



Law Enforcement Agency Accreditation Council

**Minutes of the 113th Meeting held on December 7th, 2017
Alfred E. Smith Office Building, Room 118
80 South Swan Street, Albany, NY 12210**

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

Chief Marvin Fischer called the 113th meeting of the council to order at 10:00 a.m. on December 7th, 2017. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Chief Fischer asked for a moment of silence to honor the members of law enforcement and the armed services who have died since the September meeting.

2. Roll Call

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chief Marvin Fischer – SUNY Police Farmingdale
Sergeant Louis Dini – Suffolk County Police Department, PCNY
Chief Mark Henderson – Brighton Town Police Department
Chief (Ret) Charles Koenig – Retired, Ballston Spa Village Police Department
Sheriff Philip Povero - Ontario County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Robert Maciol – Oneida County Sheriff's Office
Mayor Robert Palmieri - City of Utica
Supervisor Edmond Theobald – Town of Manlius
Mr. Richard Wells – Police Conference New York
Robert E. Worden, Ph.D. – University at Albany

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Superintendent George P. Beach, II – New York State Police
Commissioner James O'Neill - New York City Police Department
Chief Gregory Austin - Rye Brook Village Police Department
Deputy Thomas Marano – Orleans County Sheriff's Office

OTHER MEETING PARTICIPANTS:

Bureau Chief James Secreto – New York City Police Department (*Representing and voting for Commissioner O'Neill*)
First Deputy Superintendent Christopher Fiore – New York State Police (*Representing and voting for Superintendent Beach*)

3. Introductions

DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES STAFF

Michael Wood, Deputy Commissioner - Office of Public Safety (OPS)

Johanna Sullivan, Director - OPS

Natasha Harvin, Esq., Counsel - Office of Legal Services

Todd Murray - Supervisor of Public Safety Programs – OPS

Hilary McGrath, Program Manager - OPS Accreditation Unit

Joyce Corsi – OPS Accreditation Unit

Michael McDonough - OPS Accreditation Unit

Ashley Onorati - OPS Accreditation Unit

Ogden Schultz – Audio/Visual, ITS

OTHER GUESTS

Sergeant Gary Lee, Guilderland Town Police Department

Major James LaFarr, Warren County Sheriff's Office

REPRESENTATIVES FROM APPLICANT AGENCIES

East Greenbush Town Police Department

Chief Christopher Lavin

Officer James Condo*

Officer Ray Diaz

Officer Mark Harrington

Mr. Jack Conway, Town Supervisor

Ms. Stephanie Scheibly

Gloversville City Police Department

Chief Marc Porter

Captain Michael Scott*

Lieutenant Michael Shang

Harriman Village Police Department

Chief Daniel Henderson

Sergeant Adam Basilicata

Police Officer Edward Josefovitz*

Livingston County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Thomas Dougherty

Undersheriff Matthew Bean

Chief Deputy Matthew Burgess

Middletown City Police Department

Chief John Ewanciw

Lieutenant Francis Graziano*

Lieutenant Jeffry Thoelen

Sergeant Jacqueline Welch*

Police Officer Eric Harget

North Greenbush Town Police Department

Chief Robert Durivage
Lieutenant Gregory Croll*
Ms. Carrie Reo, Administrative Assistant

SUNY Buffalo Police Department

Commissioner Paul Berger

Syracuse City Police Department

Chief Frank Fowler
1st Deputy Chief Joseph Cecile
Officer Mark Werbeck*

Ulster County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Paul J. VanBlarcum
Captain Vincent Altieri
First Sergeant Allen Rowe*

Wayne County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Barry Virts
Sergeant/Investigator Kevin Kuntz

Westchester County Department of Public Safety

*Lieutenant Jeffrey Weiss

*Denotes Agency Program Manager in Attendance

ACTION ITEMS

4. Approval of the September 2017 Meeting Minutes

Supervisor Theobald made a motion to adopt the minutes of the September 7th, 2017 council meeting. Mr. Wells seconded the motion. *Motion carried – 12 ayes, 0 nay*

5. Presentation of Certificates of Accreditation

East Greenbush Town Police Department – Chief (Ret.) Koenig made a motion to accredit the agency and Mr. Wells seconded the motion. Chief Christopher Lavin accepted the Certificate of Accreditation for the agency and Officer James Condo accepted the John Kimball O'Neil Certificate of Achievement as program manager. *Motion carried – 12 ayes, 0 nay*

Gloversville City Police Department – Chief (Ret.) Koenig made a motion to accredit the agency and Mayor Palmieri seconded the motion. Chief Marc Porter accepted the Certificate of Accreditation for the agency and Captain Michael Scott accepted the John Kimball O'Neil Certificate of Achievement as program manager. *Motion carried – 12 ayes, 0 nay*

Wayne County Sheriff's Office – Sheriff Povero made a motion to accredit the agency and Chief Henderson seconded the motion. Sheriff Barry Virts accepted the Certificate of Accreditation for the agency and Sgt./Inv. Kevin Kuntz accepted the John Kimball O'Neil Certificate of Achievement on behalf of program manager, Undersheriff Jeffrey Fosdick. *Motion Carried – 12 ayes, 0 nay*

