

S.A. 16-13 An Act Establishing a Task Force to Study the Training and Curriculum and
Education of Police Officers
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 13, 2017
9:00 AM
LOB Room 1E

Representative Joe Verrengia called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM.

Present were: Rep. Verrengia, Andrew Clark, Karen Boisvert, Ken Barone, Chief Paul Fitzgerald, Chief Keith Mello, Deputy Chief Mack Hawkins, First Selectman James Zeoli, Lt. Robert Palmer

Absent were: Eric Coleman, Sgt. Rich Holton, Lt. Col. David Rosado, Mayor Harry Rilling, Dr. Amy Donahue, Commissioner Dora Schriro, Brian Preleski

Rep. Verrengia welcomed the members and introduced guest speakers Diana Hulse and Peter McDermott from Fairfield University who would be making a presentation to the group regarding mandated training in active listening and responding skills for police recruits.

Hulse thanked the group for having her and explained the masters program she is currently on sabbatical from. Hulse went into detail about the necessity for communication skills especially in the police community.

McDermott then introduced himself and noted his extensive career in law enforcement.

McDermott went on to explain that as a society we are becoming less and less inter-personal and we tend to use screens as the go to means of communication, McDermott emphasized the need for strong communication skills and gave instances where they are absolutely necessary.

Rep. Verrengia then opened up a question and answer session between the panelists and the task force. The guest speakers fielded questions from various task force members.

Chief Fitzgerald questioned the availability of minutes and who would be drafting the report due from the working group. Rep Verrengia acknowledged the question regarding the report would be on the agenda for the next meeting so that the group may discuss it.

Rep. Verrengia reminded the group of the next scheduled meeting- July 11, 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 AM