

**RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Municipal Police Training Academy**

**Community College of Rhode Island — Flanagan Campus**

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**Colonel Steven G. O'Donnell Chief Anthony J. Silva**

**Commissioner, Department of Public Safety Executive Director**

**Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police Municipal Police Training Academy**

**Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training**

**Meeting Minutes**

**May 26, 2011**

**I. Welcome and Roll Call**

**Colonel Stephen M. McCartney called to order the regular meeting of the Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training (POST) at 10:09 a.m. on May 26, 2011 in RIMPA-Lincoln.**

**Colonel McCartney asked Donna Lavalley to take a roll call. The following POST members were present: Stephen M. McCartney, Chief Anthony Pesare, Chief Edward Mello, and Corporal Derek Borek representing Rhode Island State Police. Mr. Driscoll was absent due to a town emergency. Also present were Chief Anthony J. Silva, Mr. Richard B. Woolley, Esq., Ms. Danica Iacoi, Esq., Captain David**

**Ricciarelli, Captain David DelBonis and Donna Lavallee.**

## **II. Approval of the minutes**

**Colonel McCartney asked for approval of the minutes from the last meeting dated February 24, 201. Chief Pesare made a motion to accept the minutes; Chief Mello seconded the motion. After no further discussion and all in favor (4-0), the motion carries and minutes were accepted.**

## **III. Discussion on sustainability of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding, namely the current position of Basic Training Officer (BTO) at the Academy and Curriculum Assessment Coordinator (CAC)**

### **• Colonel Stephen M. McCartney**

**(Captain DelBonis recused himself from this agenda item). Chief Silva stated that the CAC position has approximately 10 months left and the BTO position has approximately 18 months left. Funding for these positions would need to begin now for the FY 2013 budget. With the State budget the way it is now, it doesn't look good to get these positions state funded. He reviewed the situation as it has evolved in the last few years. The Academy historically always had 4 FYE's since the 1970's. One was eliminated two years ago. Through the stimulus monies, we added David DelBonis as the BTO. That fourth position is critical even more so now with two Academy classes and the size of them. Because of that, there is more of a strain on training. As for the CAC position, the Director showcased the curriculum and expressed that if we have no funding for the CAC position, the curriculum will become stale again over time.**

Chief Mello asked if it would take a full time employee to maintain the curriculum and the Director answered yes. It is Paul Dutra's (of the Rhode Island Interlocal Trust) opinion that the single most enhancement to risk reduction is curriculum. Chief Pesare said that perhaps this could go hand- in- hand with the in-State Accreditation. Chief McCartney asked the Director if he, in fact, is requesting two full time positions and what would he recommend the POST do to begin. Chief Silva stated the POST needs to start dialogue with DPS. Chief Mello stated that in addition to that, they need to develop and alternate plan. Colonel McCartney re-iterated how vital the BTO position is and that it is critical that that position remains steadfast at the Academy. Chief Silva stated that if we lose the BTO position, we lose something very significant. That would mean no more in-service training as Capt. Ricciarelli would have to go back to the recruit class. Colonel McCartney expressed that it looks pretty grim and could there be a possible other plan to consider. Chief Mello suggested bringing in the Grants Administrator to the meeting with DPS to see if any other opportunities are available. Colonel McCartney stated again that we need to start now! This is a sense of urgency!

#### **IV. Update on USDOJ/BJA GRANT**

(Captain DelBonis re-joined the meeting) Chief Silva gave an updated report on the BJA Grant. This grant has been a windfall..we have been able to purchase a new copy machine, do training, purchase an ID Maker, place all computers and hardware and software, purchase a new phone system and order a student Audience Response System. Also, we have been able to do a significant amount of training. We

are having Dr. Friddell come back in September to do a pilot program for First Line Supervisors and the Recruit class. We will be hosting train-the-trainer.

**V. Update on current 116th Session, Recruit class/Academy Schedule**  
Captain DelBonis reported that this is the last week of class. The class did exceptionally well at role play with 23 cars. The departments sent a lot of help and he especially thanked Colonel McCartney for sending a Dispatcher from the Warwick P.D. which was a huge asset! Captain DelBonis wanted to take a minute to recognize the Class Leader, Recruit Burns of the North Providence PD. He handled 44 recruits and did an excellent job of directing the class. Also, the three CTO's were all exceptional and a huge help!

