



WASHINGTON STATE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COMMISSION
19010 1ST AVENUE SOUTH, BURIEN, WA 98148

COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, June 13, 2007
10:00 AM

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Anne Kirkpatrick, Chief, Spokane Police Department
Brenda Stonecipher, Council Member, City of Everett
Craig Thayer (Vice Chair), Sheriff, Stevens County Sheriff's Office
Garry Lucas, Sheriff, Clark County Sheriff's Office
Gil Kerlikowske, Chief, Seattle Police Department
John Batiste, Chief, Washington State Patrol
Karen Daniels, Chief Deputy of Corrections, Thurston County Sheriff's Office
Mike Johnston, Sergeant, Bellingham Police Department
Rob McKenna, Attorney General, Washington State
Shon Small, Detective, Benton County Sheriff's Office
Thomas Metzger (Chair), Prosecuting Attorney, Pend Oreille County
William Boyce, Citizen at Large

WSCJTC STAFF PRESENT:

Brian Elliott, Financial Manager
Carri Brezonick, Deputy Director
Doug Blair, Manager, Peace Officer Certification
Jean E. Meyn, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
Michael D. Parsons, Executive Director
Shannon Inglis, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
Sonja Hirsch, Confidential Secretary

GUESTS PRESENT:

Ray Wittmier, Assistant Chief, University of Washington Police Department
Vicky Stormo, Chief, University of Washington Police Department

INTRODUCTION

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM with a quorum present.

Self-introductions followed.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 14, 2007

Commissioner McKenna moved to approve the minutes of March 14, 2007.

Commissioner Johnston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS' FAREWELL

Michael D. Parsons, Executive Director

Karen Daniels, Chief Deputy of Corrections, Thurston County Sheriff's Office

The Director announced that this was Commissioner Daniels' last Commission Meeting. Commissioner Daniels has been very interested in positive corrections reform, standards, and excellent training at the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC).

Commissioner Daniels was presented with a plaque.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON'S WELCOME

Michael D. Parsons, Executive Director

Mike Johnston, Sergeant, Bellingham Police Department

Mr. Johnston grew up in Southern California and joined the United States Air Force. He was a Security Policeman in the Air Force for four years and spent two years at McChord AFB, one year in Korea, and one year in California.

He met his wife, who was also a Security Police Officer, and they have been married for 27 years. He has two sons who are ages 24 and 22, and he has helped put both of them through Central Washington University. Both of his sons are police officers; Keith is with the Mount Vernon Police Department, and Chris is with the Ferndale Police Department.

His wife works in the school district as a Resource Coordinator, who helps children and families with various issues.

He has been with the Bellingham Police Department for 25 years and has worked in Patrol, Narcotics, SWAT, was a Detective for 16 years, and was promoted to Sergeant and assigned to Patrol in August 2006.

He has been on the Board on Law Enforcement Training, Standards, and Education for over six years. He is a part-time instructor at Whatcom Community College (WCC) and teaches in the Administration of Justice Program. In addition, he is the Chair for the WCC Advisory Board for the Administration of Justice Program.

He loves sports and is a big fan of the Mariners and Seahawks. He likes to camp in their travel trailer.

BOARD VACANCIES/APPOINTMENTS

Michael D. Parsons, Executive Director

The following individuals have been nominated to serve on the Board on Corrections Training, Standards, and Education:

- ◆ David Reynolds, Juvenile Court Administrator, Whatcom County
- ◆ Mary Ellen Reimund, Chair and Associate Professor of Law & Justice, Central Washington University (Des Moines Campus)
- ◆ Pamela Clark, Corrections Director, Clark County Corrections
- ◆ Robert Moore, Professor, Central Washington University

The following individual has been nominated to serve on the Board on Law Enforcement Training, Standards, and Education:

- ◆ Duane Kist, Officer, Kennewick Police Department

Commissioner Batiste moved to appoint all candidates. Commissioner McKenna seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST FOR VARIANCE

Doug Blair, Certification Manager

Officer Russell Ellis, University of Washington Police Department

Officer Ellis completed Idaho POST's basic academy while employed by the Washington State Liquor Control Board. When he completed the academy he was not commissioned because he did not complete the post requirements to be a recognized or certified officer in Idaho.

Per WAC 139-05-210, Basic Law Enforcement Certificate of Equivalency, he does not fit the criteria set forth in the WAC; therefore, the WSCJTC staff recommends that Officer Ellis be required to attend the Basic Law Enforcement Academy rather than the two-week Basic Law Enforcement Equivalency Academy.

