
Dismissed from academy on April 8, 2025 for violating Article 37, Section A, Part 4- referring to lying or cheating during an examination, physical training session, or in the oral/written submission of a report.

Commissioner Scaringelli, on the behalf of the Appeals Committee, determined no further action will be taken.

2D *Craig Fillmore – Township of Irvington*

Irvington Police is appealing the denial of his initial law enforcement license application due to being charged with lewdness-observed by others on April 22, 2016. - Resolved (probationary license)

Commissioner Scaringelli, on the behalf of the Appeals Committee, moved and seconded a motion to accept and issue a one (1) year probationary license. The motion was approved.

2E *Jessica M. Scott – Essex County Corrections*

Appealing the suspension/revocation of her law enforcement license due to her participation in PTI after being charged with 3rd degree possession of a controlled dangerous substance; 4th degree throwing bodily fluid at law enforcement officer; 4th degree aggravated assault on law enforcement officer; possession of up to 1 oz psilocybin; and refusal to submit to fingerprinting

Commissioner Scaringelli, on the behalf of the Appeals Committee, moved and seconded a motion to default on the application due to lack of appearance. The motion was approved.

2G *Michael Insalaco – New Jersey Transit Police*

Appealing the suspension of his law enforcement license due to being charged with 3rd degree tampering with records; theft of services; and burglary tools. The motion was approved.

Commissioner Scaringelli, on the behalf of the Appeals Committee, moved and seconded a motion to accept the hearing officer's decision to uphold the immediate suspension. The motion was approved.

Commissioner Scaringelli reported that **Agenda Item 3A** was for **Ten Law Enforcement Revocations**. Commissioner Scaringelli, on behalf of Appeals Committee, moved and seconded a motion to accept and uphold the following revocations:

Brian Dreher
Dana Page
Joseph Frino
Luis A. Rosado
Justin J. Rivera
April N. Bell
Christoper Angst
Mohamed Nassar

Mark D. Zacchini

Thomas M. Kirse

The motion was approved.

Commissioner Scaringelli reported that **Agenda Item 3B** was for **Six-Five Law Enforcement License Suspensions**. Commissioner Scaringelli, on behalf of Appeals Committee, moved and seconded a motion to accept and uphold the following suspensions:

Eugene Vick III
Michael Insalaco
Christopher Somjen
Ronald Fusco
Andres Mejia
Alejandro Arias
Radian Dixon-Gray
Tashneke James
Pedro S. Ortiz
Vincent Ferdinandi
Eliezer Rivera
James Gorski
Michael Vermeyley
Alphonzia Williams
William PK Young
Gary Nieves
Joshua Munyon
Christopher J. Crossley
Thomas J. Blewitt
Edgar Delgado
Junior B. Cuevas
Sean Barger
Alexander Lark
Tiyonna Beverly
Alex L. Rodriguez
Larry Newsome
Travis Kegley
Daniel Meiswinkle
Kyle Kampf
Nicholas Zatkos
Somero Melvin
Tyshea S. Griffin
Nicholas Bilinski
Nyeem Calhoun
Elijah M. Mitchell
Marko S. Nakhla
Robert C. Currey

Eliseo Medrano
Tracey Shimonis
Samantha Martinez
Daniel Ortiz
Adalberto Rivera
Robert M. Wilson
JonCarlos Rodriguez
Shawn T. Gill
David A. Williams
Ricardo Vasquez Jr.
Luis Cruz
Bryan C. Navarro Rivera
Stephen Cerone
Anthony J. Colacurto
Douglas A. Johnson
Ryan L. Terry
Andrew Dudzic
Rebecca Sayegh
Wesley M. Kliwinski
Christopher M. Clifton
Stephen T. Risley
Damion O. James
Jacob K. Hartranft
Robert Frett
Tommy J. Hom
Algier M. Parham
Darnel M. Graham
Richard McLaughlin

Commissioner Scaringelli reported that **Agenda Item 3C** was **Four Law Enforcement Initial Application Denials**. Commissioner Scaringelli, on behalf of Appeals Committee, moved and seconded a motion to accept and uphold the following denials:

