

# 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, December 15, 2020

1:00 p.m., via Zoom

**Members present:** Daryl McGraw (Chair), Maggie Vargas-Silver, Thomas Kulhawik, Marc Pelka, William Wright, John Szewczyk, Chief Mello, Richard Colangelo, Com. James Rovella, Shafiq Abdussabur  
**Others:** Deb Blanchard, Ken Barone, Andrew Clark, Renee LaMark Muir, Brian Anderson, Brian Foley, Henri Alphonse Mendoza

- I. Convene meeting and welcome
  - a. Chair McGraw convened the meeting at 1:05pm
- II. Review and acceptance of minutes from the 12/09/20 meeting
  - a. Minutes approved via voice vote
- III. Subcommittee Updates
  - a. Improving Police Interactions with Disability Community
    - i. In Chair Slifka's absence, Andrew Clark reported out from the subcommittee. The subcommittee presented a recommendation endorsed by the subcommittee for review. The subcommittee recommended the following:

*Section 18 of P.A. 20-1 be expanded to include a comprehensive, culturally responsive, feasibility study on the use of social workers and mobile crisis units by police in Connecticut. In support of this study, the Police Transparency and Accountability Task Force, in collaboration with the Connecticut Bar Association Policing Task Force would assess the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) and municipal police department evaluations submitted to POSTC on the use of social workers to respond remotely to calls for assistance, to respond in person to such calls and/or to accompany police officers on calls where the experience and training of a social worker could provide assistance. The task force would report any findings and recommendations no later than December 31, 2021.*

*Andrew also presented an additional recommendation that was endorsed by the subcommittee. The recommendation asks POSTC to develop, with input from the*

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*disability community and ADA experts, a standardized mandatory minimum in-service training regarding interactions with the disability community.*

### b. Public Awareness

*Chair McGraw thanked members for attending recent Public Awareness meetings. Andrew Clark updated members that the subcommittee is currently planning additional listening sessions for the new year. More information will be forthcoming as planning is finalized.*

### c. Logistics

#### i. Recommendations endorsed by the subcommittee for review

- 1. Ken Barone shared his screen and presented on two recommendations from the subcommittee. The recommendations were shared with members prior to the meeting. The recommendations endorsed by the Logistics Subcommittee include:*

*A recommendation 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. POSTC should work with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities to ensure that the form includes language informing a citizen of the CHRO process and statute of limitations for filing a complaint with CHRO. 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*

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*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.*

*Undersecretary Pelka raised concerns over the capacity to collect and maintain a database at OPM. Chief Mello also indicated that POSTC may have difficulty maintaining a database. Members agreed that additional details should be discussed by the subcommittee and modifications should be made where appropriate prior to proceeding with this recommendation.*

*A recommendation that Section 44 of Public Act 20-1 be amended to remove the requirement that all law enforcement units be required to obtain and maintain CALEA accreditation by 2025. Alternatively, the law should require that all law enforcement units must obtain and maintain the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council ("POSTC") Tier III accreditation standards by 2025. All law enforcement units should achieve Tier I state accreditation by 2022 and Tier II accreditation by 2023.*

*Chief Kulhawik identified a few areas in the rational where information about the CALEA process was inaccurate. Ken Barone requested that they work together to ensure that the information in the recommendation is presented accurately.*

#### IV. Other Business

*a. There was no other business to discuss.*

#### V. Announcement of time and date of next meeting

*a. The next meeting is scheduled for December 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.*

#### VI. Adjournment

*a. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.*