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STATE OF COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LAW

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Peace Officer Standards and Training

POST BOARD MEETING

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS Friday, March 11, 2022 10 A.M. – 12 P.M.

The Peace Officer Standards and Training Board held its 417th Board meeting at the Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

DONALD ADDY, Public Member SENIOR INVESTIGATOR TONYA BARNES, Eighteenth Judicial District DEPUTY DA ASHLEY BECK, Public Member

CHIEF GREGORY DALY, Avon Police Department

LAURA DANIELS. Public Member

CHIEF GEORGE DINGFELDER, Monte Vista Police Department

OFFICER RACHEL ESTERS, City of Ouray

CHIEF DEBRA FUNSTON, Rifle Police Department

CHIEF TERRENCE GORDON, City of Thornton

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STAN HILKEY, Colorado Department of Public Safety

SHERIFF ROBERT JACKSON, Alamosa County Sheriff's Office

SCOTT LEVIN, Public Member

DEPUTY SHANNON LOFLAND, Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office

SHERIFF DAVID MARTIN, Morgan County

CHIEF JOHN MINOR, Silverthorne Police Department

SHERIFF SHAWN MOBLEY, Otero County Sheriff's Office

CHIEF CLINTON NICHOLS, Commerce City Police Department

SHERIFF STEVE NOWLIN, Montezuma County Sheriff's Office

SHERIFF ANTHONY SPURLOCK, Douglas County Sheriff's Office

ATTORNEY GENERAL PHIL WEISER, Colorado Department of Law

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED

SHERIFF ANTHONY MAZZOLA, Rio Blanco County Sheriff's Office SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE MICHAEL SCHNEIDER, FBI- Denver COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE WILLIAMS, City of Colorado Springs

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

SHARLETTA EVANS, Public Member

BOARD COUNSEL

COLLEEN MOREY, Sr. Asst. Attorney General JODY HASKINS, Sr. Asst. Attorney General

POST STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

BOB BAKER, Training Manager
ERIK BOURGERIE, Director
STEVEN ECKELBERRY, Compliance Investigator
VICTORIA EDSTEDT, Administrative Coordinator
KIM HERNANDEZ, Grant Manager
KISHAWN LEUTHAUSER, Reginal Grant Coordinator
MARIO NORIEGA, Administrative Coordinator
DAN OSTRANDER, Training Coordinator
CATHERINE RODRIGUEZ, Compliance Manager
COURTNAY SHWARTZ, Law Enforcement Accountability Officer
JARED TORSNEY, Marijuana Training Specialist
MARY VEKASY, Compliance Specialist

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

SERGEANT IKE BEERS, City of Lakewood, Chair of SME ACT Committee
DEPUTY FREDERICK BORST, Pitkin County Sheriff's Office
LONNIE CHAVEZ, Denver DA
JANET LARSON, Chair of SME Curriculum Committee
COMMANDER KARL SMALLEY, Adams County Sheriff's Office, Chair of Driving SME
DEPUTY CHRIS SMITH, Larimer County Sheriff's Office
OFFICER KEVIN SMYTH, Aurora Police Department
BRIAN THERRIEN, Public Member

1. **Welcome** Attorney General Phil Weiser

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** Attorney General Phil Weiser

3. Introduction of Board Members, SME Members, Staff and Guests

4. Roll Call Director Erik Bourgerie

Quorum of members present.

5. In memoriam of Dan Griffin

Attorney General Phil Weiser

A moment of silence in recognition of POST's recent loss. Dan Griffin was a dedicated servant to the State of Colorado and will be greatly missed.

6. Approval of POST Board Meeting Minutes From December 3, 2021

Attorney General Phil Weiser

Motion to approve – 1st Spurlock, 2nd Beck Approved unanimously

7. Subject Matter Expert Reports

a. Arrest Control

Sergeant Ike Beers Chair

The Arrest Control Tactics SME committee is having a discussion around starting to meet in person on a regular basis again. There is a rise in program submissions and the committee would like to offer meeting with academies prior to applying, in order to help them succeed in the process. The committee also reported that it has increased the academy inspections, which were in a holding pattern due to COVID restrictions for the last couple of years.

b. Curriculum

Janet Larson Chair

The Curriculum SME committee had met three times in the quarter since the last POST Board meeting. The committee recommended changes be made to the Basic Academy Curriculum including the removal of a portion of crime scene searches, hazmat and SWAT. Ed Kafel is no longer on the committee, which leaves it at only 15 members. Law enforcement personnel with experience in teaching and writing curriculum are encouraged to apply. To learn more about the requirements, please visit <u>POST website</u>.

