

Connecticut General Assembly

Police Transparency & Accountability Task Force

Daryl McGraw, Co-Chairperson



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

Minutes

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

1:00 p.m., via Zoom

Attendees: Daryl McGraw (Chair), Chief Keith Mello, Commissioner James Rovella, Brian Foley, Deputy Chief Maggie Silver, John Szewczyk, Chief Jack Drumm, Jon Slifka, Shafiq Abdussabur, Andrew Clark, Ken Barone, Henri Alphonse Mendoza, Makenzie Ozycz, Marc Pelka

- I.** Convene meeting and welcome
 - a. *Chair McGraw convened the meeting at 1:05 pm.*
- II.** Review and acceptance of minutes from the 4/06/21 meeting
 - a. *Minutes from the 4/06/21 meeting were approved via voice note*
- III.** Reflection and observations regarding Chauvin trial and other recent events
 - a. *Chair McGraw commented on the recent events, including recent killings between interactions with police officers and the community. Chair McGraw allowed for a few minutes of reflection amongst the Task Force.*

IV. Old Business

Four recommendations were presented by Ken Barone, to be discussed and voted on.

- a. Citizen Complaint Database and Form Recommendation

The recommendation outlines necessary changes to the form itself, including anonymity, demographic information on the officer in question, availability in both online and hard copy formats, multiple language options, and the collaboration of the POST Council and CHRO about the forms process. Upon discussion on recommendation John Szewczyk made a motion to approve the recommendation and it was seconded by Shafiq Abdussabur. Chief Mello commented that this is an easy adjustment for POSTC, and they are currently working on modifying form. Chair McGraw motioned a roll call vote, 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent. Chair McGraw marked recommendation approved by Task Force.

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b. Civilian Review Board Recommendations

The recommendation outlines different guidelines for municipalities to consider when instating a Civilian Review Board. Upon discussion on recommendation Chair McGraw asked for a motion to approve, Chief Mello motioned to approve, Chief Drumm seconded the motion. Chair McGraw motioned a roll call vote, 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent. Chair McGraw marked recommendation approved by Task Force.

The third recommendation details that Section 17 of the Police Accountability Bill Public Act 20-1 be amended so that all communities with police departments be required to have a Civilian Review Board. Ken Barone noted that the recommendation did not state what type of review board, stating that a police commission would also serve the same purpose. Chair McGraw asked for a motion to approve, Chief Jack Drumm motioned to approve, Deputy Chief Maggie Silver seconded the motion. Chief Mello commented some concerns about small state police towns and requiring departments to have a civilian review board. Chief Drumm echoed Chief Mello's concerns. John Szewczyk commented his approval for the recommendation, as it provides increased communication between the public. Shafiq Abdussabur commented on the recommendations effectiveness, and its racial equity. Commissioner James Rovella commented that he doesn't feel that the recommendation is clear enough to be voted on. Chair McGraw motioned a roll call vote, 5 no, 1 yes, 1 abstention, 3 absent. Chair McGraw requested to send it back to the logistics subcommittee for further discussion.

c. Internal Affairs Pre-Service and In-Service Training Recommendation

The fourth recommendation details that the POST Council develop and implement both pre-service and in-service internal affairs training. The recommendation also suggests that all officers complete these trainings, with the goal becoming consistency. Upon discussion on the recommendation, Chair McGraw asked for a motion to approve, John Szewczyk made a motion and Shafiq Abdussabur seconded the motion. John Szewczyk commented that this is a good first step, and shared approval of this recommendation. Chief Mello made a friendly amendment to allow pre-service training to be conducted by outside vendors. Chair McGraw motioned a roll call vote, 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

V. Subcommittee Updates

a. Improving Police Interactions with Disability Community

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Chair Jon Slifka updated that the subcommittee met today. the next meeting is scheduled next month for after session ends, the work continues to move forward with presentations from 9-1-1, 2-1-1, and SIM.

b. Public Awareness

Chair McGraw updated that Dr. Kringen has shared a presentation for the subcommittee. Andrew Clark added updates on presentations, including the diversity in policing.

c. Logistics

Ken Barone updated that the subcommittee has been working on two requirements in Public Act 20-1. They plan to meet next on May 18th to continue the discussion, which will be their last meeting before the session ends.

VI. Other Business

a. No other business to discuss.

VII. Announcement of time and date of next meeting

a. Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

a. Chair McGraw adjourned the meeting at 2:39 pm.