

**MARYLAND POLICE TRAINING AND STANDARDS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes – 58<sup>th</sup> Meeting – October 2, 2024**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chief Malik Aziz, President, Maryland Chiefs of Police Association  
Sheriff Jim DeWees, President, Maryland Sheriffs' Association  
Zenita Hurley, representing the Office of the Attorney General  
William DelBagno, Special Agent in Charge, Baltimore Office, FBI  
Chief George Bacorn, representing the Chairman, MML Executive Association  
Major Matt Corell, representing the Police Commissioner, Baltimore Police Department  
John Moses, Wor-Wic Program Advisory Committee – Criminal Justice  
Deputy Sheriff D'Warren Lambirth, Prince George's County Sheriff, Regional Representative  
Lt. Colonel Ronce Alford, MD Transportation Authority Police, Regional Representative  
Raymond Kelly, Community Policing Expert  
Khalilah Harris, Policing Standards Expert  
Susan Radcliffe, Mental Health Expert  
Ganesha Martin, Citizen of the State  
Cory Jeweler, Citizen of the State  
Patrick Campbell, Citizen of the State

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Colonel Roland Butler, Superintendent, Department of State Police (Chair)  
Clyde Boatwright, Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police  
Richard Gibson, Maryland State's Attorneys' Association (Vice Chair)  
Chief Michael Spaulding, Chairman, MML Executive Association  
Chief Tyrone Collington, President, Police Chiefs Association of Prince George's County  
Chief Amal Awad, Anne Arundel Police Department, Regional Representative

**STAFF PRESENT**

Wayne Silver, Executive Director, Police Training & Standards Commission  
Kate Gossard, Executive Director, Public Safety Education and Training Center  
Matthew Mellady, Deputy Director, Public Safety Education and Training Center  
Elise Ice, Office of the Attorney General  
Chaka Cross, Recorder  
Katie Johnson, Recorder  
Carrie Layman, Recorder  
Kelly Brauning, Certification Administrator  
Stephanie Cain, Compliance Administrator  
Gina Clay, Compliance  
Kevin Duerling, Policy & Processes  
Gary Gardner, Director, Policy & Processes  
Benjamin Giroux, Technical Services  
Joan Henard, Certification  
Brittany Rohe, Certification  
Kelly Spurgeon, Certification  
Lora Tracy, Compliance  
Robert Wagner, Director of Police Training

## **GUESTS**

Rene'e Battle-Brooke, Metro Transit Police  
Gene Bennett, Baltimore County Sheriff  
Sgt. Delford Jimmerson, Baltimore County Sheriff  
Mario DiFonzo, Baltimore County Sheriff  
George Nador, Metro Transit Police  
Donald Watkins, Metro Transit Police  
Steven Weichert, Baltimore County Sheriff

Director Silver informed the Commission members that both the Chair and Co-Chair will be absent and the first order of business is to appoint a temporary chair for the meeting. Before proceeding with the selection, the Commission will discuss the role and responsibilities of the chair.

**A MOTION to elect Lt. Colonel Alford as Acting Chair was made by Deputy Lambirth: SECONDED: Mr. Moses. The MOTION carried.**

Acting Chair Lt. Colonel Alford called the 58th meeting of the Police Training and Standards Commission (PTSC) from the Public Safety Education and Training Center to order at 9:11 a.m.

The agenda was as follows:

### **1. Approval of Minutes – July 10, 2024**

Acting Chair Lt. Colonel Alford asked members to review the minutes from the July 10, 2024 meeting.

**A MOTION to approve the minutes from the July 10, 2024 meeting of the Police Training and Standards Commission was made by Mr. Moses: SECONDED: Deputy Lambirth. The MOTION carried.**

### **2. Commission Activities Report**

Director Silver stated the Commission Activities report shows a net decrease of 60 certified police officers since January, despite new certifications and resignations/retirements. 192 probationary certificates were issued since July, while 224 officers separated. The Commission approved seven new entry-level and four comparative compliance training programs and certified 481 new instructors. Six entry-level academy audits, seven in-service audits, and 15 selection standards audits were conducted in 2024. The Commission recently conducted its first audit of a security officer training academy, which resulted in a minor mitigation plan. The audit of the Washington - D.C. Metro Transit Authority Police (WMATA) Academy will be discussed further.

### **3. Legal Issues**

Ms. Ice informed Commission members that there were no legal issues to be addressed.

### **4. Old Business**

#### **a) Final Approval of the ACC Definition Language modification**

Director Silver stated that the Commission previously approved a minor modification to the ACC PAB Regulation 12.04.09 in April, redefining "local governing body." After a 90-day public comment period with no feedback, the speaker is requesting the commission's final approval to publish the modified regulation.

**b) Administrative Charging Committee/Internal Affairs Survey Results**

The Commission discussed the issue of delayed ACC investigations, particularly in Baltimore City. A survey revealed that the average review time was 301.85 days, and many cases were not resolved within a year and a day. The main reason cited was staffing shortages and delays in the State's Attorneys' office.

**A MOTION to have the Commission staff delve deeper into the survey results, specifically focusing on the Baltimore City area, to better understand the reasons behind the significant delay in ACC investigations was made by Mr. Moses: SECONDED: Ms. Hurley. The MOTION carried.**

*Recorder's Note: Ms. Jeweler enters at 9:13 am*

*Recorder's Note: Ms. Kelly exits at 9:15 am and returns at 9:17 am*

*Recorder's Note: Ms. Martin enters at 9:24 am*

*Recorder's Note: Mr. Campbell enters at 9:33 am*

**c) Juvenile Justice Objectives**

The discussion centered around juvenile justice objectives and the requirement to train officers in juvenile interrogations for Governor's Office of Crime Prevention & Policy (GOCCP) grant eligibility. The proposed objectives were similar to those in the entry-level program, ensuring consistency in training. Concerns were raised about the ambiguity surrounding juvenile charges in school environments and the need for training on distinguishing between school disciplinary matters and criminal charges. While some argued that existing training adequately covers this, others emphasized the need for clearer guidance and consistency across jurisdictions.