6. Presentation of Certificates of Reaccreditation

Harriman Village Police Department – First Deputy Superintendent Fiore made a motion to reaccredit the agency and Supervisor Theobald seconded the motion. Chief Daniel Henderson accepted the Certificate of Accreditation for the agency and Police Officer Edward Josefovitz accepted the John Kimball O'Neil Certificate of Achievement as the program manager.
Motion carried – 12 ayes, 0 nay

Livingston County Sheriff's Office – Sheriff Povero made a motion to reaccredit the agency and Chief Henderson seconded the motion. Sheriff Thomas Dougherty accepted the Certificate of Accreditation for the agency and Undersheriff Matthew Bean accepted the John Kimball O'Neil Certificate of Achievement on behalf of program manager, Deputy A. Gary Miller.
Motion carried – 12 ayes, 0 nay

Middletown City Police Department – Mayor Palmieri made a motion to reaccredit the agency and Dr. Worden seconded the motion. Chief John Ewanciw accepted the Certificate of Accreditation for the agency and Lieutenant Francis Graziano and Sergeant Jacqueline Welch accepted the John Kimball O'Neil Certificate of Achievement as the program managers.
Motion carried – 12 ayes, 0 nay

North Greenbush Town Police Department – Chief (Ret) Koenig made a motion to reaccredit the agency and Mr. Wells seconded the motion. Chief Robert Durivage accepted the Certificate of Accreditation for the agency and Lieutenant Gregory Croll was awarded the John Kimball O'Neil Certificate of Achievement as the program manager.
Motion carried – 12 ayes, 0 nay

SUNY Police Buffalo University – Sergeant Dini made a motion to reaccredit the agency and Supervisor Theobald seconded the motion. Commissioner Paul Berger accepted the Certificate of Accreditation for the agency on behalf of Chief Gary Schoenle and the John Kimball O'Neil Certificate of Achievement on behalf of program manager, Lieutenant Kathy Zysek.
Motion carried – 12 ayes, 0 nay

Syracuse City Police Department – Supervisor Theobald made a motion to reaccredit the agency and Mayor Palmieri seconded the motion. Chief Frank Fowler accepted the Certificate of Accreditation for the agency and Police Officer Mark Werbeck was awarded the John Kimball O'Neil Certificate of Achievement as the program manager.
Motion carried – 12 ayes, 0 nay

Ulster County Sheriff's Office – Sheriff Povero made a motion to reaccredit the agency and Sheriff Maciol seconded the motion. Sheriff Paul VanBlarcum accepted the Certificate of Accreditation for the agency and First Sergeant Allen Rowe was awarded the John Kimball O'Neil Certificate of Achievement as the program manager.
Motion carried – 12 ayes, 0 nay

Westchester County Department of Public Safety – Mr. Wells made a motion to reaccredit the agency and Sheriff Povero seconded the motion. Lieutenant Jeffrey Weiss accepted the Certificate of Accreditation for the agency on half of Commissioner George Longworth and was awarded the John Kimball O'Neil Certificate of Achievement as the program manager.
Motion carried – 12 ayes, 0 nay

At 10:40 am, Chief Fischer announced that there would be a break in the meeting so visitors would have an opportunity to excuse themselves if necessary.

The meeting reconvened at 10:50 am.

7. Approval of Annual Compliance Surveys

The following reports were submitted for approval for the second quarter of 2017:

Albany City Police Department; Brockport Village Police Department; Canton Village Police Department; Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Office; Chenango County Sheriff's Office; Colonie Town Police Department; Cortland City Police Department; Elmira City Police Department; Endicott Village Police Department; Evans Town Police Department; Fairport Village Police Department; Geddes Town Police Department; Genesee County Sheriff's Office; Irondequoit Town Police Department; Kingston City Police Department; North Castle Town Police Department; Oneida County Sheriff's Office; Oneonta City Police Department; Orange County Sheriff's Office;

Rome City Police Department; Rotterdam Town Police Department; Saratoga County Sheriff's Office; Saugerties Town Police Department; Suffern Village Police Department; SUNY Police Stony Brook; Tonawanda City Police Department; Troy City Police Department; Vestal Town Police Department; Watertown City Police Department; Yates County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Povero made a motion to accept the Annual Compliance Surveys received, and Supervisor Theobald seconded the motion. *Motion carried – 12 ayes, 0 nay*

8. Approval of New Assessors

Applications were received from three individuals applying to be program assessors for the first time:

- Chief E. Bryan DalPorto, Niagara Falls Police Department
- Chief Christopher Mears, Ogden Town Police Department
- Officer (Ret.) Maureen Buckland, Syracuse Police Department

Chief Henderson made a motion to accept the individuals listed as new assessors. Sheriff Maciol seconded the motion. *Motion carried – 12 ayes, 0 nay*

9. Approval of 2018 Meeting Dates

March 8, 2018
June 7, 2018
September 6, 2018
December 13, 2018

First Deputy Superintendent Fiore made a motion to accept the 2018 meeting dates. Supervisor Theobald seconded the motion. *Motion carried – 12 ayes, 0 nay*

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

10. Program Updates

Withdrawal of the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office: Ms. McGrath informed the council that the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office opted to withdraw from the program due to issues within their program. The agency's goal is to apply for and receive reaccreditation at the June 2018 meeting.