Motion to adopt changes to the Basic Academic Training Program – 1st Mobley, 2nd Barnes Approved unanimously

c. Driving

Commander Karl Smalley Chair

The Driving SME committee approved one new SME Member and three Full Skills Instructors. The committee provided June 3, September 23 and December 2 as their next meeting dates, which are planned to be in person. Chair Karl Smalley requested the Board to allow discretion in scheduling SME meetings virtually for maximum attendance. The matter was noted and addressed during the SME Member Policy discussion. Chair Karl Smalley has also given an overview of the new features of recently released vehicles, Chevy Tahoes.

d. Firearms

The Firearms SME Committee has conducted all of the test-outs, including one on the Western Slope. The committee approved two new SME members and had no inspections recently.

8. Peace Officer Certification Revocation Actions

Director Erik Bourgerie

POST Rule 9 - Revocation of Peace Officer Certifications: Pursuant to § 24-31-305(2)(a), C.R.S., a Colorado peace officer certification issued pursuant to subsection (1) or (1.3) of this section or 24-31-308 shall be suspended or revoked by the POST Board if the certificate holder has been convicted of a felony at any time, or has been convicted on or after July 1, 2001, of any misdemeanor described in subsection (1.5) of § 24-31-305, C.R.S. A Colorado peace officer certification may also be suspended or revoked if pursuant to § 24-31-305(2.5), C.R.S., a law enforcement agency has found, by clear and convincing evidence, that the certificate holder has knowingly made an untruthful statement concerning a material fact while testifying under oath, or during an internal affairs investigation or comparable administrative investigation; or knowingly omitted a material fact on an official criminal justice record, or has otherwise failed to meet the certification requirements established by the Board. For purposes of this Rule 9, a deferred judgment and sentencing agreement, deferred prosecution agreement, or pretrial diversion agreement concerning a felony or any misdemeanor described in (1.5) of § 24-31-305, whether pending or successfully completed, also support the suspension or revocation of a Colorado peace office certification.

The certificate holders in the following matters did <u>not</u> appear at the show cause hearing or indicate any intent to oppose the revocation. Unless any member objects and asks to consider one or all of these matters separately, they will all be presented to this Board as a group.

Felony Convictions:

- 1. No. F21-08, Christopher Ramirez, Certification PID CO-7083-2284. On September 7, 2021, Respondent was sentenced after pleading guilty to one count of §18-4-502, First Degree Criminal Trespass, a felony, in Case No. 20CR146 in the District Court of Otero County. The respondent was not employed as a peace officer on the date of the offense (Date of Offense: August 30, 2020). The respondent has not complied with POST Show Cause Order No. F21-08 by failing to appear at the scheduled Show Cause Hearing on December 14, 2021. POST Director Erik J. Bourgerie recommends revocation of Christopher Ramirez's Colorado Peace Officer Certification, PID CO-7083-2284.
- 2. No. F21-09, Crystal Eileen Velasquez, Certification PID CO-2473-4935. On September 27, 2021, Respondent was sentenced after pleading guilty to one count of §18-8-112, Impersonating a Peace Officer, a felony, and one count of §18-

