



Vermont Criminal Justice Council

Council Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2021

10:00 AM

Teams Meeting

Members in Attendance:

William Sorrell, Chair – Governor Appointed
Sheriff Mark Anderson, Vice-Chair – VT Sheriff's Association
Xusana Davis, Vice-Chair – E.D. Racial Equity
Major Justin Stedman - Proxy for Commissioner Louis Porter, VT Fish & Wildlife
Anthony Facos – Proxy for Wanda Minoli, Dept of Motor Vehicles
Chief Christopher Brickell – Vermont Chiefs' Association
Christopher Louras – Governor Appointed
Shawn Pratt – Governor Appointed
Karen Tronsgard-Scott – ED VT Network DOMV Sexual Violence
John Federico – VT State Employees Association
Glen Boyde – Proxy for James Baker, Dept of Corrections
Cassandra Burdyslaw – Proxy for Bor Yang, Human Rights Commission
Sadie Donovan – Proxy for Carol Brochu, Center for Crime Victim Services
Evan Meenan – Proxy for John Campbell, States Attorney & Sheriff's
Erin Hodges - Vermont Troopers Association
Tammy Boudah - Governor Appointed
Maria Tungatarova – Governor Appointed
Trevor Whipple – Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns

Other Attendees:

Heather Simons – Executive Director Vermont Police Academy
Lindsay Thivierge – Vermont Police Academy
Cindy Taylor-Patch – Vermont Police Academy
Gail Williams – Vermont Police Academy
Jon Murad – Burlington Police Dept
Barb Kessler – Vermont State Police
Teresa Randall – Vermont State Police
Julie Scribner – Vermont State Police
Jacob Humbert – Assistant Attorney General
Keith Baranow - Guest
Sarah Tewksbury - Guest
Allen Cormier – Guest
Jennifer Firpo – Vermont Police Academy
Andrew Graham – Vermont Police Academy



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Call to Order: VCJC Chair Bill Sorrell 10:02

Approval of prior minutes: Karen Tronsgard-Scott made a motion to accept the minutes from July 21st. Second by Trevor Whipple. All in favor. Motion passed.

Professional Regulation Overview: Jacob Humbert gave an overview of the proposed procedures from the Professional Regulation Sub-committee.

Executive Director Updates:

- David Scherr has moved into a new role and will no longer be on the Council.
- Due to Covid-19 Delta concerns, the academy is canceling public events and large gatherings to ensure the safety of our mission-critical programs. This decision is due to law enforcement staff shortages.
- State Auditors will be performing a risk assessment.
- A/C units have been installed on the second floor for the recruits but are waiting for new electrical wiring.
- Six bats have been removed from the building. One was in a residential sleeping area and had to be sent out for testing.
- Dr. Bartol has been the evaluator of MMPI's and will be retiring. The academy will be looking for a new evaluator and/or checking to see what other psychological assessments are available.
- The Deputy Director position for the Academy had gone through the RFR process, was posted, and is now closed. There is a competitive list of applicants. This position will report to the Executive Director, work on the operational duties of the Academy, and will fill in for the Executive Director when needed. An update will be given at the next Council meeting. Once this position is filled, the positions for staff attorney and investigator will begin.

Director of Administration update: (Heather Simons)

- The contract process is incredibly complicated and frustrating. The contracts for Fair and Impartial Policing, data collection and training, have been held up and rerouted back to ADS with concerns from BGS about the data collection. The deadline for required training in 2021 will be extended.
- VLCT has been very helpful in working on the overview of the Professional Regulation Subcommittee.

Director of Training update:

- The 112th Basic academy will begin on Oct 25, VSP pre-basic begins three weeks before the 25th, there are approximately 40 seats reserved and awaiting paperwork.



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- We are working on bringing de-escalation training from Roger Williams to Vermont, we have been working with Burlington Police Department, and have instituted a new de-escalation scenario.
- Field Training Officer (FTO) updates will start rolling out online this month, FTO Certification school is scheduled in January, and a Level II class starts in a couple of weeks.
- Use of Force Policy training has gone into effect statewide. Approximately 100 officers have already had the training since its roll-out in August. Trainings are being scheduled in locations all over the state.

Committees:

- FIP (Stedman) At last month's meeting, David Scherr presented the FIP policy. Migrant Justice attended the meeting and provided a list of objections and suggestions. There will be an additional meeting to go over the suggestions by Migrant Justice before bringing the statewide policy to the Council.
- Highway Safety (Taylor-Patch) ARIDE training continues. A regional ARIDE refresher training is upcoming. DRE training was canceled due to a lack of participants registered for the training. All current DRE Officers were sent to the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) to attend the impaired driving portion.
- Professional Regulation (Brickell) Meetings are being held regularly and will continue until the backlog is caught up. Currently, there are 48 cases complete, 15 cases awaiting an investigator, 13 cases sent back for more clarification, 5 cases for this Thursday's upcoming meeting, and 16 cases still have not been looked at. Communities are expressing their desire to see action on these cases.

Trevor Whipple complimented the Academy on the resources used for the UOF Policy, with changes happening on Oct 1st this year the training is important.

Heather Simons will be putting de-escalation on as an agenda item for the next meeting. Justin Stedman asked for time on the next Council meeting agenda to report on FIP committee progress.

Chair Sorrell acknowledged the increased demands on staff and the Council due to the suspension of the written test for the next basic class, followed by the necessity to hold another Level III class in October. Chair Sorrell also emphasized the need to be well prepared in advance for the next Legislative Session.

Motion to adjourn: Karen Tronsgard-Scott moved, second by Trevor Whipple. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 11:59