**Vermont Criminal Justice Council**

**Organizational Meeting**

**Working Group for Act 56 review (per H.476)**

**June 28, 2023**

**Participants:**

Chief Jennifer Frank

Christopher Louras

Commissioner Jennifer Morrison

Erin Jacobsen

Mike O’Neil

Tucker Jones

Lt. Colonel Jim Whitcomb

Chris Brickell

Kim McManus

**I.                    Organizational discussion:**

1. Chair assignment – Nomination Christopher Louras
2. Chair should be a member of the Council and a member of the ACT 56 sub-committee
3. Maintain a bi-weekly meeting schedule @ 1300 hours

**II.                  Charge: - Produce a report for VCJC by December 15, 2023**

1. Whether current statutes pertaining to unprofessional conduct in 20 V.S.A. § 2401-2411 should be amended to apply to all off-duty conduct of law enforcement officers;
2. Whether the current statutes pertaining to unprofessional conduct in 20 V.S.A. § 2401-2411 should be amended to adjust the scope of Category B conduct that the VCJC may take action on for a first offense; and
3. Any other recommendations as deemed appropriate by the VCJC

**III.                ACT 56 history**

1. Originally drafted to address agencies that were not holding officers accountable for inappropriate activity / unprofessional conduct
2. Discussion regarding individual department responsibilities v. Council responsibilities for holding officers accountable.  Ensuring that the council is not subsuming the initial responsibility of agencies to investigate actions through an effective internal affairs program

**IV.                Concerns**

1. Procedure for addressing agency heads responsibility for Act 56
2. Defining legislative statute terms: ex: gross professional misconduct

**Action Item:** Clarify that this working group is a subcommittee of the VCJC and that this subcommittee has the authority to act on the Council’s behalf to draft the report mandated by H.476 (now Act 74).