Chief Stormo stated that the University of Washington Police Department hires a lot of laterals, and Mr. Ellis fits their criteria. It was assumed that since he successfully completed a state law enforcement academy that he would meet the criteria. It wasn't until after he was hired and applied for the Basic Law Enforcement Equivalency Academy that it was determined he was not eligible. Officer Ellis has already completed 12 weeks of the department's 14-week San Jose Model Field Training Officer (FTO) program, which he has excelled in. The Chief is confident that he would successfully complete the remaining two weeks of the FTO program.

The Chief states that it is ironic that Officer Ellis was able to successfully complete the academy and FTO process and now be required to complete the entire Basic Law Enforcement Academy. The Chief asked for a variance to allow him to attend the Basic Law Enforcement Equivalency Academy.

Commissioner McKenna asked whether or not this decision is consistent with those in the past.

The Director stated that a similar request was brought before the Commission in March 2007, and the variance was granted.

Doug Blair stated that WAC 139-05-210 (2) reads “participation in the equivalency process is limited to fully commissioned law enforcement officers of a city, county, or political subdivision of the state of Washington, who otherwise are eligible to attend the basic law enforcement academy and who have attained commissioned law enforcement status by completing a basic training program in this or another state. For this purpose, the term "basic training program" does not include any military or reserve training program or any federal training program not otherwise approved by the commission.”

Mr. Ellis completed the training in Idaho, but did not obtain commissioned status; however, he did obtain commissioned status in Washington State by being hired by a police agency who commissioned him based on the fact that he had already gone through the academy. The state of Idaho requires a police officer hired by an Idaho law enforcement agency to complete their FTO process as a part of their full academy for recognition, commissioning, and certification.

As an update to the variance granted for Mr. Gore at the Commission Meeting in March, Mr. Blair informed the Commissioners that Mr. Gore did not successfully complete Lacey Police Department’s FTO program and his employment was terminated.

Commissioner Kerlikowske stated that he is not concerned whether or not a person was certified in another state. If a person is hired and they successfully complete the Basic Law Enforcement Equivalency Academy, the FTO program, and a probationary period that is the direction he believed the Commission was headed.

Commissioner Thayer suggested that the variance be contingent upon Mr. Ellis successfully completing the FTO program.

Doug Blair stated that there are specific timelines set in the WAC pertaining to Peace Officer Certification.

Shannon Inglis questioned whether or not he would still be employed by the UW Police Department should he not pass the FTO program.

Chief Stormo implied that Mr. Ellis’ employment would be terminated should he not successfully complete the FTO program.

Commissioner McKenna made a motion to approve the variance for Officer Russell Ellis of the University of Washington Police Department. Commissioner Daniels seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PEACE OFFICER CERTIFICATION HEARING PANEL CANDIDATES

Doug Blair, Certification Manager

The following individuals have expressed an interest in serving as panel members for Peace Officer Certification hearings:

Sheriffs:

ELFO, Bill: Whatcom County Sheriff's Office
MAHONEY, Bill: Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office

Chiefs:

HERSHAW, Cameron: Washougal Police Department
HOHENBERG, Kenneth: Kennewick Police Department
HOPKIN, Tim: La Center Police Department
MITCHELL, Dean: Moses Lake Police Department
SANCHEZ, Richard: Wapato Police Department
SIMMONS, David: Zillah Police Department
VARICK, J.S.: Ephrata Police Department

First-Line Supervisors or below:

BENNETT, Michelle (Sergeant): King County Sheriff's Office
DRAKE, Brian (Sergeant): Port of Seattle Police Department
GRAEF, Rebecca (Sergeant): Tacoma Police Department
GUSTASON, Shawn (Sergeant): Tacoma Police Department
LAVIN, Beth (Officer): Shoreline Police Department
PHILLIPS, Richard (Sergeant): Department of Fish and Wildlife
RUSSO, Jacqueline (Sergeant): Port of Seattle Police Department
VANDERWALKER, Sheryl (Deputy): King County Sheriff's Office

The WSCJTC staff recommended approval of all candidates.

Doug Blair stated that currently there are ten hearings scheduled.

Commissioner Johnston made a motion to approve all candidates to serve as panel members for Peace Officer Certification hearings. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chair announced at 10:18 AM that the Commissioners would engage in an executive session to discuss the performance of public employees.

The executive session is anticipated to last 45 minutes; however, it may be subject to extension.