Frank James
Myra Rabanales
Wesley Peters
Davina P. Ellis

Commissioner Scaringelli reported that **Agenda Item 3D** was **Six Law Enforcement License Reinstatement**. Commissioner Scaringelli on the behalf of Appeals Committee, moved and seconded to adopt committees decision for the following:

Kennth Reid
Malcolm Waite
Stephanie DeGrazio

Jonathan Scotto-Difrega

Khald Khalifa

William N. Gallagher III

3. Commissioner Scaringelli 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 of Training Time for Five Juvenile Detention Officers (Bergen County Juvenile Detention Center)

4B. Consideration of a Request for an Extension of Training Time for Jack Berry (Mercer County Sheriffs Office)

4C Consideration of a Request for an Extension of Training Time for Three Juvenile Detention Officers (Middlesex County Department of Corrections and Youth Services)

4D. Consideration of a Request for an Extension of Training Time for Seven Juvenile Detention Officers (Essex County Juvenile Detention)

4E. Consideration of a Request for an Extension of Training Time for Jared Kid Juvenile Detention Officer (Youth Justice Commission)

Commissioner Scaringelli, on behalf of the Appeals Committee, moved and seconded a motion to approve all of the extension requests for Agenda Items 4A through 4E. Motion carried.

Commissioner Scaringelli 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 Professional Policing for the Law Enforcement Officer

Administrator Cunningham proposed an Instructional Unit on Professional Policing,

which will replace the Active Bystander Instructional Unit in all Basic Law Enforcement Course. This will create sustainability of the concepts inherent in law enforcement. As discussed this has been an ongoing project for many months, and covers essential skills needed for the law enforcement professional.

The course underscores that ethical policing extends beyond tactics-it requires self-awareness, knowledge of policies, peer accountability, and a commitment to community trust. Whether on patrol or off-duty, officers are always representatives of law enforcement and must act with integrity, professionalism, and sound judgment. These principles are essential to maintaining public trust, reducing risk, and ensuring effective, ethical policing in all circumstances.

In addition, there will be a planned Train the Trainer component prior to any rollout of the concepts.

A presentation from Carmen Rabottino, PTC Curriculum Unit, was given to the commissioners explaining the Professional Policing for Law Enforcement.

Commissioner Sharrock, on behalf of the Standards Committee, moved and seconded a motion to approve Agenda 5A. The motion carried.

2. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 5B** was Behavioral Crisis Intervention and De-Escalation.

Administrator Cunningham proposed Instructional Unit on Behavioral Crisis Intervention and De-Escalation, which will replace Integrated Tactics and Communication, as well as, Crisis Intervention in all Basic Law Enforcement Course. The course will give law enforcement officers the techniques needed to identify and communicate effectively with individuals experiencing a crisis, while coordinating with other officers and professionals to create best outcomes for all involved. The addition of the Instructional Unit will add sustainability to an important component of law enforcement training.

In addition, there will be a planned Train the Trainer component prior to any rollout of the concepts.

Commissioner Colucci made a motion, on the behalf of the Standards Committee, requesting to table Agenda Item 5B until the August 2025 meeting. Motion carried.

3. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 5C** was Criminal Justice Reform

The Commission was recently contacted by Judge Ernest M. Caposela, who is currently serving a recall assignment for the New Jersey Judiciary. Judge Caposeal is assigned on a statewide basis to the Criminal Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey “to assist in the ongoing implementation, maintenance, and improvement of Criminal Justice

Reform.” Judge Caposela submitted a PowerPoint, dated August 2023, that was designed for law enforcement, detailing the Basic Concepts of Criminal Justice Reform.

Administrator Cunningham asked DAG Marie McGovern, Deputy Chief of Curriculum Development, to review the material for inclusion in basic law enforcement courses.

Below is an overview prepared by DAG McGovern for your review and consideration.

Included in Instructional block Instructional Unit 3.3 – Legal Requirements and Procedures of Lawful Arrest (formerly Functional Area 12.3) Law Enforcement Recruits are instructed on the Complaint Summons/Warrant process and procedure.