Council Members Update: Ms. McGrath noted that staff is being proactive regarding council vacancies and expiring terms because the process from nomination to appointment is lengthy. Nominations have been made for both the vacant Sheriff and County Executive seats and efforts continue regarding the Assembly nomination. In addition, staff will contact the nominating entities earlier in the process prior to term expiration dates.

Program Manager Training: Hilary McGrath explained to the council that the unit has moved away from past practice of contracting with a program manager or assessor to provide the training. Mike McDonough, a certified instructor, is now providing the training and it has been received quite well. Mr. McDonough briefed the Council on the recent training that was provided to approximately 80 people in Essex, Westchester, and Monroe Counties. He explained that staff-provided training allows the curriculum to be adjusted as needed and to better emphasize areas staff have determined to be problematic through their interactions with program managers and site visits. Mr. McDonough also noted that this method allows more scheduling flexibility to provide it more often and in more locations. Mr. McDonough has incorporated examples from the site visits performed by the accreditation unit staff to make the training more realistic and valuable.

2018 Program Goals: Ms. McGrath provided the Council with information on unit and broader program goals. As a unit, all current publications will be reviewed to ensure they are up to date and relevant; revisions will be made as necessary. In addition, council policies will continue to be regularly reviewed for relevance. Finally, the unit is going to start reviewing the standards section by section for minor changes that have been identified as needing to be made. It is not anticipated that a committee will be needed to make these changes as many are simple

language changes for correction or clarity. If the unit determines there are more significant changes that need to be made to any of the standards, convening a committee will be considered.

Broader goals include taking steps to expand participation in the program. We believe there are significant benefits to agencies that participate in the program and would like to increase the number of interested agencies across the state. The unit plans to survey currently accredited agencies to get some testimonials how this program specifically and tangibly benefits their agency; survey non-accredited agencies to find out if there are specific obstacles keeping them from participating; and network through the Chief's and Sheriff's associations as well as the Conference of Mayors, Association of Towns, and Association of Counties to enhance awareness of the program throughout the State.

In addition, the unit wants to improve on-site assessments through two goals. One is to actively recruit new assessors to expand the current pool. As the program has grown, the need for more assessors to be available each quarter is becoming obvious. In addition, unit staff will enhance assessor training (which will also be provided by Mike McDonough) so we can focus on the areas that we are finding problematic during on-site assessments such as standards that are being misinterpreted and compliance issues that are being regularly missed. The Unit will also develop on-line assessor refresher training that will be mandatory for all assessors to complete to continue being selected for assessments. By improving the training provided to assessors, we hope to enhance the quality of on-site assessments and strengthen the integrity of the program. Deputy Commissioner Wood and Director Sullivan also touched on how well Mr. McDonough has done with the training of the program managers and how well the staff is doing on raising the bar under Ms. McGrath's leadership.

Chief Fischer asked for the Council's thoughts on any information they could provide to aid in expanding the program. Supervisor Theobald noted that he is a member of the Association of Towns Executive Committee and offered to present any information provided to him to help expand the program. Mayor Palmieri offered the same regarding the Conference of Mayors. Finally, Sheriff Povero mentioned the Sheriff's Conference at the end of January and Sheriffs Povero, Maciol, and Virts will support the accreditation unit staff giving a presentation at that conference.

Deputy Commissioner Wood mentioned that OPS staff has spent the last two years updating the basic course for police officers. He noted that the standards would be reviewed through the lens of the updated training so the office can ensure any significant changes to the training are adequately reflected in the standards.

Chief Henderson asked if there were financial benefits that could be tied into participation in the accreditation program. Ms. McGrath noted that other states had insurance programs that provided financial incentives and rate discounts to accredited agencies, something we hope to learn more about. There has also been some preliminary discussion internally about tying accreditation into grant funding, perhaps through additional points for accredited agencies when applications are being rated. However, these types of decisions cannot be made by accreditation unit staff and will need to be researched more.

Mr. Richard Wells also suggested expanding council terms due to the amount of time it takes for appointments to be made. Director Sullivan noted that doing so would require change to the executive law, which is difficult, but it is something we will consider in the future.

At the end of the meeting there was some additional discussion on body worn cameras and specific standards concerning them. Commissioner Wood and Ms. McGrath noted that it could at some point be determined as an appropriate step to add a standard on this topic. It was agreed that the issue would be brought up again later.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Mr. Wells made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chief Henderson seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

The next meeting of the Law Enforcement Accreditation Council is on March 8, 2017 at 10:00 am in Room 118 of the Alfred E. Smith Office building.