

STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE MARSHAL COMMISSION
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Tel. 860-713-5372 Fax. (860) 622-2938 Meeting Was Conducted Remotely Using Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

STATE MARSHAL COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING,

July 1, 2025

Commissioner Thomas A. Esposito, Chair, called the meeting to order. Commissioner Esposito advised all participants that the proceedings were being recorded. Commissioner Esposito confirmed all members in attendance and verified that a minimum five voting member quorum was present.

Members present and participating remotely: Thomas Esposito, Chair; the Honorable Leo Diana; Salvatore Vitrano; Melanie Dykas; Michael Desmond; Jackson Schipke, Tyler Mack. Ex-officio (non-voting) members present State Marshal Brian Mezick and State Marshal Lisa Stevenson. Commission Staff present (non-voting): Director of Operations, Anthony Valenti, Special Investigator Chris Morris and Staff Attorney Claudia Maxwell.

Topics:

1. **Appointments:**

Commissioner Esposito asked if there was a motion to appoint **John Simon** as a **Tolland County** state marshal. Commissioner Mack made a motion which was seconded by Commissioner Schipke. Commissioner Esposito asked if there was any discussion, Ex-Officio Mezick indicated he wished to ask a few questions not on this candidate. Ex-Officio Mezick stated that at the 3-27-25 minutes it had been reported that the first group of candidates would be from Fairfield County, he wanted to know why the Commission is interviewing and appointing marshals from other counties first? Director Valenti stated it came down to logistics and managing different schedules for the interviews. He reported that five Fairfield County marshals completed their classroom training today. The interviews for the remaining Fairfield County candidates will start the second week of July. Ex-Officio Mezick then stated that the State Marshal Advisory Board and himself personally are concerned that Connecticut's most populous county only has 28 state marshals and there is a statutory maximum of 55 and that they need that many. Next Ex-Officio Mezick wanted to ask who interviewed the candidates on the agenda. Director Valenti stated the interviews were conducted by himself, Commissioner Esposito and Special Investigator Chris Morris. Ex-Officio Mezick then asked if other Commissioners were invited to the interviews and noted that Ex-Officio members of the Commission were not invited to participate in any interviews, which has been the practice of this Commission. He said previously one person, the High Sheriff was controlling all appointments, and this was supposed to be a more collaborative and transparent process to hand out these jobs which are appointments. He wanted to know if ex-officios would be invited to participate in future interviews. Commissioner Esposito stated that the interview process was transparent as it was answered that he,

Director Valenti and Investigator Morris conducted the interviews. Additionally, in some counties interviewing only individuals who had applied and were eligible to be interviewed. He maintained that the goal was to get the appointments through as quickly as possible and to move onto Fairfield County. Commissioner Esposito referred the question of other commissioners being invited to Director Valenti who stated other commissioners had not been invited. Director Valenti stated a discussion took place between the Commission staff and Commissioner Esposito who is the chair, and it was decided that was how the interviews were going to be conducted going forward. Ex-Officio Mezick stated he wished to note for the record that no ex-officio members or other commissioners were invited to be interviewed, and that he hoped that it would change in the future. Ex-Officio Mezick then asked if anything in these applicants' background that might prove embarrassing to the Commission or the State of Connecticut. Commissioner Esposito stated that he did not believe the candidates would have reached this point if there was anything embarrassing, but he referred the question to Director Valenti. According to Director Valenti there was nothing in the background investigations that would cause embarrassment. Director Valenti stated that the background investigations were completed by Investigator Morris who is a retired police detective who conducted background investigations for police officers in 2022. Further Director Valenti stated that based on his recommendation the Commission adopted post standards for hiring, following the exact standard that police officers have. All candidates were fingerprinted and Director Valenti reviewed their background investigations and found nothing that would embarrass the Commission. Ex-Officio Mezick stated that he wanted to note that only resumes were provided for the meeting. Commissioner Esposito asked if further there was any further discussion, at which point Ex-Officio Stevenson stated that the ex-officios would like to participate in interviews and feels it is important to have marshals involved in the interviews asking questions. Commissioner Esposito stated it was noted and would be discussed. He asked if there was further discussion and as there was none, Commissioner Esposito then called for a vote on appointing John Simon as a Tolland County state marshal. The vote was unanimous to appoint John Simon as a Tolland County state marshal.

Commissioner Esposito asked if there was a motion to appoint **Robert Scavello** as a **New London County** state marshal. Commissioner Mack made a motion which was seconded by Commissioner Diana. Commissioner Esposito asked if there was any discussion, there was none. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Esposito asked if there was a motion to appoint **Robert Bono** as a **New London County** state marshal. Commissioner Mack made a motion which was seconded by Commissioner Diana. Commissioner Esposito asked if there was any discussion, there was none. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Esposito asked if there was a motion to appoint **Thomas Marturano** as a **Hartford County** state marshal. Commissioner Mack made a motion which was seconded by Commissioner Diana. Commissioner Esposito asked if there was any discussion, there was none. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Esposito stated the Commission wanted to congratulate the new marshals whose appointments have been approved and looks forward to working with them.

