

Commission Meeting Number 336

State of New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety  
Division of Criminal Justice

**POLICE TRAINING COMMISSION**

Minutes of Commission Meeting

October 7, 2020

Location: Virtual Meeting

Commission Members Present

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Attendee(s)/Representative(s)</u>
Office of the Attorney General, State of New Jersey	John F. Cunningham
New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association	Kevin Lyons
New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police	James Abbott
New Jersey State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police	James Sharrock
County Prosecutors' Association of New Jersey	Fredric Knapp
Sheriffs' Association of New Jersey	Robert A. Nolan
Police Academy Director's Association	Daniel Colucci (Thomas DePaul)
Commissioner-Department of Education	Carl Carabelli
Commissioner-Department of Corrections	Aaron Erven
Federal Bureau of Investigation	Jason DeMartino
New Jersey Juvenile Detention Association	Thomas Pollio
New Jersey State Parole Board	James Dickenson
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives	Jiles Ship (Keith Stith)
Citizen Member—Governor's Appointment	James Polos
Citizen Member—Governor's Appointment	Vacant

New Jersey League of Municipalities

Samuel DeMaio

New Jersey Jail Wardens Association

Oscar Aviles

New Jersey State Police

Christopher Vozzo

Division of Criminal Justice Staff Present

Deputy Attorney General Louis Lester, Counsel to PTC

Deputy Attorney General Stephen Wenger, Prosecution Supervision and Training Bureau

Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey Barile, Deputy Chief, Prosecution Supervision and Training Bureau

Deputy Attorney General Emily Anderson, Prosecution Supervision and Training Bureau

Academy Coordinator Pat Jones, Police Training Commission

Academy Coordinator Forest Kairos, Police Training Commission

Field Representative Dion Feltri, Police Training Commission

Field Representative John Janowiak, Police Training Commission

**Police Training Commission Meeting Minutes for October 7, 2020**

Administrator John F. Cunningham called the 337<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Commission to order at 11:15 am.

Administrator Cunningham led the Commissioners in the flag salute. Commissioner Cunningham asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the Law Enforcement and military personnel who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Commissioner Sharrock also included in the moment of silence a remembrance of former Commissioner Robert Herndon who represented the NJ Chiefs Of Police Association.

**Administrator Cunningham asked Chairperson Carabelli to report on the business of the Appeals and Legislation Committee.**

1. Commissioner Carabelli reported that there were no appeals received since the August 13, 2020 PTC meeting.
2. Commissioner Carabelli reported the following appeal was referred to the Office of Administrative Law and required to action:

*David Araujo v. Mercer County Police Academy*

Recruit appeals from a dismissal based on the results of a drug screen.

3. Commissioner Carabelli reported the following appeal was withdrawn by Petitioner at Office of Administrative Law

*Tajai Ford v. John H. Stamler Police Academy*

4. Commissioner Carabelli reported the following Initial Decision was issued since the August 13, 2020 PTC Meeting:

*Michael A. Romero v. Essex County Police Academy*

Commissioner Carabelli, on behalf of the Appeals and Legislation Committee, moved and seconded a motion that the settlement in this matter not be accepted, and the dismissal of Recruit Michael A. Romero be upheld.

5. Commissioner Carabelli reported the following Final Decisions were issued since the August 13, 2020 PTC Meeting:

*Ruth Y. Henriquez v. Monmouth County Police Academy*

*Jennifer Schelmetty v. Essex County Police Academy*

*Lashea Graham v. Essex County Police Academy*

*Amani Davis v. New Jersey Department of Corrections*

7. Consideration of **Extensions of Training Time** for County Corrections Officers, Humane Law Enforcement Officers and Juvenile Detention Officers
  - 4A Consideration of a Request for an Extension of Training Time for Juvenile Detention Officer, Brian H. Gyeski (Middlesex County Department of Corrections and Youth Services).
  - 4B Consideration of a Request for an Extension of Training Time for Correction Officer Quajjr Monique Smith (Burlington County Department of Corrections).
  - 4C Consideration of a Request for an Extension of Training Time for County Sheriff's Officer, Kley Peralta (Bergen County Sheriff's Department).