All non-Commission members except assistant attorneys general were excused.

At 10:32 AM, Commissioner Clarke joined telephonically.

At 11:03 AM the Chair announced that the executive session was being extended to 11:25 AM.

The regular meeting was reconvened at approximately 11:24 AM.

The Chair stated that he would like to begin a discussion about the direction the Commission would like to take regarding performance evaluations, etc. The Commission looked at a variety of areas regarding performance, such as the relationship with the Legislature, which has been a problem. In addition, Commissioners have been

contacted about the unhappiness of some of the WSCJTC staff; therefore, the Commission has decided to engage the services of a human resources person or agency to review several areas of performance concerning the Director and Deputy Director and to look at recommendations in terms of having some successes in areas where there were challenges during the last year.

Commissioner Kerlikowske stated that the Commissioners want to do a better job of supporting the Director and Deputy Director, and they want to make sure they are doing their due diligence and oversight and the responsibility they have for setting policy. The four areas of concern are the relationship with the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC), the relationship with the Office of Financial Management (OFM), the relationship with legislators, and internal personnel issues.

The Commissioners would like to do a better job of evaluation and feedback. Commissioner Kerlikowske would specifically like to address some issues surrounding the Basic Law Enforcement Academy as there may be new, different, and better ideas about training law enforcement personnel. He is not sure that the academy has been receptive in listening to those ideas and thoughts; therefore, the academy should be more exploratory and move it to the next level.

The Chair stated that the Commissioners have looked at their role in setting priorities which has been somewhat minimal legislative priorities and working with the Director and Deputy Director to obtain those goals.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick would like to talk with both the Director and Deputy Director separately to share what she knows and understands. It is her desire to have an open and honest conversation, but one that would help.

Commissioner Kerlikowske made a motion to engage the services of a consultant with or without law enforcement experience to do a 360 degree evaluation on four different areas (1. relationship with WASPC, 2. relationship with OFM, 3. relationship with legislators, and 4. internal personnel issues) along with anything else that might come up as the process is done concerning both the Director and Deputy Director positions and the Commission. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Johnston asked who would make the determination.

Commissioner Thayer stated that it may be pertinent to obtain a reviewer that has some knowledge of the type of work done at the Criminal Justice Training Commission and who has a tie to law enforcement and criminal justice to have a better understanding as to what they are evaluating.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick stated that she is fine with the wording of the motion; however, she suggested that it be more broad and not be limited to a human resources consultant.

Commissioner Stonecipher questioned whether or not the person needs to be familiar with law enforcement. There are human resource issues being evaluated, so there may not be the need for the person to have knowledge about law enforcement. It may be

desirable to select someone that does not have a preconceived knowledge of what the agency is about.

The Chair formed a subcommittee consisting of Commissioners Stonecipher, Boyce, and Kerlikowske to select the consultant.

Once the subcommittee has selected the consultant, the Chair requested he be notified.

Commissioner Johnston made a motion that the selection and evaluation process be started within the next 30 days and a decision be recommended to the Commission at the next quarterly meeting scheduled for September 12, 2007. Commissioner Kirkpatrick seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Michael D. Parsons, Executive Director

WASPC Letter

The Director addressed a letter received from the WASPC President, Sheriff Richard Lathim of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, which was inviting members of the WSCJTC to attend a joint meeting/retreat with the WASPC in Leavenworth on September 13, 2007. The meeting will be to develop strategic intentions where the agendas of the two organizations overlap. It would involve legislative and budgetary agendas.

The Chair stated that the Commission would like to attend the joint meeting. He will be in contact with Sonja Hirsch regarding preparing a Special Meeting Notice for the meeting.

Portable Classroom

The WSCJTC is working with the Washington State Liquor Control Board (LCB) on this project. The LCB will purchase a small building so we can do the training for them. We will be able to do their non-mandated training and gain two additional classrooms.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Special Committee: PSEA Discussion and Recommendation

Commissioner Lucas stated that he talked to several folks who are familiar with the PSEA. It was the recommendation that the WSCJTC stay in the PSEA, because it is a fund supplemented by the general fund.

The Chair confirmed that the issue has been examined and concluded that the WSCJTC will remain in the PSEA.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:50 AM.

Next Meeting: September 12, 2007, at 10:00 AM.

Written by: _____
Sonja Hirsch, Confidential Secretary Date _____

Reviewed by: _____
Michael D. Parsons, Executive Director Date _____

Approved by: _____
Thomas Metzger, Commission Chair Date _____