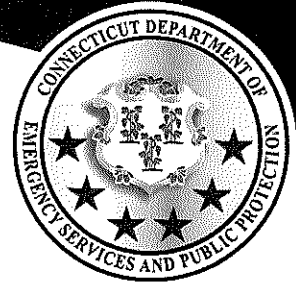




CONNECTICUT POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS & TRAINING



DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS and TRAINING COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, May 8, 2025

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chief Mello called meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE:

Council Members Present: Chief Keith Mello (Council Chairman), Chief Paul Melanson, Chief Vernon Riddick, Chief Jonathan Mulhern, Chief Neil Dryfe, Chief Fernando Spagnolo, Captain Ryan Maynard, Chief Scott Sansom, Doug Glanville, Michael Fraenza, Town Administrator Michael Freda, Professor Michael Lawlor, Anderson Curtis, Pamela Mautte, Florencio Cotto Jr., Jon Slifka, Chief States Attorney Lisa DeAngelo (fill in for Patrick Griffin).

Council Members Not Present: Commissioner Ronnell Higgins, David Kosciuk, Anish Shukla, Iran Nazario, Chief Roberto Rosado, Mayor Caroline Simmons

Others in Attendance: Chief Thomas Wydra, Director Jessica Blank, Director Marc Fasano, Director, Carrie-Jo McGuffy, Academy Administrator Karen Boisvert, Administrative Assistant Lois Pisani, Attorney Jessica Gouveia, David Silverio, Michael Francis, Brian Budd, Attorney Sarah Karwan, Attorney Colin Milne.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of the Minutes – March 13, 2025 Meeting

Motion to approve meeting minutes of March 13, 2025 was made by Chief Melanson, seconded by Chief Dryfe and passed unanimously. No discussion and no abstentions.

2. Approval of the Minutes – April 10, 2025 Special Meeting

Motion to approve meeting minutes of April 10, 2025 was made by Chief Melanson, seconded by Chief Dryfe and passed unanimously. No discussion and no abstentions.

3. Chiefs/Public Comment

There was no public comment. See above.

4. Subcommittee Reports

ACCREDITATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Request for Accreditation

A. Tier I

1. Oxford Police Department Tier I

Motion to approve Item 1 above was made by Chief Melanson, seconded by Chief Dryfe and passed unanimously. No discussion and no abstentions.

B. Tier II (1-5)

1. Burlington Police Department Tier II
2. DMV Commercial Vehicle Safety Division Tier II
3. Regional Water Authority Police Department Tier II
4. Somers Police Department Tier II
5. Stafford Police Department Tier II

Motion to approve Items 1-5 above was made by Chief Melanson, seconded by Chief Sansom and passed unanimously. No discussion and no abstentions.

C. Tier III (1- 13)

1. Brookfield Police Department Tier III
2. East Hartford Police Department (CALEA ADV) Tier III
3. East Haven Police Department (CALEA LE-1) Tiers II and III
4. Eastern CT State University Police Department Tier III
5. Enfield Police Department (CALEA ADV) Tier III
6. Farmington Police Department (CALEA ADV) Tier III
7. Groton City Police Department Tier III
8. Groton Town Police Department (CALEA ADV) Tier III

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| 9. | Plainfield Police Department | Tier III |
| 10. | Redding Police Department | Tier III |
| 11. | Stonington Police Department | Tiers II and III |
| 12. | West Haven Police Department | Tier III |
| 13. | Yale Police Department | Tier II and III |

Motion to approve Items 1-13 above was made by Chief Sansom, seconded by Chief Dryfe and passed unanimously. No discussion and no abstentions.

D. Creation of working subgroup for necessary updates to Accreditation manual and process updates

Both Chief Melanson and Director Jessica Blank presented information. The following information was conveyed. The purpose of the subcommittee is to look at the accreditation standards and identify standards for proofs. The subcommittee members will consist of various agencies. The subcommittee would accept and appreciate input on creating and updating standards and processes for gathering proofs.

CERTIFICATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Request for Comparative Certification

1. Abdullah Mahmud – Danbury Police Department
From New York Police Department, NY
2. Edward Lajoie – Stamford Police Department
From Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, NV
3. Kyle Klein – Wilton Police Department
From Athens Clarke County Police Department, GA

Motion to approve Items 1-3 above was made by Chief Melanson, seconded by Chief Sansom and passed unanimously. No discussion and no abstentions.

