

VERMONT CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COUNCIL

February 27, 2019

PITTSFORD, VERMONT

9:00 AM

Members in Attendance

Chief Christopher Brickell, Chair, Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police
Heather Simons, Vice Chair, Proxy for Commissioner Lisa Menard, Vermont
Department of Corrections

Justin Stedman, Proxy for Commissioner Louis Porter, VT Dept of Fish & Wildlife
Michael Major, Vermont Police Association

Major Ingrid Jonas, Vermont State Police

Erica Marthage, Bennington County State's Attorney

Colonel William Elovirta, Proxy for Interim Commissioner Wanda Minoli, Vermont Dept of Motor Vehicles
Sheriff Stephen Benard, Vermont Sheriff's Association

Missing

Sergeant Timothy Gould, Vermont Trooper's Association

David Scherr, Proxy for Attorney General TJ Donovan, Vermont Attorney General's Office

Silas Loomis, VT Constables Association

Gary Moore, Public Seat

Other Attendance

Executive Director Richard Gauthier, Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council

Trevor Whipple, Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns

Gail Williams, Vermont Police Academy

Captain James Whitcomb, Vermont State Police

Chief Brickell: Called the meeting to order at 9:17.

Approval of Prior Minutes: Mike Major made a motion to accept prior minutes, second by Sheriff Benard. All in favor, motion passed.

Additions or Deletions to Agenda: Removal of agenda item #8 DOC Defensive Weapon Update.

Entrance Testing Working Group: Chief Brickell has suggested the creation of a working group to study the options available for the written entrance test, MMPI, and physical fitness tests. He has suggested Chief Tom Hanley of Middlebury PD, Chief Bill Sampson of Windsor PD, Deputy Chief John Murad of Burlington PD, Sheriff Roger Marcoux of Lamoille CSD, and Lt. Steve Coote of the Vermont State Police. Trevor Whipple agreed to be a consultant to the working group and Heather Simons agreed to be the liaison between the working group and the Council. Director Gauthier suggested including a female member from the Women in Law Enforcement group. There was discussion on how the Council would like to see the working group proceed. Chief Brickell is going to reach out to the suggested members of the group with the Council's suggestions and the request for monthly reports from the working group.

Executive Director's Report:

- **Legislative Update:**

- The Anti-bias training/Hate training are being talked about in bills 119, 124, and one without a title yet. The deadlines in the bills are not consistent. There is vagueness in the language of these bills. It is not clear if the trainings being talked about are the ones Julio Thompson teaches or the one taught in the full-time basic. It looks like agencies are complying but will need to wait for all the Rule 13 reports for final numbers.
 - Bill S273 vetoed last year has come back. Much of what the bill requires is already being done. Council membership stayed consistent and has not changed. There is language in the bill regarding an agency taking an officer from another agency if the officer had not been with the original agency for two years.
 - Continues going back and forth with house appropriations with the need to have another staff person and turn the part-time temporary position the Academy currently has into a full-time position at the Academy, due to the increase in record keeping, reporting out, and added training.
 - Director Gauthier has asked to wait for information from the working group on the alternate path for certification.
 - Council talked a little about anti-bias being scattered in Bills 284, 119, H464, and H465.
 - House is revisiting the Fair and Impartial Policing policy. Not towards changing but to put in new language so communities can add to the police, expand, or broaden the policy.
- **DRE Update:** Director Gauthier has talked with Secretary Flynn who found money in the AOT budget that will be transferred to the Council to hire the new DRE coordinator as soon as NHTSA says ok. The contract amount is \$90,000 with a \$55,000 yearly software contract. The position still needs to go through the hiring process. Secretary Flynn has some concerns about supplanting issues. This position will be funded year to year with the state eventually taking over the financial obligations of this position and training. Director Gauthier will be overseeing the position.

CRI-TAC Update: Heather Simons gave an update to the Council. The request has not been processed yet as they had a couple clarifying questions on the original request which Heather has answered. The priority would be to start at the top and let the work filter down. They have identified a consultant but have not provided Heather with the name, only that the person has a background in law enforcement and training and is from New England.

Executive Session: 10:40 – 11:22

- Council decided in a vote to retain Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC to represent the Academy on Burlington PD's complaint.

Erica Marthage updated the Council on last weeks States Attorney meeting and the discussion they had on truth and veracity of an officer, and when to add them to the Giglio list. At the meeting there were questions regarding how to keep the database. It was suggested to have the Council keep the database.

Heather Simons made a motion to adjourn, second by Mike Major

Meeting adjourned at 11:40