

**Criminal Justice Council
Vermont Police Academy**
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Office of the Executive Director

Fair and Impartial Committee Meeting August 13, 2021

Prepared by James Park, Technology and Program Technician

Members Present: Major Justin Stedman, Etan Nasreddin-Longo, Captain Julie Scribner, Christopher Louras, Gregg Jager, Amanda Garces, Director Xusana Davis, Glenn Boyde, Tabitha Moore

Members Absent: Director Karen Tronsgard-Scott

Other Peoples Present: David Scherr, Marcia Daoudi, Will Lambek, Olga, Elizabeth, Enrique

Academy Representatives: Executive Director Heather Simons, Director of Training Cindy Taylor-Patch, Training Coordinator Jennifer Firpo, Technology and Program Technician James Park

Meeting called to order: 10:03 AM

Member updates

- Chair Justin Stedman asked the Committee to briefly introduce themselves to new member Glenn Boyde.

Approval of the June 11 Meeting Minutes.

- Motion to accept the minutes as is made by Christopher Louras.
 - Motion Seconded by Gregg Jager.
 - **Motion passed unanimously.**

Old Business

- **Vermont Police Academy Core Value Equity suggestions**
 - Training Coordinator Jennifer Firpo asked the committee to give their suggestion for the definition of the Academy's Equity core value.
 - After a brief review, the Committee voted to recommend the following definition for use as the definition of Equity:
 - "Providing fair, impartial, and culturally responsive police services centered on what people need while treating them with empathy, care, and respect."
 - **Vote passed unanimously**



- **Discussion of proposed update to the Statewide Fair and Impartial Policing Model Policy**
 - David Scherr introduced the changes to the current model Fair and Impartial Policing Policy to the Committee. He reminded the committee that he was not looking for the committee to accept or reject the changes on behalf of the Vermont Criminal Justice Council at this time, he was just presenting what work had been done at this time.
 - Changes are non-substantive, the focus was to make sections easier to read, and to make it easier to hold people accountable for violating the policy.
 - Border cross sections were removed as the information within them is repeated in other sections, clarification of Officer obligations when State and Federal laws interact, clarification on what Officers are not allowed to do.
 - Outside of those highlights very few changes were made to the current policy.
 - **Discussion tabled until committee has time to read David and the suggestions from Migrant Justice.**

New Business

- **RFP Update**
 - Training Coordinator Jennifer Firpo informed the Committee that creation of the contracts is still progressing.
 - **Informational, no action needed.**
- **Unified Definition List**
 - Christopher Louras asked the committee is anyone had heard anything about VCIC and the creation of a list of unified definitions.
 - By statute they were tasked with creation of the list with a deadline of December.
 - VCIC will be contacted to see if any progress has been made.
 - **No action needed.**

Public Comment

- Marcia Daoudi asked the Committee when immigration status becomes necessary for policing.
 - David Scherr informed her that it its very rarely necessary.
 - **No action needed.**
- Migrant Justice presented their recommendations for changes to the current Fair and Impartial Policing Policy
- They highlighted several issues with the policy that allow for potential blind spots. They spoke on potential issues that can arise while someone is in custody and their desire to increase protections for those peoples.
 - **Proposed changes will be reviewed along with David's submissions**
 - **No action needed.**



Motion to adjourn.

- Captain Julie Scribner made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- Motion seconded Etan Nasreddin-Longo
 - **Motion passed with Unanimously.**

Meeting Adjourned: 12:00PM

