

**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, November 24, 2020  
5:00 p.m., via Zoom

*Attendees: Joshua Hall (Chair), Chief William Wright, John Szewczyk, Stephen Saloom, Daryl McGraw, Ken Green, Shafiq Abdussabur, Cheryl Sharp, Tanya Hughes*

*Others: Ken Barone (CCSU), Karen Boisvert (POSTC), Andrew Clark (CCSU), Deb Blanchard (Judiciary Committee), Renee LaMark Muir (CCSU), Peter Kochenburger (UCONN Law), Peter Siegelman (UCONN Law), Sharad Samy (CCSU), Brian Anderson (AFSCME Council 4)*

**I.** Convene meeting and welcome

*a. Chair Hall convened the meeting at 5:05pm. At the request of the chair, members and guests introduced themselves.*

**II.** Approve October 27, 2020 and November 10, 2020 meeting minutes

*a. A motion was made by Chief Wright and properly seconded by Stephen Saloom to approve the November 10, 2020 meeting minutes. John Szewczyk requested that the minutes be modified to include his concerns regarding due process rights for officers in Section III B of the minutes. The minutes, as amended, were approved via voice vote.*

**III.** Short-Term Priority Discussion

*a. Ken Barone shared additional questions for CIRMA's consideration that were developed by Peter Siegelman and Peter Kochenburger at UCONN Law to help the subcommittee further understand the impact that Section 41 of P.A. 20-1 may have on municipal liability insurance. The responses to these questions will be essential to making a thorough assessment. Responses are expected the first week of December.*

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**IV. Draft CBA Recommendation Proposals**

*The Connecticut Bar Association Policing Task Force shared two additional recommendations for the subcommittee's consideration. Ken Barone presented the recommendations for discussion.*

- a. *Citizen Complaint Procedures: The CBAPTF recommends that the POSTC be tasked with updating the current model form and developing a standardized, statewide reporting form and process for reporting citizen complaints. The complaint form should make clear that those reporting can do so anonymously, do not need to have the form notarized and the form should ask for information about the race, ethnicity and gender of the officer and complainant among other categories. The complaint form must be easy to find, be available electronically, but hard copies should be maintained at the police station and at other municipal buildings, including the library in the town or city, with versions in languages that reflect the needs of the local population.*

*The data from the complaints must then promptly be submitted by each police department to a database maintained by the Office and Policy Management ("OPM") without the names or other identifying information of complainants or officers but tracked through a number system so that it is possible to determine whether the same officer or complainant are being reported against or reporting. POSTC should determine which categories of complaints must be submitted by all departments (to include racial profiling, discourteous behavior and excessive force), but should not permit police departments to wait and submit only those complaints, which are investigated and determined to be substantiated. POSTC must also develop an auditing policy to ensure that each police department is making the complaint form widely available and regularly and correctly submitting the data. The OPM would maintain the database (which could be outsourced to a university) and, on a bi-annual basis, a report of the complaints received would be made public. This system would provide transparency to the public and would more easily permit problems and patterns of behavior to be identified or provide assurance that such problems are not being reported.*

*Members discussed the recommendation. Stephen Saloom asked Ken Barone to explain the current process for investigating citizen complaints. It is currently done through the department's internal affairs process. Ken Green asked if the inspector general will have a role in investigating or reviewing citizen complaints. It doesn't currently appear that the legislation authorizing the Inspector General position provides them with that authority.*

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*Cheryl Sharp asked if the complaint form would inform complainants of the statute of limitations associated with filing a complaint with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. Cheryl explain the current role that CHRO has in investigating complaints and the process for filing complaints. Members generally agreed that citizens should be informed of the statute of limitations on filing a complaint with CHRO when completing an internal police complaint form.*

*Chair Hall made a motion to approve the CBA citizen complaint proposal, with the modification that a standard citizen complain form also include language informing a citizen of the CHRO process and statute for limitations for filing a complaint with CHRO. The motion was seconded by Cheryl Sharp. The motion, as amended, was approved unanimously via voice vote.*

- b. Police Department Accreditation: the CBAPTF recommends that the accreditation standards for law enforcement agencies be revised to allow Chiefs the option of selecting compliance with the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council ("POSTC") Tier III standards or the national Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies ("CALEA") Accreditation Standards. Those opting to achieve Tier III accreditation by 2025 should reach Tier I accreditation by 2021 and Tier II accreditation by 2023.*

*Members discussed the proposal. There was discussion about the differences between the state accreditation program and the national accreditation program. Chief Wright shared that many police agencies could meet the national accreditation standards in all areas, except for the building modifications that are often required. For some departments, the cost associated with building upgrades to meet those standards are too expensive. The state program ensures best practice policies are in place but doesn't have the same building standards. The state program is also free to departments, whereas the national program charges an annual fee. Ken Green stated that if we believe the state program is sufficient, that we should mandate state accreditation and the national accreditation should remain optional. Karen Boisvert informed members that all CT agencies that are CALEA accredited are also Tier III state accredited. Chief Wright expressed that the recommendation for Tier I accreditation being 2021 may not be practical and recommended that it be pushed off until 2022.*

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*A motion was made by Chair Hall and seconded by Chief Wright that the accreditation standards outlined in P.A. 20-1 be modified to require law enforcement agencies to achieve compliance with the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council ("POSTC") Tier III standards by 2025. All departments should achieve Tier I accreditation by 2022 and Tier II accreditation by 2023. The motion was approved unanimously via voice vote.*

**V. General Discussion**

- a. Tamara Lanier, member of the Public Awareness Subcommittee, requested an opportunity to address the subcommittee. Tamara shared a story regarding a CT police officer who plead guilty to a crime related to the officers' actions on the job. The officer was placed on probation, where a condition of probation was that the officer couldn't receive any new citizen complaints. There was a concern that a citizen complaint was filed, and the department didn't properly report that complaint to the probation office. Tamara indicated that a universal complaint reporting system and reforms to internal affairs should be considered.*

**VI. Announcement of time and date of next meeting.**

- a. December 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m.*

**VII. Adjournment**

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.*