In that block, recruits are provided:

- A review of probable cause as the basis for an arrest with or without an arrest warrant
- The differences between a Complaint Summons and a Complaint Warrant
- Instruction on the Court Rules and Directives governing the use of a Complaint Summons or a Complaint Warrant,
 - including, but not limited to:
 - Eligible and non-eligible defendants
 - Statutes for which a complaint warrant is authorized.
 - The presumption against a complaint warrant
- Reasons why a defendant may be placed on a complaint warrant, not a summons
- Assessment of whether the defendant requires monitoring or conditions, even though a summons is presumed?
- Determination of Complaint-Warrant if continued monitoring is needed.
- Determination of Complaint Summons if continued monitoring is not required.
- The two different paths once a complaint summons or a complaint warrant issues.
- The PSA – Public Safety Assessment
- Who may issue a complaint warrant?
- The Pre-Trial Services Program
- Detention Hearings and Process for Pre-Trial Detention
- Crimes eligible for detention
- Basic differences between the “old” system and the bail reform system

Based on a review of the materials provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts and instruction given to Judges and Court Staff, the current instructional block (FA 12.3), and the on-going revision and review of the Basic Course for Police Officers, the instructional block for Legal Arrest for Instructional Unit 3.3 can be simplified, modified, and adjusted to better fit the needs of new law enforcement officers. Instructional Unit 3.3 will be modified and adjusted to instruct law enforcement recruits with a more concise, clear, and effective overview of the Complaint Summons/Warrant Process and Procedure and how the use of a Summons or Warrant determines the path for which a case will advance pre-trial/pre-resolution. The Revision to Instructional Unit 3.3 will take into consideration what has been previously included In FA 12.3 as well as the materials provided by Judge Caposela.

Based on the above review completed by DAG Marie McGovern, the Current Course material will be modified and updated to include the concepts submitted by Judge

Caposela.

DAG Marie McGovern provided a detailed explanation to the commissioners and will streamline the process to ensure consistency in similar cases.

Commissioner Sharrock, on the behalf of the Standards committee, moved and seconded to approve the changes. The motion carried. 5.3.4 will be updated.

4. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 6A** was a Newark Police Academy Class Request

On May 7, 2025, Administrator Cunningham received a written correspondence from Newark Police Academy Director, Leonardo Carrillo, Request requesting to start a Basic Course for Police Officers in the Fall. When the Commission issued the original PTC Certification it was limited to two Basic Police Classes, and then a staff the staff review and the fact that the Newark Police Academy has given quality instructions. Administrator Cunningham recommends that the Commission approve a third-class for the fall of 2025. Administrator Cunningham would also recommend that the class size not exceed the 70 candidates, current cap is 50.

Commission staff is working with the academy staff to complete the necessary application for the December 2025 Initial Academy Certificate Application, the current probationary certification was issued for one year.

Newark Director Leo Carillo spoke and would like to offer a third academy class in September. Director Carillo stated that he would also like to apply for a full academy certification in December to increase attendance from 50 to 70 recruits but capped at 70.

Commissioner Sharrock, on the behalf of the Standards Committee, made a motion to approve the request with the provision of 70 recruit cap. Motion was passed.

5. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 6B** was a Report of a request for Satellite Certification, Newark Academy, Nat Turner Park.

This will acknowledge receipt for the application of the Police Training Commission (PTC), in which you requested certification of Nat Turner Park, 289 18th Avenue, Newark, N.J., as a satellite training facility. The Newark Police Academy would like to utilize the satellite to conduct Physical Conditioning.

The application was reviewed by PTC Academy Coordinator Allison Gosley, and found to be in order. The proposed satellite facility was inspected by PTC Investigator John Janowiak, and

found to be compliant with PTC requirements. Investigator John 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 my capacity as the designated Chair of the Commission, I hereby approve, on behalf of the Commission, your application to certify Nat Turner Park, as a satellite training facility.

6. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 6C** was Satellite Certification, Newark Academy, Stamler EVOC

This will acknowledge receipt of application to the Police Training Commission (PTC), in which you requested certification of the John H. Stamler Police Academy EVOC Course, 1776 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, N.J., as a satellite training facility. The Newark Police Academy would like to utilize the satellite to conduct Emergency Vehicle Operations.