Commissioner Carabelli, on behalf of the Appeals and Legislation Committee, moved and seconded a motion to combine Agenda Items 4A- 4D as a consent agenda and to approve the extensions of training time requests. Commissioner Erven opposed. The motion carried and was approved.

### **Commissioner Carabelli concluded the Appeals and Legislation Committee Report**

**Administrator Cunningham asked Chairman James Sharrock to report on the business of the Standards Committee.**

1. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 6A** was a **Consideration of a Request** from Chief Daniel Smith, Dunellen Police Department, to extend Alternate Route Eligibility for Officer John J. Doherty.

The Commissioners voted to approve the extension, however, the officer must complete additional course work at an approved academy to receive final certification.

2. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 6B** was a **Review** of the Out of State and Federal Officer Waiver process.

Commissioner Sharrock made a motion that effective December 1, 2020, Out of State and Federal Officers requesting waivers will not be waived from Defensive Tactics to ensure that their prior training is compliant with DT training in New Jersey. In addition, the waiver candidate may challenge the Physical Conditioning component of a basic course by passing the PTC Physical Conditioning Assessment. If the candidate fails the assessment, they will be required to complete Functional Area 13, Physical Conditioning. The Commissioners voted to approve the motion.

3. Commissioner Sharrock indicated that **Agenda Item 6C** was a **Report** of a request to enroll three Amtrak Police Officers in the Basic Course for Police Officers at the Essex County Police Academy and Mercer County Police Academies, for enrichment purposes only.

Three Amtrak Police Officers were granted permission to attend the Essex County Police Academy and Mercer County Police Academy for enrichment purposes only. Although granted, discussion will be continued in the December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting regarding officers attending PTC Academies for enrichment purposes.

**Commissioner Sharrock concluded the Standards Committee report.**

Administrator Cunningham reported that **Agenda Item 8A** was a **Report** of the Law Enforcement Officers Training and Equipment Fund (LEOTEF).

LEOTEF Chairperson, Daniel Colucci, reported quarterly expense reports for the 1st quarter and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 are being reviewed and processed. Due to the current situation with Covid-19 and office closures, not all reports have been received. Technical assistance in preparing quarterly expense reports has been provided. Supplemental academy requests for LEOTEF purchases also have been reviewed and approved.

\$414,848.65 was collected in SFY20 and that funding will be made available to eligible academies for the 32<sup>nd</sup> LEOTEF distribution. The PTC will provide 2 funding scenarios that will be passed on to the LEOTEF subcommittee for their recommendation. This recommendation will then be presented to the Police Training Commission for approval.

Administrator Cunningham announced **Agenda Item 9A** was the PTC's Computer System Update.

Administrator Cunningham reported that Acadis is moving forward and working very well. HE anticipates the system rolling out to Monmouth at the end of October and the other academies by the end of this year. He noted positive movement/news for the PTC staff. PTC had five posted job positions and an Academy Coordinator candidate accepted the position. Administrator Cunningham stated that he appreciates the Attorney General's help with pushing to get the much needed, additional staff for the PTC. He also extended his appreciation for his PTC staff.

The Commissioners also held a discussion in regards to the the letter that was to be drafted by Commissioners Kevin Lyons and Jiles Ship on behalf of the Appeals and Legislative Committee, to be sent to the Legislature regarding police training and reforms. The letter was to be reviewed, approved and sent out to the Legislature. Commissioner Ship and the N.O.B.L.E. Board were hoping to reword Paragraph I before being sent out. Commissioner Colucci made motion to have the letter sent as written to the legislature. Administrator Cuninngham did a role call vote on this motion. There were 13 in favor, 1 opposition (NOBLE), 2 abstentions (Attorney General and Parole Board), 1 absent, 1 vacant, the motion carried.

**Administrator Cunningham announced the next meeting is Wednesday, December 2, 2020**

Administrator Cunningham asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:01p.m.