

Connecticut General Assembly
Logistics
Subcommittee
Police Transparency & Accountability Task Force

Rep. Joshua Hall, Chairperson



c/o Judiciary Committee, Room 2500
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Ct 06106

Minutes
Tuesday, March 30, 2021
5:00 p.m., via Zoom

Attendees: Joshua Hall (Chair), Chief William Wright, John Szewczyk, Stephen Saloom, Kelly Moore, Cheryl Sharp, Shafiq Abdussabur

Others: Ken Barone (CCSU), Andrew Clark (CCSU), Karen Boisvert (POSTC), Sharad Samy, Renee LaMark Muir (CCSU)

- I.** Convene meeting and welcome
 - a. *Chair Hall convened the meeting at 5:02pm. At the request of the chair, members and guests introduced themselves.*

- II.** Approve March 23, 2021 meeting minutes
 - a. *A motion was made by John Szewczyk to approve the minutes from 03/23/21. The motion was seconded by Chief William Wright. The minutes were approved unanimously.*

- III.** Old Business
 - a. *Renee LaMark Muir presented changes to the Internal Affairs Work Group Recommendation regarding patterns and practice investigations of police agencies. The recommendations were initially presented at the February subcommittee meeting. Members requested some language changes in the rational section to reflect the differences more accurately among police agencies in Connecticut. The recommendation was summarized as follows:*

It is recommended the Office of the Attorney General be authorized to conduct investigations and, if warranted, file civil litigation to eliminate a pattern or practice of any conduct by municipal law enforcement agencies that deprives persons of rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by the Constitution or laws of

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the State of Connecticut. Standing to initiate an investigation and to file civil litigation shall include but not limited to:

- 1. a violation of the state laws prohibiting acts of bigotry or bias;*
- 2. trends identified by the state through the collection and analyses of municipal law enforcement data that a statistically significant disparity exists for a specific group of persons being the target of police actions based on bigotry or bias including but not limited to: traffic stops, deadly or excessive physical force, citizen complaints, false arrest, unreasonable searches or seizures, or Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC) officer decertification, or*
- 3. complaint filed with the Office of the Attorney General by citizens, advocates, attorneys, mandated reporter, police officers, and any person with standing.*

It is recommended the Office of the Attorney General be authorized to issue subpoenas and written interrogatories when conducting civil rights and pattern and practice investigations and litigation.

It is further recommended any such violations, trends, or complaints involving a state law enforcement agency including, but not limited to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), state university and college police departments, Department of Correction (DOC), and Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) shall be referred to the United State Department of Justice for investigation and, if warranted, civil litigation.

Cheryl Sharp shared concerns about the need for the AG to have this additional authority in statute. Cheryl walked members through some of the current statutes that govern civil rights violations for both CHRO and the AG. Members engaged in a lengthy discussion about the role of both agencies. CHRO requested to participate in discussions with the IA Work Group and members of the AG's office. A motion was made by Shafiq Abdussabur and seconded by Chief William Wright to table this recommendation. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ken Barone briefly described the second recommendation which recommended that the Police Office Standards and Training Council establish pre-service and in-service training courses for police officers conducting and supervising internal investigations. All police officers of any

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rank assigned to conduct or supervise internal investigations shall be required to successfully complete the POSTC pre-service internal investigator training program and complete in-service training in internal investigations during active assignment to conduct or supervise internal investigations. POSTC shall determine the content, curriculum, and credit hours of the pre- and in-service training modules.

A motion was made by Shafiq Abdussabur and seconded by Chief William Wright to approve the IA training recommendation. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. New Business

- a. Due to time constraints the subcommittee agreed to table the CTRP3 Evaluation and Recommendations of a primary and secondary traffic enforcement system.*

V. General Discussion

There was no general discussion.

VI. Announcement of time and date of next meeting

The next meeting will be April 27, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.