

Social Justice Advisory Committee

MINUTES

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Zoom

Committee Members Present: Chief Vernon Riddick, Dr. Mark Kirschner, Kevin Lawlor, Dori Dumas, Captain Ryan Maynard, Chief Brian Wright, Ebony Epps, Iran Nazario, Maya Donald, Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Fongemie, Ken Barone, Dr. Maggie Silver, Dr. Lorenzo Boyd

Staff: CJ McGuffey, Jessica Gouveia, Karen Boisvert

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes available for approval.

III. Committee Reports

a. Dr. Maggie Silver: Entry-level testing.

Charles Sherwood, Director at South Central Criminal Justice Administrating Training, presented to the subcommittee on the entry-level testing that is coordinated by the region. He stated that the entry-level test is available for all departments within the region to utilize, and they administer the test several times a year. Many departments in the region accept this test or other tests, such as the one conducted by the Daigle Law Group. Dr. Sherwood has been conducting research into issues related to police recruitment and retention in Connecticut. He has been trying to understand some of the barriers to employment and why some officers may choose to leave an agency.

The South Central exam is run through PoliceApp. There is one fee for the exam and the results are valid for six months. During the six months, candidates can use their results for any applications in participating departments. The cost of the exam is \$85 with a \$35 processing fee. However, the processing fee can be waived if a candidate applies to a participating department. There are currently 15 departments in the region that accept the exam. The exam is conducted online on a regular basis. You may retake the exam for a better score.

Committee members were given an opportunity to ask questions of Dr. Sherwood about the exam and application process. There was a discussion about the number of questions on the exam, the time permitted to complete the exam, how the exam is proctored, how applicants verify their identity, whether there is a waiver to the exam fee for individuals, how frequently the exam is reviewed, and whether the exam is fair.

Following a brief discussion about the exam, Chief Riddick thanked Dr. Sherwood for volunteering his time to speak with the Committee and being available to answer questions.

IV. Outstanding Items:

a. Update on SJAC POSTC Tier III Accreditation Recommendations

Chief Riddick informed subcommittee members that the recommendations to require law enforcement units to publish specific census information on their website and publish certain police policies on their website was still being reviewed by other committees. He hoped to have an update at the next meeting.

b. CTRP3 Police Officer Demographic Information

Due to the time, this item will be tabled until the May meeting.

There was no further discussion, and the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.