April 23, 2024

9:00 AM

Zoom Meeting

**Members in Attendance Public Session:**

William Sorrell, Chair – Governor Appointed

Brian Searles – Governor Appointed

Scott LaValley - Governor Appointed

Shawn Pratt (Bennington Martens) - Governor Appointed

Daniel Guerra – Governor Appointed

James Whitcomb –Proxy for Commissioner Jennifer Morrison, Dept. of Public Safety

Glenn Boyde – Proxy for Commissioner Nick Deml, Dept. of Corrections

Julio Thompson – Proxy for Attorney General Charity Clark

Lori Vadakin – Proxy for Commissioner Emily Hawes, Department of Mental Health

Scott Davidson (iPhone)– Proxy for Commissioner Wanda Minoli, DMV

Jay Greene –Proxy for Executive Director, Office of Racial Equity

Kelly Price (982 iPhone 12)– Vermont State Employees Association

Jennifer Harlow – Proxy for Vermont Sheriff’s Association

Tim Lueders Dumont – Proxy for E.D. John Campbell, States Attorney & Sheriff’s

Mike O’Neil – VT Troopers Association

Jennifer Frank – VT Chiefs Association

Trevor Whipple – VT League of Cities and Towns

Sadie Donovan – Proxy for E.D. Jennifer Poehlmann, Center for Crime Victim Services

Amanda Garces –Proxy for Cassandra Burdyshaw VT Human Rights Commission

**Other Attendees:**

Heather Simons – Vermont Criminal Justice Council

Christopher Brickell – Vermont Criminal Justice Council

Kim McManus – Vermont Criminal Justice Council

Lindsay Thivierge – Vermont Criminal Justice Council

Ken Hawkins – Vermont Criminal Justice Council

Brock Marvin – Vermont Criminal Justice Council

Jennifer Hier– Vermont Criminal Justice Council

Dan Pennington– Vermont Criminal Justice Council

Jennifer Firpo– Vermont Criminal Justice Council

Will Lambek – Migrant Justice

Jeremy Evans – Brattleboro Police Department

Matthew Birmingham –Vermont State Police

Wilda White – Department of Public Safety

Patrick Owens –Manchester Police Department

SAPD Wetherby – Saint Albans Police Department

James Blanchard – Manchester Police Department

Michael Arbogast – Dover Police Department

Stephen Laroche – Milton Police Department

Maurice Lamothe – St. Albans Police Department

Mike Thomas – Shelburne Police Department

Pierre Gomez – Northfield Police Department

Matthew Romei – Norwich Police Department

Matthew Sullivan – Swanton Police Department

Robert Montgomery- Killington Police Department

John Poleway – Capitol Police Department

Lance Burnham – Vermont State Police

Peter Hull – Colchester Police Department

Eric Nordenson – Montpelier Police Department

Ron Hoague – Essex Police Department

Justin Huizenga – Winooski Police Department

Patrick Foley – Williston Police Department

Tony Facos – US Attorney’s Office

Enrique Balcazar – Migrant Justice

Jason Covey – Middlebury Police Department

Rachel – Migrant Justice

Rachel

Amy Petersen

David Petersen

Zoom User

RE

**Call to Order:**  VCJC Chair Bill Sorrell 9:01 AM

**Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:** Bill Sorrell makes a motion to amend the agenda to reflect the deletion of the minutes and two stipulated agreements, seconded by Jennifer Frank, all in favor.

**FIP Policy**: *Associate General Counsel Kim McManus:*

At the end of the last meeting four of the five recommendations had been voted on, we had taken the recommendations out of order. The 4th recommendation was about how the federal law is mentioned and spoken to in the policy. The FIP Subcommittees recommendation was not accepted by the Council. After the vote the Attorney General proposed language for how the federal law should be discussed in the policy, that recommendation was not accepted by the Council. There was a discussion at the end of the meeting that the Department of Public Safety wanted to examine the Attorney General’s language further and have further conversations with the Attorney General’s office. The Council did vote to accept the savings clause. Chair Sorrell directed the Department of Public Safety and the Attorney General’s office to meet and see if there was a recommendation they make to the Council regarding the federal law.

The Department of Public Safey and the Attorney General’s Office had two meetings. Kim McManus, Jennifer Frank, and Will Lambek were also included. Both agencies agreed that the Attorney General’s language should be consolidated and edited so that it was not interspersed throughout the document. It is primarily located in section 6 with one mention in section 5. The proposed language presented today is the result of the Department of Public Safety and the Attorney General’s Office meeting and agreeing on this being an acceptable way for the federal law to be documented and understood by law enforcement in the policy.

*A summary was given of the changes that were agreed upon and were suggested for the Council.*

*Amanda Garces makes a motion to approve all of the changes presented today, seconded by Julio Thompson. Roll Call Vote:* **18 yes, 0 no.**

*Amanda Garces makes a motion to approve all of the changes to what has been the existing FIP policy, with changes that have been approved individually through council votes, seconded by Julio Thompson. Roll Call Vote:* **18 yes, 0 no.**

*Bill Sorrell –* This has been a long and difficult process that actually predates the creation of the current council, going back to the old training council. I want to thank the FIP subcommittee for its hard work, Migrant Justice for its zealous advocacy for the individuals and groups it represents, the AG’s office, and very active participation from DPS. I am pleased, impressed, and very grateful for the seriousness with which so many different individuals and groups have taken this issue. Nobody got everything they wanted but it was a respectful process and by today’s unanimous vote I think we have reinforced the wisdom and the thinking of the legislature who created this expanded council and brought many different voices to the table. We have lots of challenges ahead, but this has been a big one, and I think we can feel justifiably proud of not only the substance of what we’ve done over these years, and particularly in the last few months, but the way that we’ve gone about it, so my thanks to all.

*Chief Frank –* Thank you to all of the chiefs and sheriffs who participated in the process, there was an incredible showing of chiefs who showed that this was a really important issue.

*Julio Thompson –* This will be my last meeting as the AG’s proxy. Will Lambek, Amanda Garces, Erin Jacobsen and I spent many hours putting a lot of work into this policy. Tim Lueders Dumont provided really helpful assistance in discussions leading up to those votes. The training that is going to implement this to make this realistic and enduring for our law enforcement members will be really critical.

*Jay Greene –* Thank you to Executive Director Xusana Davis, I have had many discussions with her about the importance of passing this policy to our office.

*Will Lambek –* We are very pleased that the policy has been updated, this is something that many people have done for many years, and I appreciate the work that has gone into it, in particular, Amanda for chairing the FIP subcommittee and shepherding the process over the last couple of years. I think everybody on the Council knows that Migrant Justice does not believe these changes go far enough. We’re disappointed the Council did not accept the recommendations from the subcommittee in full, however, we do see this as an improvement on the current policy which has been in place since 2017 and we hope that it’ll lead to better outcomes for immigrant communities in this state. Now that the policy is going into effect, we think it will be very important that there be training and enforcement on the policy to ensure that law enforcement in Vermont is no longer collaborating in dangerous and harmful ways with federal deportation agencies. Thank you to everyone for your work. Thank you to Chair Sorrell and all of the members of the Council. We’re excited that we’ve passed this milestone of updating the policy but the work will be ongoing to ensure that it is enforced in an appropriate manner and results in the outcomes that I believe we all want.

*Bill Sorrell –* Thank you. I can assure you that training and enforcement of the policy will be a priority for the Council and for the Academy staff.

*Bill Sorrell makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chief Frank, no discussion, all in favor.* Meeting adjourned: 9:38