- 9-111(1)(a), Harassment-Strike/Shove/Kick in Case No. 20CR126 in the District Court of Clear Creek County. The respondent was not employed as a peace officer on the date of the offense (Date of Offense: October 24, 2020). The respondent has not complied with POST Show Cause Order No. F21-09 by failing to appear at the scheduled Show Cause Hearing on December 14, 2021. POST Director Erik J. Bourgerie recommends revocation of Crystal Eileen Velasquez's Colorado Peace Officer Certification, PID CO-2473-4935.
- 3. No. F21-10, Thomas George Mohan, Certification PID CO-129150. On September 29, 2021, Respondent was sentenced after pleading guilty to one count of §18-3-203(1)(c), (2)(a), Assault 2, a felony, in Case No. 21CR329 in the District Court of Larimer County. The respondent was employed as a peace officer on the date of the offense (Date of Offense: February 20, 2021, Division of Revenue Marijuana, Separated September 7, 2021). The respondent has not complied with POST Show Cause Order No. F21-10 by failing to appear at the scheduled Show Cause Hearing on December 14, 2021. POST Director Erik J. Bourgerie recommends revocation of Thomas George Mohan's Colorado Peace Officer Certification, PID CO-129150.
- 4. No. F21-12, Adam Christopher Lunn, Certification PID CO-5389-5285. On November 4, 2021, Respondent was sentenced after being found guilty of one count of §18-3-104(1)(a), Manslaughter-Reckless, a class 5 felony, in Case No. 19CR232 in the District Court of Boulder County. The respondent was employed as a peace officer on the date of the offense (Date of Offense: September 9, 2018, Boulder County Sheriff's Office, Separated February 25, 2019). The respondent has not complied with POST Show Cause Order No. F21-12 by failing to appear at the scheduled Show Cause Hearing on January 18, 2022. POST Director Erik J. Bourgerie recommends revocation of Adam Christopher Lunn's Colorado Peace Officer Certification, PID CO-5389-5285.
- 5. No. F21-13, James E. O'Brien, Certification PID CO-114069. On November 4, 2021, Respondent was sentenced after being found guilty of one count of §18-3-104(1)(a), Manslaughter-Reckless, a class 5 felony, in Case No. 19CR234 in the District Court of Boulder County. The respondent was employed as a peace officer on the date of the offense (Date of Offense: September 9, 2018, Boulder County Sheriff's Office, Separated February 25, 2019). The respondent has not complied with POST Show Cause Order No. F21-13 by failing to appear at the scheduled Show Cause Hearing on January 20, 2022. POST Director Erik J. Bourgerie recommends revocation of James E. O'Brien's Colorado Peace Officer Certification, PID CO-114069.

Misdemeanor Convictions:

1. No. M21-08, Kent Everett Eddy, Certification PID CO-135107. On June 1, 2021, Respondent was sentenced after pleading guilty to one count of §18-9-111(1)(a) Harassment - strike/shove/kick, a misdemeanor, in Case No. 21M189 in the County Court of Montrose County. The respondent was employed as a peace officer on the date of the offense (Date of Offense: February 27, 2021, Delta County)

Sheriff's Office, Separated March 3, 2021). The respondent has not complied with POST Show Cause Order No. M21-08 by failing to appear at the scheduled Show Cause Hearing on August 17, 2021. POST Director Erik J. Bourgerie recommends revocation of Kent Everett Eddys' Colorado Peace Officer Certification, PID CO-135107.

2. No. M21-09, Amanda Marie Martinez, Certification PID CO-134010. On April 14, 2021, Respondent was granted a deferred sentence after pleading guilty to one count of §18-3-204(1)(a) Assault 3 – know/reckless Cause Injury, a misdemeanor, in Case No. 20CR6476 in the County Court of El Paso County. The respondent was not employed as a peace officer on the date of the offense (Date of Offense: November 19, 2020). The respondent has not complied with POST Show Cause Order No. M21-09 by failing to appear at the scheduled Show Cause Hearing on August 18, 2021. POST Director Erik J. Bourgerie recommends revocation of Amanda Marie Martinez' Colorado Peace Officer Certification, PID CO-134010.

Untruthfulness:

1. No. U21-25, Robert Paul Lyons, Certification (PID CO-6055-8838). On November 18, 2021, Aurora Police Department notified Colorado Peace Officer Standards & Training that the Respondent knowingly made an untruthful statement concerning a material fact or omitted a material fact during an internal affairs investigation and during an administrative investigation and/or disciplinary process on September 14, 2020 (Date of Separation: February 17, 2021). The respondent did not request a Show Cause Hearing regarding this matter. POST Director Erik J. Bourgerie recommends revocation of Robert Paul Lyons' Colorado Peace Officer Certification (PID CO-6055-8838).

Motion to revoke – 1st Martin, 2nd Dingfelder/Nowlin Approved unanimously

9. Vice Chair Selection

Attorney General Weiser

Motion to re-select Sheriff Spurlock as Vice Chair – 1st Hilkey, 2nd Barnes Approved unanimously

10. Grants Subcommittee Opening

Grants Mgr. Kim Hernandez

Grants Subcommittee needs three new members: two public members and one member rank of sergeant or below. Mr. Levin, Ms. Daniels and Officer Esters volunteered to fill these openings.

11. Rulemaking

Director Erik Bourgerie Board Counsel Jody Haskins

POST Administrative Coordinator, Victoria Edstedt, has confirmed audio recording of the POST Board Rule Making Hearing at 10:46 a.m. on Friday, March 11, 2022.

