



Vermont Criminal Justice Council

Council Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2021

Members in Attendance

William Sorrell, Chair – Governor Appointed
Brian Searles – Governor Appointed
Christopher Louras – Governor Appointed
Shawn Pratt – Governor Appointed
Tammy Boudah – Governor Appointed
Michael Schirling – Commissioner of Public Safety
Heather Simons – proxy for Interim Commissioner James Baker, Dept of Corrections
Anthony Facos – proxy for Commissioner Wanda Minoli, Dept of Motor Vehicles
Col. Jason Batchelder – proxy for Commissioner Louis Porter, Vermont Fish & Wildlife
Mourning Fox – proxy for Commissioner Sarah Squirrell, Dept of Mental Health
David Scherr – proxy for Attorney General TJ Donovan, Attorney General's Office
Erica Marthage – proxy for E.D. John Campbell, State's Attorneys & Sheriffs
Xusana Davis – Executive Director Racial Equity
Sgt. Erin Hodges - Vermont Troopers Association
Chief Christopher Brickell – Vermont Chiefs' Association
Sheriff Mark Anderson – Vermont Sheriffs' Association
John Federico – Vermont State Employees Association
Trevor Whipple – Vermont League of Cities and Towns
Elaine Boyce – proxy for E.D. Chris Fenno, Center for Crime Victims Services
E. D. Karen Tronsgard-Scott – Network DOMV/Sexual Violence
Cassandra Burdyshaw - Vermont Human Rights Commission
Michael Major, Vermont Police Association

Other Attendees

Major Ingrid Jonas, proxy for Commissioner Michael Schirling, Dept of Public Safety
Major Justin Stedman – proxy for Commissioner Louis Porter, VT Fish & Wildlife
Jacob Humbert, Assistant Attorney General
Interim Director William Sheets, Vermont Police Academy
Gail Williams, Vermont Police Academy
Cindy Taylor-Patch, Vermont Police Academy
Steven Coote – Vermont State Police
Kevin Lane – Vermont State Police



Vermont Criminal Justice Council Council Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: VCJC Chair Bill Sorrell, 10:05

Review of January 7, 2021 VCJC minutes

Approval of minutes, Christopher Louras made a motion to approve the draft minutes as written.
Second by Trevor Whipple and Elaine Boyce. All in favor, Motion carried.

Agency of Public Safety Overview: Commissioner Mike Schirling

Interim Executive Director updates: Bill Sheets

Executive Director Search

*Interview dates, Feb 1st and Feb 3rd (All VCJC members invited to participate)

Upcoming Vermont Police Academy courses during COVID – 19

*FTO/Level II/Level III/other required courses

Selection of VCJC Sub-Committees/Working Groups

*New Chairs (Brian Searles and Chris Brickell)

*Cover list of assignments. You will hear from your Chair or V/C soon.

*Sub-committee draft will be sent out following the meeting.

List of current VCJC Sub-Committees/working groups.

- Training Advisory Committee
 - Comprehensive Training/Curriculum Review working group.
 - Entrance Requirements working group (written exam, psychological profile)
- Highway Safety Committee
- Fair and Impartial Policing Committee
- Professional Regulation sub-committee
 - Provide relevant examples of sub-committee role.



Vermont Criminal Justice Council Council Meeting Minutes

- Waiver Sub-Committee
- Domestic Violence Committee
- Canine Committee
- Use-of-Force Committee

Note: We will create Ad Hoc groups, involving the Council (S. 124 impacts)

- Examples:
1. Access to Body Worn Camera footage
 2. Use of Military Equipment
 3. Facial Recognition

Discussion of naming Vice-Chair/Co-Vice Chairs of the VCJC (VCJC Chair Bill Sorrell)

- Chair Sorrell suggested with the size of the Council naming two vice chairs qualified under statute.
- Legislative testimony will begin next week.
- Suggested sub committees without a vice chair discuss and determine if a vice chair is needed and who should serve in the capacity.

VCJC/Vermont Police Academy budget request/presentation

*Quick discussion, will forward copy of Legislative Report to the VCJC

Open discussion

- Shawn Pratt expressed his concern with the safety of citizens in Bennington, fear of the white supremacy organizations, and the need for help.
- Ingrid Jonas suggests looking into each sub-committee to see what it looks like and how to start handling white supremacy.
- Chair Sorrell stated the need to get started on upgrading the Council Rules and asked if any Council Members are interested in assisting to express their interest.

Next Steps:



Vermont Criminal Justice Council Council Meeting Minutes

- Meetings of all Sub-committees and working groups by February 5th.
 - Sub-committees will need to give updates at each Council meeting.
 - Meetings need to be warned, the agenda posted and remain open to the public.

Next Meeting date: February 17, 2021 at 10:00

Motion made by Brian Searles to adjourn, second by Ingrid Jonas. All in favor

Meeting adjourned 11:06