

## **POST Commission Meeting Minutes**

**A meeting of the Rhode Island Police Officer's Commission on Standards & Training was held on Friday, April 1, 2005 at the Community College of Rhode Island, Flanagan Campus, Lincoln, RI in the President's Conference Room at 9 am.**

**Present: Colonel Anthony J. Silva – Chairman**

**Sheriff Gary Dias – Vice Chairman**

**Colonel Stephen McCartney – Commission Member**

**Mr. Robert Driscoll – Commission Member**

**Mr. Glenford J. Shibley – Acting Director**

**Mr. David A. Ricciarelli – Coordinator of Instruction & Testing**

**Mr. Richard B. Woolley, Esq. – Legal Counsel**

**Absent: Lt. Kevin Hopkins – Commission Member**

**At 9:15 am, Colonel Silva called the meeting to order. The first item on the agenda was a review of the minutes from the last Commission Meeting. After the review, Mr. Bob Driscoll made a motion to accept the minutes. Motion was seconded by Colonel McCartney. Vote was unanimous (4-0).**

**Next on the agenda, was a report on the recruit class 2005-II. Mr.**

**Glen Shibley stated that the class currently consisted of 33 police recruits representing 15 police agencies. He added that there is also one sit-in candidate from the Warwick Police Department who had served as a police officer in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Mr. David Ricciarelli mentioned that he was concerned about the level of physical conditioning of this class. Many of the candidates entered the Police Academy in weak condition. There was general discussion of the reduced police applicant pool statewide. Mr. Ricciarelli suggested that there should be a statewide effort to attract and screen police candidates from which police agencies could select. Mr. Driscoll asked if the entry salary might be part of the problem. Mr. Ricciarelli stated that it was undoubtedly part of the problem along with the reduction of medical/retirement benefits as well as the racial profiling issue affecting law enforcement today. All agreed. Mr. Shibley said that the graduation date for this class will be Friday, June 24th. Colonel Silva suggested that we invite the Governor to be our principal speaker. Colonel Silva then asked Sheriff Dias to make a special effort to see if we can get a commitment from Governor Carcieri to speak at graduation.**

**The third item on the agenda involved a request from the Rhode Island School of Design – Department of Public Safety. Colonel Silva explained to the Commission members and Police Academy staff that he had received a request from the RISD Public Safety Director Ray McKearey to speak to the Commission regarding the possibility of sending some of their officers to the RI Municipal Police Academy in the same manner as Brown University. Colonel Silva mentioned that**

he had spoken to Mr. Richard Woolley concerning RI General Laws 12-7-21 – Peace Officer Defined. Mr. Woolley stated that he would recommend that the statute be amended to include R.I.S.D. before they are accepted into the Police Academy. Colonel Silva then called for Director McKearey and Lieutenant Paul Meade to come into the meeting. Colonel Silva introduced the two and welcomed them.

Director McKearey stated that he was hired by RISD three years ago. The President of the College has stated that he wants to professionalize their Department of Public Safety. Director McKearey explained that presently most of the private colleges in Rhode Island have their public safety officers attend a two-week training program at Bryant University. Director McKearey said that he wants to design his Public Safety Department after Brown University's model – i.e. having both Campus Police and Campus Security Officers. He said that his goal would be to have one or two campus police officers, which are also E.M.T.'s on each shift. RISD does not want to have solely campus police officers. He emphasized that the College President and the Administration are supportive of the idea. Then, Lt. Meade spoke briefly about his law enforcement background and his ideas of professionalizing the department. Lt. Meade stressed that they are looking at a 5-year plan for implementation.

In closing, Colonel Silva informed Director McKearey that the Commission and Police Academy staff is receptive to training their officers provided that the RIGL 12-7-21 statute is amended. Mr. Shibley presented Director McKearey with a complete package of all of the requirements that both the agency and the candidate would

**need to meet in order to enroll an individual.**

**The next item on the agenda was discussion of the Department Firearms Qualification Program Review process. Mr. Ricciarelli mentioned that there has been a change in the RI Firearms Training Association. It is now a committee under RILETA and will continue to review the department's firearms training programs. Mr. Ricciarelli said that the Firearms Review Committee is now headed by Lieutenant Ed McGrath – Cranston Police Department. Mr. Ricciarelli recommended to the Commission that by June 1, 2005 all police departments should have forwarded their present Firearms Qualification Program to be reviewed by the new committee. Mr. Bob Driscoll made a motion to accept the recommendation. Sheriff Dias seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous (4-0).**

**Next, Mr. Shibley along with Mr. Ricciarelli gave a report to the Commission on the numerous in-service training courses that have been presented since January as well as those that are scheduled during the next few months.**

**Under old business, Colonel Silva discussed a letter of request that he had received from Chief Charles Golden – Newport Police Department concerning a recruit that required hospitalization during the last week of training. The recruit was hospitalized during the final four days of the Police Academy Training Program, which is two days more than allowed in the Academy's Rules & Regulations. Colonel Silva stated that since the final Academy recruit grades and rankings had been completed and after discussing the matter with other Commission members it was decided that the candidate would be**

allowed to receive his certification of graduation with the stipulation that Chief Golden will send the officer to the training classes he missed during the next recruit class that has just began. All agreed.

Also under old business, Colonel Silva stated that he had been contacted by the Governor's Office in reply to his December 8th letter, and was informed that they have decided to proceed with advertising the Police Academy's Director position. Sheriff Dias added that he has been informed that Mr. Al Nani – Human Resources Analyst II – Office of Personnel Administration would be handling the matter. Mr. Glen Shibley asked the Commission if the Governor's Office was aware of our statute, which gives the Commission the right to appoint staff. Colonel Silva replied that they are aware of the statute. Mr. Shibley emphasized that the time delay will be most unfortunate for the Police Academy staff which has been one position short since mid-December and having to deal with two consecutive Police Academy training classes. Mr. Shibley added that what we really need to advertise for is the position of a new Training Coordinator.

Under new business, Colonel McCartney discussed the recent findings/problems with the Racial Profiling data collection cards. He stated that there were many inaccuracies concerning the actual data recorded on the cards. Colonel McCartney emphasized that this is a serious problem that needs to be corrected. He stated that law enforcement must be both accountable and accurate. Mr. David Ricciarelli said that our police recruits are given a specific eight hour block of instruction regarding Racial Profiling and Professional

**Policing by Captain Bruce Moreau – Pawtucket P.D. and Mr. Frank Gallo (former officer with Cranston P.D.) and a Doctoral candidate with the University of Rhode Island. Mr. Ricciarelli added that we will get a copy of the actual recording document and will cover it in our Motor Vehicle Code class, Patrol class and also in our Role-Playing scenarios.**

**Colonel McCartney then made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Sheriff Dias. Vote was unanimous (4-0). Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Glenford J. Shibley**

**Acting Director**