2. **Retirements:**

Commissioner Esposito stated **New Haven County State Marshal Sanford Levine** made a request to retire as of June 30, 2025. He indicated he closed his client fund account and has no active work, so a successor marshal is not necessary. He did request a retirement badge. Commissioner Esposito asked if there was a motion to approve the retirement for New Haven State Marshal Sanford Levine. Commissioner Dykas made a motion which was seconded by Commissioner Mack. Commissioner Esposito asked if there was any discussion. Ex-Officio Mezick stated he wished to address the Commission on this agenda item. First, he said he wanted to thank Marshal Levine for his service. In connection with his retirement Marshal Levine was assigned to the Milford/Ansonia courthouse for TRO duty. A couple of marshals reached out to him that the TRO calendar was completely reset upon State Marshal Levine's application for retirement. The calendar is normally posted for six months, and everyone is basing their work, summer, and other obligations around a schedule that was totally reshuffled. It was asked if the prior schedule could remain and that a request be made for marshals to cover Marshal Levine's days. This request was not accepted by the Director. Commissioner Esposito stated he had a conversation with commissioners as they had all received emails from Ex-Officio Mezick, and it is the opinion that this is an operational decision that is made by the Director. Ex-Officio Mezick stated that he would like it put in the minutes that we do not believe this is fair and equitable administration of the policy as required by statute as it doesn't allow marshals to plan their lives. Commissioner Esposito then called for a vote on approving the retirement and request for a badge by State Marshal Levine. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Esposito thanked State Marshal Levine for his years of service to the State of Connecticut.

Commissioner Esposito stated there was a request to retire on July 1, 2025, by **New London County Marshal Thomas Burke** who has requested that London County State Marshal Patricia Kobyluck-Burke be his successor marshal and requesting a retirement badge. Commissioner Esposito asked if there was a motion to approve the retirement of State Marshal Thomas Burke appointing State Marshal Patricia Kobyluck-Burke as his successor and granting a retirement badge. A motion was made by Commissioner Diana and seconded by Commissioner Dykas. Commissioner Esposito thanked State Marshal Burke for his years of service to the State of Connecticut and said he personally appreciated the knowledge State Marshal Burke passed on to him when he was an ex-officio. Commissioner Esposito called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Esposito asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Ex-Officio Mezick stated he had one item he wanted clarified. He stated that Commissioner Esposito stated that he spoke to the Commissioners, but he did not speak to him (Ex-Officio Mezick). Commissioner Esposito stated that he sent out an email asking the voting members whether they felt it was operational in nature and left up to the Director. Ex-Officio Mezick stated there was a decision made outside of a meeting. Commissioner Esposito responded that there wasn't a

decision made, he asked the Commission members their opinion whether this was an operational decision based on the e-mail sent by Ex-Officio Mezick. Commissioner Esposito stated he believes it is an operational decision left up to the Director. Further he stated it has not been properly put on the calendar for being addressed and voted on. Ex-Officio Stevenson stated that she did not understand why she or Marshal Mezick were not contacted as they are commissioners. Commissioner Esposito stated he knows Marshal Stevenson's position as well as the position of Marshal Mezick from the email. Ex-Officio Stevenson maintained that her position was not known as it was not asked for. Commissioner Esposito requested her position as it might change the position of the commissioners. Ex-Officio Stevenson said she sat on a committee in 2001 on the fair and equitable assignment, but the point is moot as the decision has been made. Commissioner Esposito responded that he had said if she had something that might change the decision, they would listen. Ex-Officio Stevenson responded that she believes it is extremely important for marshals to know that the next six months of restraining order duty will be as marshals revolve their lives around it. The calendar had a 40-day window and then was changed without an email. It is important to follow past practice of letting marshals know the next six months going forward and if there is going to be a change. Ex-Officio Stevenson knows in the past the Director has sent an email and asked for shifts to be filled. The wife of a marshal planned her chemotherapy around the schedule. It is not fair to change it. A request has been made to reinstate the prior schedule. She states she doesn't know that the commissioners know how important the calendar is. Commissioner Esposito responded that the commissioners understand the importance of the TRO scheduling. They also understand that it is scheduled six months in advance and perhaps it should be a month or two months in advance as that would resolve issues around marshals anticipating future rotations. Regarding the schedule it is just an issue the commissioners believe is an operational decision, the Director and staff need to address. Director Valenti asked to respond. First, he stated that there are no past practices with state marshals. He maintained since he has been with the Commission, he has operated if a marshal retired, was revoked or resigned, and it was prior to a new calendar starting he has reset the calendar. This has happened numerous times without complaint. He further explained that at times when he did not reset the calendar and asked marshals to cover shifts, he has not been able to find marshal to cover and has had to resort to asking the court to give out a number for a marshal who could not go to the courthouse. The best practice would be for advanced notice from the marshals when they plan to retire. When State Marshal Levine initially said he was resigning on June 15th, there was one day to fill in June which took two days of emailing and calling marshals. He believes there is only one marshal who has a conflict with the new schedule for three or four days and there is an attempt to address it. Director Valenti stated he believes that the Commission staff should not have to worry about filling 15 days over six months by leaving a retired marshal on the schedule. When a marshal has four conflicts, he should work out coverage or switches with other marshals. Ex-Officio Mezick responded the Commission by statute is required to equitably assign TRO duty and his position is it is not equitable if it can be reshuffled at any time. Ex-Officio Mezick believes in this case the calendar was reshuffled and this is not a practice the Commission and the commissioners should endorse. Director Valentin addressed the fair and equitable piece,

stating there have been times with no filing of the shifts left vacant and there is no process to fill them if no one volunteers. He stated in the police department there was a process. Director Valenti maintains it is not fair and equitable if he arbitrarily picked someone. The only fair way is to reshuffle the schedule, taking out the retired marshal.

Commissioner Esposito called for a vote to adjourn. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned.