

VERMONT CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COUNCIL

June 17, 2020

PITTSFORD, VERMONT

10:00 AM phone conference

Members in Attendance

Chief Christopher Brickell, Chair, Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police

Heather Simons, Vice Chair, Proxy for Interim Commissioner James

Baker, Vermont Department of Corrections

Jason Batchelder, Proxy for Commissioner Louis Porter, VT Dept of Fish &
Wildlife

Sergeant Timothy Gould, Vermont Trooper's Association

Joshua Diamond, proxy for Attorney General TJ Donovan, Vermont Attorney General's Office

Erica Marthage, Bennington County State's Attorney

Gary Moore, Public Seat

Mark Anderson, Vermont Sheriff's Association

Silas Loomis, VT Constables Association

Commissioner Michael Schirling, Vermont Dept of Public Safety

Michael Major, Vermont Police Association

Absent

Colonel William Elovirta, Proxy for Interim Commissioner Wanda Minoli, Vermont Dept of Motor
Vehicles

Other Attendance

Jacob Humbert, Assistant Attorney General

Trevor Whipple, Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns

Gail Williams, Vermont Police Academy

Cynthia Taylor-Patch, Director of Training, Vermont Police Academy

Drew Bloom, Director of Administration, Vermont Police Academy

Lieutenant Steven Coote, Vermont State Police

Captain Julie Scribner, Vermont State Police

Major Ingrid Jonas, Vermont State Police

Jennifer Firpo, Vermont Police Academy

- 1. Chief Brickell:** Called the meeting to order at 9:03.
- 2. Approval of prior minutes:** Motion by Constable Loomis to approve prior minutes, second by Sgt. Gould. All in favor, motion passed.
- 3. BLM public sentiment and VCJTC commitment to the discussion:** Heather Simons opened the topic for Council discussion and the mission of the Council. Discussion included the need to be on the right side of this as leaders and to be part of the solution, the need of continuing this topic on the Agenda in order to keep the conversation going, reaching out to the public for

involvement, the belief that people need to hear what the Academy has been teaching and what is being worked on, how to get everyone involved in a unified plan, making sure everyone has a voice, and the accountability of law enforcement.

- 4. Direction of policing and role of VCJTC:** The Council is designed as a group of appointees by statute to have quarterly meetings although the meetings have been monthly it is still hard to keep up. There was discussion on what is realistic of the Council and concerns, the need for funding and oversight. Mike Schirling spoke of the need for modernization and the need to find another model of training for basic training aside from paramilitary and creating alternate paths to certification. Chief Brickell would like to create a working group of Council representative's organizations who can quickly come together to help put together strategies of what models are appropriate and the costs. Once these individuals are identified they can reach out to Major Jonas.
- 5. ED process update:** Sheriff Anderson gave an overview of the process including using internal and external groups for interviews. There is currently 8 – 9 applicants. The position will be open another 1-1/2 to 2 weeks. A Mental Health outreach stakeholder will be added to the external group.
 - Constable Loomis made a motion to approve adding a Mental Health stakeholder, second by Gary Moore. All in favor. Motion passed.
- 6. 2020 DV update review and approval vote:** The DV update was reviewed and approved by the DV subcommittee and the TAC to be brought to the Council for approval.
 - Erica Marthage made a motion to approve the update, second by Mike Major. All in favor. Motion passed.
- 7. Act 56 updates:** Drew Bloom talked about the process. It was a primary function of the Executive Director. Specific forms have been made for agency and for public reporting use and are on the Academy's website. The Academy has received many lately. Ten of them have been posted on the Academy's web page, and some of them may potentially need action. Drew asked once they are fully resolved for the Academy to be notified. Jacob Humbert has put together a draft process of how these should be handled, how it looks for the Academy, and how the Council will proceed.

Chief Brickell informed the Council that Senate Government Operations voted out a bill to change the membership of the Council to add a seat for the Vermont Network and Commissioner of Mental Health and to remove the seat of the Commissioner of Corrections. He feels the Council needs to let the House know the need for the Commissioner of Corrections to be put back on the list to have a seat on the Council.

- 8. Motion to adjourn:** Constable Loomis made motion to adjourn, second by Mike Major.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25