**VI. Update on Continuing Education**

Captain Ricciarelli stated we had 47 in-service trainings and still have 7 more before the end of June. We have trained about 1400 officers and Colonel Sullivan himself has trained approx. 800 officers in Work Zone trainings.

**VII. Discussion of 117th Session, July 25, 2011**

Chief Silva stated that the next class beginning July 25th and we have 43 confirmed seats as of now. Orientation was Tuesday and approximately 80 candidates were in attendance. June 3rd is the P/T testing. Captain DelBonis stated that the schedule is completed and logistics will be done within the next week. He has spoken with Cpl. Borek regarding the schedule as our Academies will be running simultaneously.

## **VIII. Discussion/Approval of revision to Academy fitness assessment**

**Captain Ricciarelli stated that we would be moving from 5 to 4 physical fitness assessments. This would entail removing the Sit and Reach and the Bench Press. It has been proven that the sit and reach has a low percentage of job productiveness and the bench press has low logistics state wide. We will be adding a one-minute push-up test. This test is a “plus” because of the way we train at P/T..upper body endurance. By doing this, we increase job performance by 13.5%. Providence is already using this test. Chief Silva stated we make the changes, we would look for them to become effective a year from now so it gives all departments a chance to conform.**

**Chief Mello made a motion to revise the current fitness assessment to the new proposed Physical Fitness Assessment to start in one year. Chief Pesare seconded the motion. With no further discussion and all in favor, 4-0, motion carries and item is approved.**

## **IX: Discussion/Approval of Firearms qualifications course-**

- Wyatt Detention Center**
- RI DOC**

**Chief Silva stated that he received a letter from both Wyatt Detention Center and Department of Corrections with their Firearms qualifications course. The staff at the Academy has reviewed the courses and recommends approval. Chief Pesare made a motion to approve the Firearms Courses for both Wyatt Detention Center and**

**Rhode Island Department of Corrections and Chief Mello seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, motion carries.**

**X: Discussion on Roger Williams University High School Program**

**Chief Pesare stated that RWU has a project where they go to various high schools and teach teachers how to instruct different courses like Intro to Criminal Justice and Crime Scene classes. They are looking for the POST to endorse the curriculum which is run by the Dept. of Education. They get three college credits for passing the course. It is a great program and has been in existence for 7 years. They are not looking for certification, merely an endorsement from the POST. Mr. Woolley stated that as long as it is an endorsement of the concept, it should not be a problem. Chief Pesare stated he would like to have Dean McKenna and the program director come to speak to the POST. Chief Silva stated we would put on the August agenda.**

**XI: Discussion on RI State Accreditation Project**

**Chief Pesare stated that \$10,000 has been put aside to start the program in a 501c non-profit investment. This program should be housed here at the Police Academy. He would like this to be part of the agenda when meeting with Colonel O'Donnell regarding the Stimulus positions.**

**XII: Request by EGPA Chief Thomas E. Coyle III for extension of**

**training for Officer Steven Branch.**

**Chief Silva received a letter from Chief Coyle requesting a short extension for training to Officer Steven Branch. He will have this completed by mid-June and he recommends POST approval. Chief Mello made a motion to extend the deadline for training to Officer Branch by the East Greenwich P.D. and Chief Pesare seconded the motion. All in favor, 4-0, motion carries.**

### **XIII: Approval Of “Sexual Assault” Learning Objectives**

**Chief Silva stated that the JTA did not identify any learning objectives for “Sexual Assault” and based on what we do in conjunction with DV/SA.**

**Chief Silva took a minute to welcome Danica to the Dept of Public Safety and to our POST meeting.**

### **XIV: Adjournment**

**Corporal Borek made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Chief Mello seconded the**

**motion. After all in favor, 4-0, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.**

**Minutes submitted by: Donna M. Lavalley, Administrative Assistant**