**A MOTION to approve the objectives and task Commission staff with developing a model policy on law enforcement interaction with juveniles in school environments was made by Ms. Hurley: SECONDED: Deputy Sheriff Lambirth. The MOTION carried.**

**d) Mental Health Assessment Presentation**

The discussion centered around the need for clearer guidelines and standards for mental health screenings of law enforcement officers in Maryland. Key points included the distinction between screenings and assessments, the qualifications of professionals conducting screenings, and the importance of avoiding unnecessary diagnoses. The group discussed the potential benefits of self-assessment tools and community resources for officers. The need for clear guidelines on reporting concerns about an officer's mental health was also emphasized.

**A MOTION to work with a mental health professional to develop a model policy to provide guidance on mental health screenings, including the types of screenings, the qualifications of professionals, and reporting requirements was made by Ms. Hurley: SECONDED: Ms. Martin. The MOTION carried.**

*Recorder's Note: Mr. Moses exits at 10:16 am and returns at 10:19 am*

**5. New Business**

**a) Proposed 2025 Meeting Dates**

The Commission discussed the proposed meeting dates for 2025. After considering potential conflicts with other events and the challenges of scheduling meetings around holidays, it was decided to move the July 2nd meeting to July 9th. Additionally, the Commission agreed to start their meetings at 9 a.m. instead of 10 a.m. to accommodate the increasing workload and ensure sufficient time for discussions and decisions.

**A MOTION to move the proposed July 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 9<sup>th</sup> and to begin meetings at 9 a.m. was made by Mr. Moses: SECONDED: Deputy Sheriff Lambirth. The MOTION carried.**

*Recorder's Note: Mr. Jeweler exits at 10:40 am*

*Recorder's Note: Chief Spaulding, Sheriff DeWees, SAC DelBagno exit at 10:45 am*

*Recorder's Note: Chief Spaulding returns at 10:47 am*

*Recorder's Note: Sheriff DeWees returns at 10:49 am*

*Recorder's Note: SAC DelBagno returns at 10:53 am*

*Recorder's Note: Mr. Jeweler returns at 10:56 am*

**b) Positive Feedback Program Model Policy**

The Police Training Standards Commission was tasked with developing a model policy for positive community feedback. The Commission reviewed existing policies from various agencies and found that most agencies already had similar systems in place. The proposed model policy outlines a system for collecting and utilizing positive feedback, including electronic submission and storage. The feedback would be shared with officers and supervisors and potentially used in performance evaluations.

**A MOTION approve the model policy was made by Mr. Campbell: SECONDED: Mr. Moses. The MOTION carried.**

**c) Revocation Hearings Recommendation**

The Commission discussed the challenges of scheduling revocation hearings due to the difficulty of gathering a large number of members. Two potential solutions were proposed: 1) delegating revocation hearings to the Office of Administrative Law and 2) amending the regulations to allow a smaller group of members to hear revocation cases.

**A MOTION to draft a proposed regulation change that would allow a smaller group of members to hear revocation cases made by Sheriff DeWees: SECONDED: Mr. Moses. The MOTION carried.**

**d) WMATA Entry Level Academy Request**

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Police (WMATA) requested approval to operate a full entry-level police academy in Maryland. WMATA has been a certified police training provider since 1993 and has conducted numerous comparative compliance academies. The staff at the MPCTC conducted a full audit of WMATA's academy and found no deficiencies.

**A MOTION to approve WMATA's request for an entry level academy was made by Mr. Moses: SECONDED: Deputy Sheriff Lambirth. The MOTION carried.**

*Recorder's Note: The members recessed from 11:14 am to 12:51 pm.*

Acting Chair Alford called the meeting back to order at 12:51 pm. Roll call was conducted and a quorum was present.

**A MOTION to adjourn to go to closed session was made by Mr. Campbell: SECONDED: Chief Bacorn. The MOTION carried unanimously.**

Members voting in closed session: Chief Aziz; Sheriff Bacorn; Mr. Campbell; Captain Corell; Chief Collington; SAC DelBagno; Sheriff DeWees; Mr. Jeweler; Mr. Kelly; Ms. Hurley; Deputy Sheriff Lambirth; Ms. Martin; Mr. Moses; Ms. Radcliffe.

Persons attending closed session: In addition to voting Commission Members, Director Silver; Director Kate Gossard; Deputy Director Mellady; Chaka Cross; Carrie Layman; Benjamin Giroux.

Authority under § 3-305 for the closed session: Personnel matters

Topics actually discussed: Recertification approved for an applicant of the Baltimore County Sheriff.  
Revocation of certification for an officer from Cheverly Police Department.

*Recorder's Note: Recess from 3:28 p.m. to 3:47 p.m.*

**A MOTION was made by Mr. Moses to adjourn to an open session: SECONDED: Deputy Sheriff Lambirth. The MOTION carried unanimously.**

*Recorder's Note: This concluded the closed session. The meeting adjourned to an open session at 4:33 p.m.*

Ms. Cross announced the outcome of the items heard in closed session.

**A MOTION to adjourn was made by Chief Aziz: SECONDED: Mr. Moses. The MOTION carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.**

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| <p>These "minutes" are a synopsis of the Commissions' discussions and decisions and not a verbatim rendering of the proceedings.</p> |
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