

Connecticut General Assembly
Logistics
Subcommittee
Police Transparency & Accountability Task Force

Rep. Joshua Hall, Chairperson



c/o Judiciary Committee, Room 2500
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Ct 06106

Minutes
Tuesday, January 5, 2021
5:00 p.m., via Zoom

Attendees: Joshua Hall (Chair), Chief William Wright, John Szewczyk, Stephen Saloom, Ken Green, Shafiq Abdussabur, Melvin Medina, Bishop John Selders, Tanya Hughes, Cheryl Sharp

Others: Ken Barone (CCSU), Karen Boisvert (POSTC), C.J. McGuffey (POSTC), Renee LaMark Muir (CCSU), Peter Siegelman (UCONN Law), Peter Kochenburger (UCONN Law), Brian Anderson (AFSCME Council 4), Sharad Samy (CCSU)

I. Convene meeting and welcome

- a. Chair Hall convened the meeting at 5:00pm. At the request of the chair, members and guests introduced themselves.*

II. Approve December 1, 2020 and December 15, 2020 meeting minutes

- a. A motion was made by Chief William Wright to approve the minutes from 12/01/20 and 12/15/20. The motion was seconded by Shafiq Abdussabur. The minutes were approved unanimously.*

III. Old Business

- a. Peter Siegelman and Peter Kochenburger from the Insurance Law Center at UConn Law School presented their report regarding liability insurance issues for law enforcement. They were asked to review several insurance issues related to recent changes in Connecticut law in Public Act No. 20-1. In particular, they examined the merits and feasibility of requiring police officers to procure and maintain professional liability insurance as a condition of employment, the merits and feasibility of requiring a municipality to maintain PL Insurance on behalf of its police officers; and the impact that Section 41 of the Act (which modifies the scope of the "qualified immunity" defense available to a police officer if that police officer has been accused in a civil lawsuit of*

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violating a person's constitutional rights) will have on the ability of a police officer or municipality to obtain PL Insurance.

They concluded that municipal liability insurance already includes individual police officers as insureds under the policy and defends them along with the municipality so long as the police officer is acting within the scope of their duties. They did not see any evidence that individual officers have actually incurred personal liability not otherwise covered by the municipality's insurance policy. While it is possible that police officers may be able to obtain their own insurance covering their actions, the market is very limited and the policies available would almost certainly come with similar exclusions and conditions to those in the municipal liability policy, providing little additional coverage as a result. The report agreed with the Subcommittee that to date no evidence has been provided demonstrating that Section 41 would significantly alter existing liability laws and defenses or substantially increase the cost of municipal liability insurance.

A motion was made by Ken Green to endorse the full report submitted by UConn Law's Insurance Law Center and forward it with a favorable recommendation to the full task force. The motion was seconded by Stephen Saloom. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Hall thanked both Peter Siegelman and Peter Kochenburger for their work on this critical issue over the last several months.

b. Citizen Complaint database- Review modifications

Ken Barone informed subcommittee members that the citizen complain recommendation was sent back to the subcommittee for additional consideration. The item was tabled for the next meeting due to time constraints.

IV. General Discussion

- a. Members discussed additional priorities for the upcoming year. Those priorities included reviewing everyday police interactions with the public, such as traffic stops, hiring practices of departments, reforms to internal affairs, and the role of**

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civilian oversight in local police departments. This was not intended to be an exhaustive list, but a place for members to begin additional conversation.

V. Announcement of time and date of next meeting.

a. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

VI. Adjournment

a. There was no further discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.