Request for Extension – Probationary Candidate Status

1. Daniel Vitali – Stamford Police Department
2. John Antonelli – Stamford Police Department
3. Joseph Fusco – Connecticut State Police
4. Kevin Poruban – Newtown Police Department
5. Mario Maiorana – Simsbury Police Department
6. Nathan-Craig Machado – New Haven Police Department
7. Samuel Verkaik – Stamford Police Department
8. Saraphina Duperval – New Britain Police Department

Motion to approve Items 1-8 above was made by Chief Melanson, seconded by Chief Dryfe and passed unanimously. No discussion and no abstentions.

Request for Basic Training Academy

1. Law Enforcement Council (Eastern Region Police Academy)
2. New Haven Police Academy

Motion to approve Items 1-2 above was made by Chief Melanson, seconded by Dryfe and passed unanimously. No discussion and no abstentions.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

1. Require that law enforcement units publish specific census information on their website
2. Require that law enforcement units publish specific policies on their website:
 - a. Use of body-worn and Dashboard Cameras;
 - b. Use of Force;
 - c. Police Pursuit;
 - d. Bias Policing; and
 - e. Civilian Complaints.

Per Chief Mello, items 1-2 will be moved over to the Accreditation Standards.

REPORT ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

1. DESPP - Commissioner Ronnell A. Higgins

Commissioner Higgins was unable to attend.

2. POSTC- Chief Keith L. Mello, Chairman

Chief Mello removes number 5 of new business items (i.e., Waiver of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 7-294e-21 – creation of a three-member panel for decertification matters). Chief Mello is working with legal to change regulation. Chief Mello will keep POSTC informed of outcome.

Chief Wydra discussed the implementation of a meal supplement plan for recruits and the development of a nutrition action plan. The plan aims to revise daily menus to align with nutritional guidelines and support recruits' health and performance.

Chief Wydra also discusses the approval of a learning management system called Acadis, which will connect with all 149 law enforcement units in Connecticut.

Director Blank discussed a new system called PowerAccred which is part of PowerDMS. This system will allow agencies to submit documentation for accreditation through a portal and will streamline the process.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request for Extension – Probationary Candidate John Carr – Stamford Police Department

This request was withdrawn on May 7th by Chief Shaw of the Stamford Police Department.

2. Tier III Accreditation - Western Connecticut State University

Motion to approve Item 2 above was made by Chief Melanson, seconded by Dryfe and passed unanimously. No discussion and no abstentions.

3. Basic Recruit Training Academy Request – Hartford Police Academy

Hartford Police Department made a request to start a basic training academy on June 30, 2025, which was dated April 30, 2025, and received by POST on May 1, 2025.

Motion to approve Request for Hartford Police Department to create a basic training academy was made by Chief Riddick, seconded by Chief Dryfe and passed unanimously. No abstentions.

4. Implementation of Standards for Satellite Academies

Chief Mello summarized the document containing proposed standards for Satellite Academies. Chief Mello noted that most of these standards are already in place. Chief Mello highlighted some of the new standards contained in the document. Chief Mello went over the new requirements for scheduling of academy classes, and expressed a desire not to schedule classes simultaneously to avoid empty seats. He also spoke about facility standards, including the need for a lactation room. Additionally, Chief Mello reviewed the standard for a minimum of 10 students for each class, with the requirement that at least one student be from that region. Chief Mello also indicated that the document does not touch on costs. Chief Mello also indicated that there is some flexibility regarding the 90-day timeframe for applications.

Motion to accept of Standards for Satellite Academies document as written passed unanimously. No discussion and no abstentions.

5. Waiver of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 7-294e-21 – creation of a three-member panel for decertification matters

Removed from Agenda.

6. Update on Use of Force and Pursuit Tracking Forms - Ken Barone IMRP

Ken Barone provided updates on the use of force and pursuit tracking forms, highlighting the need for better data collection and consistent reporting. Mr. Barone indicated that the current pursuit reporting tool is criticized for its lack of clarity and emphasized the need for a new tool with simpler checkboxes. There was also discussion on the challenges of defining what constitutes a pursuit and the importance of standardized reporting to obtain accurate data.

Mr. Barone also proposed changes to the Use of Force Reporting form. He explained that the form had been rolled out in 2022 and needed to be updated as many of the questions/areas of input were outdated and duplicative. Additionally, a portion of the form proved difficult to understand/use and needed to be simplified/clarified.

Motion to approve new Use of Force Form was made by Chief Riddick, seconded by Chief Sansom and passed unanimously. Florencio Cotto abstained.

General notices will be drafted for the Standards for Satellite Academies and the new Use of Force form.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

There were no informational items to discuss.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session called.

ADJOURNMENT

Chief Mello made motion to adjourn. Meeting ended at 10:15 a.m. Next Council Meeting September 11, 2025