

**Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association
Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission**

**Regular Commission Meeting
July 23, 2024**

Call to Order

The Regular Commission meeting of the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission was called to order on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Bayfront Convention Center, Erie, PA. Chief Benson presided.

Members Present

Coordinator Adams, Chairman Chief Benson, Chief Bergmann, Vice Chairman Chief Cortazzo, Captain Crone, Admin Assistant Feaser, Chief Ficco, Chief Haberman, Chief Hendershot, Chief Hettinger, Chief Kitzinger, Chief Lash, Chief Lauth, Solicitor Lavery, Corporal Madrak, Chief McVey, Sergeant Ross, Captain Sharif, Chief Sokoloski, Chief Splain, Chief Steffen, Chief Swartz, Chief Wagner

Executive Director Bohn and Chief Scalzo were absent.

The commission stood, recited the Pledge of Allegiance, and introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

Chief Hettinger made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 25, 2024, Regular Commission meeting. Chief Lauth seconded the motion. All agreed.

Introduction of Guests

Also present were representatives from the following agencies: Deputy Chief Scott Meixell, Captain Michael Leaser, Bethlehem City Police; Chief Michael Flaskos, Sergeant James Malesky, Sergeant Jamie Sacco, Findlay Township Police; Chief Martin Maransky, Sergeant John Fuches, Kingston Township Police; Chief Kenneth Rutherford, Lansdowne Borough Police; Superintendent Joseph Jacob, Corporal Gregory Budman, Officer Darren Bassler, Pennsylvania Capitol Police; Detective Sergeant Russ Closs Jr., Perkasio Borough Police; Chief David Mettin, Plumstead Township Police; Chief Timothy Troxel, Lieutenant Geoffrey Wainwright, Towamencin Township Police

Assessment Reports for Consent Agenda

Baldwin Borough Police Department
Butler County Sheriff's Office
Delaware County Sheriff's Office
Emmaus Borough Police Department
Findlay Township Police Department
Kingston Township Police Department
Nether Providence Township Police Department
Penn Township Police Department

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Pennsylvania Capitol Police
Pennsylvania State Police
Plumstead Township Police Department
Spring Garden Township Police Department
Springettsbury Township Police Department
Towamencin Township Police Department
Upper Southampton Township Police Department

On a motion by Chief Lash, seconded by Corporal Madrak, the consent agenda was approved, and all agencies were granted Accredited Status for an additional 3 years. Chief Cortazzo abstained from Baldwin PD. Chief Hendershot and Corporal Madrak abstained from Kingston PD, Plumstead PD, and Towamencin PD. Chief Swartz abstained from Spring Garden PD. Chief Benson abstained from Pennsylvania Capitol Police. Chief Hettinger abstained from Nether Providence PD and Penn PD. Chief Splain and Sergeant Ross abstained from Nether Providence PD.

Premier Agency Recommendations

Per the PLEAC Administrative Manual, the following agencies have successfully completed ample reassessments to be eligible for Premier Status: Emmaus Borough Police Department, Findlay Township Police Department, Penn Township Police Department, Pennsylvania Capitol Police, Pennsylvania State Police, Spring Garden Township Police Department, Springettsbury Township Police Department. On a motion made by Chief Ficco and seconded by Chief Cortazzo all seven agencies were granted Premier Status for 2024-2027. Chief Benson abstained from Pennsylvania Capitol Police. Chief Hettinger abstained from Penn PD. Chief Swartz abstained from Spring Garden PD.

Assessment Reports

Bethlehem City Police – Presented by Team Leader Corporal Budman

Due to a large number of file maintenance issues, the assessment team was not recommending Bethlehem City PD for re-accreditation. The department was not using the correct CALEA Crosswalk and was only using 1 proof of compliance. This caused 43 files to be returned for maintenance and 2 standards to be non-compliant. When the assessment team left, 15 files still needed to be corrected.

Chief Deputy Meixell explained that they were under the impression that since CALEA only required 1 proof, PLEAC did also. He noted that they had not planned enough time between their MOCK assessment and PLEAC assessment to fix file issues. They fixed 43 of the issues very quickly and made a change on how they document use of force; however, it took them longer to fix their taser file.

The department has struggled to keep Accreditation Managers and has had to train multiple in this cycle as a result. Captain Leaser, the current AM, has added a tracking system to assist new AMs. The department has added a patrolman to assist with file maintenance and is hoping to add an administrative assistant to the accreditation team.

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On a motion by Esquire Lavery and seconded by Corporal Madrak, the Bethlehem City Police Department was declined re-accreditation. All agreed.

Lansdowne Borough Police – Presented by Team Leader Ret. Chief Murphy

The assessment team had advised the department that their fingerprint compliance rate was below an acceptable rate. To correct this, the department has changed the location they submit the fingerprints to.

On a motion by Corporal Madrak and seconded by Chief Swartz, Lansdowne Borough Police Department was granted accredited status. Chief Hettinger, Sergeant Ross, and Chief Splain abstained.

New Britain Police – Presented by Team Leader Chief Ficco

Chief Ficco praised the department for needing very minimal file maintenance and commented that this was an exceptional initial assessment.

On a motion by Chief Lash and seconded by Corporal Madrak, New Britain Township Police Department was granted accredited status. Chief Hettinger, Sergeant Ross, and Chief Splain abstained.