No comments from the Board or the Public

Motion to approve changes to rules as proposed – 1st Esters, 2nd Mobley Approved unanimously

12. Commission on Improving First Responder Interactions With Persons With Disabilities Recommendations

Deputy Chris Smith Curriculum Committee Chair Janet Larson Deputy Shannon Lofland

The commission was established in response to HB 21-1122 to examine and improve first responder interactions with persons with disabilities. Today, the commission presented their recommendations to the Board in the areas of Basic Academy and In-Service curriculums. In-Service recommendation includes a sample lesson plan and resource toolkit for law enforcement agencies, while Basic Academic Training Program has been modified to provide a better service to the community of persons with disabilities. Both documents are available on the POST website. The commission will continue their work as they are able to assess the impact of these changes.

Motion to approve changes to Basic Academy Curriculum – 1st Spurlock, 2nd Beck Approved unanimously

Motion to approve changes to In-Service Curriculum – 1st Dingfelder, 2nd Mobley Approved unanimously

13. Appeal Subcommittee Findings: Damien Esparza Joshua Wood

Chief George Dingfelder

On January 6, 2022 upon serious consideration and deliberation, the Appeal Subcommittee granted the following:

- 1. An exemption per POST Rule 8(c) to Damien Esparza to become POST certified.
- 2. An exemption per POST Rule 11 to Joshua Wood with the condition that he successfully completes a POST refresher academy and passes all required POST certification examination.

14. SME Member Policy Update

Compliance Mgr. Cathy Rodriguez

SME Member Policy has been modified to clarify POST rules and set up parameters for expectations of SME committees and their members. The question has been raised about making the SME meetings' requirements more flexible. Originally, all SME meetings were held in person. In order to increase participation from across the state, POST started adding some virtual options and during COVID all meetings went remote. Since SME positions are completely voluntarily, the Board concluded that one way to support them is to provide some flexibility in how and when SME members meet with the encouragement of in-person meetings.

Motion to allow flexible options for SME meetings – 1st Barnes, 2nd Martin Approved unanimously

Motion to approve all other proposed changes to SME Member Policy – 1st Levin, 2nd Mobley

Approved unanimously

15. Grant Plaque Samples

Grants Mgr. Kim Hernandez

A presentation of the plaque samples that can help highlight the projects financed by POST and provide an education component about the work that's being done across the state.

16. Academy Review Policy

Sheriff Tony Spurlock Compliance Mgr. Cathy Rodriguez

POST is statutorily responsible for ensuring compliance for law enforcement training academies. To improve the application process for new and renewing academies, POST has developed guidelines, including purpose, scope and policy that were added to the existing documents.

Motion to approve the POST Academy Renewal Application Process and the POST Academy New Application Process – 1st Spurlock, 2nd Barnes Approved unanimously

17. Approval of 2023 Meeting Dates

Director Erik Bourgerie

March 9 Work Session
March 10 Board Meeting
June 2 Board Meeting
September 7 Work Session
September 8 Board Meeting
December 1 Board Meeting

Motion to approve proposed POST Board meeting dates in 2023 – 1st Dingfelder, 2nd Minor

Approved unanimously

18. Comments From Others on POST Issues

Brian Therrien, a former peace officer in Colorado, whose certification was revoked for untruthfulness, came before the Board to request a hearing on the matter. He claimed that he followed the established procedure and has sent a letter to POST requesting a hearing before the revocation, but POST never received it. The Board has discussed the possibility of mail being lost and agreed to make an exception and vote on giving Mr. Therrien another opportunity for a hearing. The formal path in such cases would be to file an objection with the District Court or the Office of Administrative Courts (OAC).

Motion to grant another opportunity for a hearing – 1st Daly, 2nd Esters Approved by majority vote

19. Executive Session

Attorney General Phil Weiser

(Legal advice and discussion on statutory authority related to use of safety patrol officers)
(Legal advice on active criminal investigation)
(Legal advice on pattern and practice investigation)

Motion to disperse into Executive Session – 1^{st} Spurlock, 2^{nd} Martin Approved unanimously

Motion to adjourn Executive Session – 1st Beck, 2nd Hilkey Approved unanimously

20. Adjournment

Attorney General Phil Weiser

Motion to adjourn – 1st Nichols, 2nd Dingfelder Approved unanimously