The application was reviewed by PTC Academy Coordinator Allison Gosley, and found to be in order. The proposed satellite was inspected by PTC Investigator James Erven, and found to be compliant with PTC requirements. Investigators John 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 my capacity as designated Chair of the Commission. I hereby approve, on behalf of the Commission, your application to certify the Stamler EVOC Course, as satellite training facility.

7. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 6D** was Consideration of a Waiver of Training Request from Essex County Dept. Of Corrections officers Nicholas Palama and Herman Pride

On April 22, 2025, Administrator Cunningham received written correspondence (attached) from Ronald Charles, Director, Essex County Department of Corrections, concerning the above referenced officers. Director Charles detailed that the officers have been suspended without pay from the agency in excess of three years, and what training would be required, once cleared to return from suspension. A review of their PTC Records indicated that Nicholas Palma was suspended on July 26, 2021, pending federal criminal charges. Herman Pride was suspended without pay on March 5, 2021, pending federal criminal charges. Director Charles informed this writer that the indictments were dismissed on March 27, 2025, however, both officers remain out as of this writing. Administrator Cunningham responded via letter(attached) to Director Charles on April 24, 2025, explaining that based on the suspensions extending beyond three years, they would need to return to the academy. Administrator Cunningham explained that if the county disagreed with the staff decision, an appeal could be filed on the full Commission.

On May 14, 2025, I received written correspondence (attached) from Jerome St. John, Essex County Counsel, appealing the staff decision. Mr. St. John details that the officers should not be returned to the academy, and only receive in-service training. He further states that the requirement to attend the academy is outside the law and not in the best interest of the employee or the county.

In addition, to the correspondence received from Director Charles and Mr. St. John Esq., I received correspondence from Valeri Palma Luisi Esq., attorney for Nicholas Palma and Herman Pride, which I have attached from your review.

The staff decision in this matter is consistent with decisions rendered in similar matters, which have come before the Commission. The matter before the Commission is strictly limited to the training matter, as of this writing the Commission awaits Initial Licensing Applications for Palma and Pride, along with supporting documentation.

8. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 6E** was Consideration of a Waiver of Training Request from Westampton Police Department, Ernest Long

On August 26, 2024, Chief Brian Ferguson, Westampton Police Department, submitted a BCPO to SLEO II waiver request on behalf of Ernest Long, retired Human Services Police Department. Upon review of the application it was learned that Ernest Long had worked in the capacity of a SLEO II with the Westampton PD since 2014 in an uncertified capacity. Officer Long did not hold certification as a SLEO II. In addition, Officer Long was not issued a Law Enforcement License on January 1, 2024. Commission staff notified the agency that additional documents would be required, and that a complete background would need to be completed. On April 30, 2025, the Commission received a complete Waiver Application.

Commissioner Sharrock made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:43 am. Commissioner Colucci seconded the motion and it was approved. Commissioner Sharrock made a motion to end Executive Session at 12:41pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Colucci.

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).

Quarterly expense reports for the 3rd Quarter of State Fiscal Year 2025 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.

The 4th quarter of the 2025 State Fiscal year ends on 6/30. Quarterly reporting for the 4th quarter is due by 7/15.

2. Administrator Cunningham reported that **Agenda Item 9A** reported that the Committee has met and will meet once again collecting data and stats. Committee will share with the full commission in the future.

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.

Commissioner Sharrock made a motion to reopen the meeting. Commissioner Colucci seconded.

3. Administrator Cunningham reported that **Agenda Item 10B was Public Comments**

Valerie Palma Delouisi, Esq., and Nicholas Palma, Esq., made public comments before the commission regarding a pending waiver application.

Commissioner Abbott made motion to into executive session at 12:27.

Executive session ended at 12:27

Richard Rivera, Safety Director of Penns Grove, appeared before the commission and made public comments regarding the ongoing matters with the Penns Grove Police Department, stating that he accepts full responsibility for the actions of the department.

Public comment from Richard Rivera Safety Director of Penns Gove stated that someone released suspension letter to the press. Rivera accepts full responsibility for the actions of the department.

Administrator Cunningham asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:29 pm.

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

Administrator Cunningham announced the next meeting is Wednesday, August 6, 2025