Perkasie Borough Police – Presented by Team Member Chief Hendershot

The assessment for Perkasie PD went very smoothly with no major issues. The department quickly fixed any issues that were brought to their attention. Chief Hendershot commented that the staff was very accommodating and their commitment to accreditation was apparent.

On a motion by Chief Ficco and seconded by Chief Hettinger, Perkasie Borough Police Department was granted accredited status. All agreed.

Committee Reports

Assessor Committee

Committee Chairman Chief Hendershot had no report.

Standards Committee

The Philadelphia City Police Department submitted an extension for the waiver they were granted last accreditation cycle for Standard 1.1.1. The Standards Committee unanimously recommended granting the request. On a motion made by Chief Ficco and seconded by Corporal Madrak, the waiver was granted. All agreed.

Administrative Committee

Committee Chairman Chief Hettinger had no report.

Strategic Planning Committee

Committee Chairman Chief Wagner had no report.

On a motion by Chief Swartz and seconded by Chief Sokoloski all committee reports were approved. All agreed.

Coordinator's Report

Coordinator Adams discussed his report and DOJ Credentialing updates. The DOJ does not require agencies to be credentialed to receive grants; however, departments that are, will receive priority. Coordinator Adams suggests that if PCPA becomes credentialing body, it should be required that you must become accredited to be credentialed.

Old Business

No items were posted for discussion.

At 12:00 PM, the meeting broke for lunch.

At 12:38PM, the meeting reconvened.

New Business

ByLaw Changes

At the Regular Commission meeting in April, Chief Benson had designated a Special Committee to discuss conflict of interests for PLEAC. The committee provided the Commission with their proposed changes to the PLEAC ByLaws. Committee Chairman Chief Haberman discussed the committee meetings and Esquire Lavery reviewed the draft of changes. The following points were presented:

Captain Crone: 1) in regard to section 4B, should members who are consultants not have a voice when they may provide valuable in-site? Should it be up to the Commission to decide the intent behind a consultant commission member's suggestion? 2) The changes should include wordage to prevent members from using their Commission Member status to promote consulting business. 3) What are the consequences of letting them speak if they aren't voting? (Esquire Lavery explained that those members could use their opinion to influence other members.)

Chief Hendershot: 1) Would 2.B.2 be addressing CALEA? (Esquire Lavery confirmed it would not be.) 2) How does this affect assessors? (Esquire Lavery explained that they are only addresses in gifts and gratuities.)

Corporal Madrak: 1) Has the Executive Board adopted similar ByLaws? (Chiefs Lash and Cortazzo confirmed that they have.) 2) Every members should have a voice no matter the situation as neither PCPA nor PLEAC should be endorsing a company. 3) If such strict restrictions have been placed on members who double as consultants, is there a legal need for a complete ban on consultants on the Commission? (Esquire Lavery explained that though it is not legally required, he highly recommends it.) 4) If a consultant commission member does not specifically work with an agency, though that agency may use their company, do they have to abstain from voting? 5) Proposed a moratorium be placed on Section 7. (This will be discussed with new updates to the draft of changes.)

Chief Hettinger: 1) 2.B.1 and 2.B.2 could be interpreted as no one from PPCA is eligible to be on the Commission. 2) If consultant commission members are not allowed to be a part of the discussion with a department that utilizes a consultant, none of those members can be on subcommittees.

Chief Lash noted a few grammar errors.

Chief Cortazzo advised that all the in-depth details only apply to Commission members who are also consultants. Per Section 7 this number via attrition will decrease till it reaches zero.

Esquire Lavery will make the following changes: 1) Add wordage prohibiting marketing Commission member status 2) grammar errors 3) consultant commission members on voicing their opinions

Administrative Manual Changes

The Commission was provided with an updated version of the Administrative Manual. Coordinator Adams discussed the major changes which include paper files, MOCK assessments, and admin/assessor conflicts. On a motion by Corporal Madrak and seconded by Chief Lash, the changes were adopted. All agreed.

With MOCK assessments now being required in certain situations, Chief Hettinger proposed that PLEAC should be responsible for MOCK assessments when they are required. Corporal Madrak opposed this proposition by suggesting PLEAC and the PPAC work more closely.

At the review of New Britain Township PD's initial assessment, no personnel from the agency were in attendance. It was brought to the attention of the Commission that it is not required that a representative be in attendance. Corporal Madrak suggested that the Administrative Committee review the manual and make edits to reflect that the Chief or AM of the agency must be in attendance to answer questions for an Initial Assessment. Chief Benson agreed that it is necessary for the agencies to be in attendance.

Chief Swartz and Chief Hettinger questioned if this was a necessary requirement when some agencies may have clean reports, and the commission may not have questions.

Chief Haberman noted that the agency should have the opportunity to postpone to the next meeting if they are unable to attend the upcoming meeting. Coordinator Adams suggested the Administrative Manual could have the dates of the meetings for the agencies to reference.

Chief Benson tabled the discussion for the next meeting.

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For the Good of the Order

Chief Steffen informed the Commission that he is resigning. The Commission thanked him for all the work he has done over the years for the betterment of PLEAC.

Coordinator Adams is editing the Assessor Manual and will provide the Commission with an updated copy.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Regular Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, October 24th at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel.

Adjournment

At 1:53 PM, a motion was made by Chief Hettinger to adjourn; seconded by Chief Ficco. All agreed.