

# 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 14, 2021

1:00 p.m., via Zoom

*Attendees: Daryl McGraw (Chair), William Wright, Keith Mello, Jack Drumm, Maggie Silver, Jonathan Slifka, Brian Anderson, Marc Pelka, Dr. Anne Li Kringen, John Szewczyk, Shafiq Abdussabur, Richard Frieder, Brian Foley, James Rovella, Michelle Montano, Kevin Saunders, Andrew Clark, Ken Barone, Renee LaMark Muir, Meghan Peterson, Makenzie Ozycz, Henri Alphonse Mendoza, Marshall Segar, Dave Collins, Maureen Lopes, Lisa Backus, Katherine Loy, Patrick Hulin, Glenn Terk, John Healey*

- I.** Convene meeting and welcome
  - a. *Chair McGraw convened the meeting at 1:06 pm.*
  
- II.** Review and acceptance of minutes from the 11/16/21 meeting
  - a. *The minutes from 11/16/21 were accepted via voice note.*
  
- III.** Old Business
  - a. Diversity in Law Enforcement recommendation-update  
*Andrew Clark updated that the only change that they are asking to be made on the recommendation is rec. four, exploring diversity among civilian staff working within police departments. Dr. Kringen commented that the hopes for this rec is to explore how civilians would work within a department, as right now there is a lack of understanding about the diversity within civilian personnel. Andrew Clark asked if any Task Force members had questions before holding a vote to approve the amendment. Jonathan Slifka asked if disability would be added to the recommendation as an amendment. Dr. Kringen commented that the challenge is making sure that placing the recommendation amongst ADA compliance based on research and information currently provided. Jonathan Slifka replied by asking if police departments are required to give this information, or voluntary in development. Dr. Kringen answered that it was mandatory reporting, but voluntary identification of disability could be part of that as it differs from identification based on race or sex. Jonathan Slifka responded that there are ways to mix in both mandatory and voluntary questions in order for people to have the choice to self-disclose disabilities. Andrew Clark commented a possible place to point this issue out in the recommendation language. Jonathan Slifka agreed with this amendment to the recommendation. Chair McGraw motioned to accept the recommendation with*

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*the friendly amendment, the motion passed. Ken Barone called a roll call vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.*

b. Police peer intervention recommendation

*Ken Barone summarized the recommendation, which included three smaller recommendations. Renee LaMark Muir gave a brief overview of the recommendation, highlighting a change in culture for police officers to intervene and report in misconduct. Ken Barone recommended to the Chair to take these recommendations as a package and vote on them grouped together. Chief Keith Mello commented that he opposed and wanted to take the recommendations individually.*

*Ken Barone began with recommendation one, POST council requiring PD's to receive 8 hours of training. Chair McGraw called for a motion to accept the recommendation, the motion was made and seconded, Chair McGraw opened for discussion. Chief Mello asked why 8 hours would be required, and if anyone has spoken to the Task Force in charge of the Use of Force training program when deciding on the additional 8 hours. Renee LaMark Muir commented yes, they looked at the training program, but believed there was a specific need for intervention, the 8 hours is from a general consensus looking at programs in other states who used an 8-hour block. Chief Mello asked if anyone on the call has taken part in the program, and that he is opposed to the recommendation out of belief that this has already been done. Jonathan Slifka commented that the concern with the number of hours is in respect to equity, there are only four hours of training on the disability community. Shafiq Abdussabur commented that this Task Force was formed out of the order of prevention, he recommends that the 8 hours could be broken into different segments within the training based on different aspects of the community (disability, use of force, etc.) and that changes to the language could be made to move this recommendation forward. Chief Drumm commented that 4 hours may be palatable, 8 is more impossible. John Szewczyk commented that much of this training deals with officer misconduct as well as use of force, and that anything more that can be given on the duty to intervene is a positive. He added that he is in favor of this whether 8 is the correct number of hours. Chair McGraw asked for a motion to table, Chief Mello made the motion, Chief Jack Drumm seconded the motion to table the recommendation. Ken Barone called a roll call vote to table the recommendation: 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent. The motion to table passes.*

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*Ken Barone summarized recommendation two, the mandatory seminar by January 2023 by POSTC for police administrators about police intervention programs. Chair McGraw asked for a motion to accept the recommendation, the motion was made and seconded. Chair McGraw opened for discussion. John Szewczyk commented to ensure that there is development within the department to handle retaliation and on his support on the recommendation. Ken Barone called a roll call vote on recommendation two: 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent. The motion carries.*

*Ken Barone summarized recommendation three, POSTC working with a state institute of higher learning to create a peer-intervention training program. Chair McGraw asked for a motion to accept the third recommendation, the motion was made and seconded. There was no discussion. Ken Barone called a roll call vote on recommendation three: 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent. The motion carries.*

c. Police union contracts recommendation

*Ken Barone summarized a recommendation for the legislature to consider forming/establishing a Task Force to review collective bargaining and disciplinary procedures. The recommendation includes who should be included in the Task Force. Chair McGraw asked for a motion to accept the recommendation, the motion was made and seconded. Chair McGraw opened for discussion. Chief Wright commented that the subcommittee felt that they did not hold the expertise level to discuss contract law, collective bargaining, etc. which calls for the need for an additional working group to discuss these needs. Brian Anderson commented that he feels this recommendation begins to go against fairness in public policy, he states his police union contract mirrors employees in other public policy positions. He commented that this feeds into low recruit numbers as well. Shafiq Abdussabur commented that the last two points of the document at allowing public input into police contracts is a dangerous precedent to set. He also states that the legislative branch at the state may be more appropriate to make decisions on this, not the Task Force. Ken Barone clarified that the impetuses for this recommendation came from the June 8, 2020 meeting where task force members were asked to identify areas that they wanted to explore in the coming year. He reminded members that the recommendation was not changing collective bargaining, but simply bringing the right people to the table to begin a discussion. Brian Anderson commented that he is concerned with the ease in which it is possible to fire police officers, and that discipline must be part of a labor contract and these discussions open that up for discussion. Ken Barone commented that there are no longer enough voting members for a quorum, so this recommendation will need to be tabled to the next meeting.*

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*John Szewczyk commented that something that was overlooked was investigations and procedures for non-union. Ken Barone recommended using next Tuesday's meeting time to more discussion for the final report and for voting. Chair McGraw commented that we will come back for the 21<sup>st</sup> for a vote on this recommendation.*

#### IV. Subcommittee Update

a. Improving Police Interactions with Disability Community

*No updates.*

b. Public Awareness

*No updates.*

c. Logistics

*No updates.*

#### V. General Discussion

a. PTATF Community Conversations, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

i. *Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, West Hartford Town Hall*

ii. *Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, Farmington Public Library*

iii. *Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, Hartford Public Library*

iv. *Andrew Clark commented that it is important to focus on one aspect during the first round of Community Conversations. This round focused on "Community Policing: Where are we now?" The conversations are funded by a grant for the Hartford Foundation of Public Giving. Dr. Kringen and Richard Frieder will be doing a report on these conversations.*

b. PTATF Final Report and Release Details

*Ken Barone commented that the Task Force will meet January 11, 2022 to discuss the Final Report and Release Details.*

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

a. *Tuesday, December 21, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.*

b. *Tuesday, January 11, 2022 Final Report review*

#### VII. Adjournment

a. *Chair McGraw adjourned the meeting at 2:31 pm.*