



NEWSLETTER

Commission Membership

Robert Evanchick – Chair
Commissioner
Pennsylvania State Police
Dauphin County

William C. Barrett
City Official
Luzerne County

Richard M. Bosco
Chief, Lincoln Borough P.D.
Allegheny County

Jason D. Brinker
Noncommissioned Police Officer
York County

Bart E. Burne, Ed.D.
Law Enforcement Educator
Luzerne County

Madra L. Clay
Local Government Policy Manager
Dept. of Community & Economic Dev.
Dauphin County

Anthony C. Clements
Noncommissioned Police Officer
Dauphin County

Kristen L. Denne
Township Official of the First Class
Chester County

Vincent J. DiCenzo, Jr.
FOP Representative
Allegheny County

Beth Dombrowsky
Director Certified School
Dauphin County

Douglas E. Grimes
Chief, Peters Township P.D.
Washington County

Barry J. Jozwiak
PA House of Representatives
Berks County

John Kitzinger
Office of Attorney General
Dauphin County

Richard W. Long, Esq.
Representative, Public at Large
Cumberland County

Corey B. Meyer
Township Official of the Second Class
Lancaster County

Joseph M. Pizano
Borough Official
Luzerne County

Senator Mike Regan
Senate of Pennsylvania
Dauphin County

Guy A. Salerno
Chief, Blakely Borough P.D.
Lackawanna County

Christopher M. Werner
Chief Inspector, Philadelphia P.D.
Philadelphia County

Vacancy
Police Department Chief

How to Hire a New Officer

by Isaac Suydam, MPOETC Training Director

Many Chiefs of Police and municipal hiring authorities still don't realize that on July 14, 2021, the process of hiring a municipal police officer changed for all departments. Some departments employ a small number of officers and go years without hiring a new officer. Others are so large the hiring process is handled by a separate human resource division that may not have been notified of recent changes. Regardless of the reason, departments are surprised (and usually frustrated) when they learn that the process has changed and their new officer can't be processed by MPOETC because steps were missed.

Act 57 was passed on July 14, 2020 and gave MPOETC a year to build a database and require law enforcement agencies to conduct a record check of the database before hiring a new officer. The database contains separation records from previous law enforcement employers and gives departments access to information a new applicant may have omitted during the application process. The record check is fairly simple and the problem occurs when the department tries to submit a basic training or waiver of training application to MPOETC without doing the required check beforehand. When this happens the MPOETC staff are unable to process the application and the prospective officer doesn't get trained or certified as planned.

Departments are obviously frustrated by the delay and the MPOETC staff continue to share information on their website in an effort to get the word out. Act 57 is here to stay, and while the processes may change in the coming years, the requirement to do the record checks before hiring new officers will not.

Compliance with Act 57 of 2020 is now an integral part of hiring and separating municipal police officers, so potential applicants, human resource personnel, municipal authorities, and police officers should all visit the MPOETC website (<https://mpoetc.psp.pa.gov/Pages/Act-57.aspx>) for more information about these requirements.



[Training](#) [Certification](#) [RLEIA](#) [Act 235](#) [Contact Us](#)

[MPOETC](#) > [Act 57](#)

Act 57 of 2020

[Act 57 of 2020](#) required the Commission to develop a database to hold separation records of all "law enforcement officers" in the Commonwealth (defined as "peace officers" in Title 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 501). The act required the database to be operational by July 14, 2021 and [temporary regulations](#) to be established by March 14, 2021.

In the months leading up to July 14, 2021, the Commission provided informational briefings that explained the development of the database and how agencies would interact to upload information for officers prior to the database being operational. Links to these earlier presentations are at the bottom of the page and will continue to be available for agencies to review if they have questions about the development of the program. Below are training presentations focused on specific functions that agencies will conduct in TACS.

Quarterly Legal Updates

The Commission recognizes that both statutes and case law can change frequently and throughout the year. While officers take mandatory Legal Update training, many times the officers would have benefitted from knowing about the changes when they happened rather than waiting months to attend the class. To help reduce the time it takes for officers to hear about recent changes to the law, the Commission’s quarterly newsletter now includes a synopsis of the most significant recent changes.

Act 103 of 2020 (10/29/20), SB 995, PN 1460 (eff. 12/28/20)

Increases the permissible width for a multipurpose agricultural vehicle from 62 inches to 66 inches.

Act 22 of 2021 (6/25/21), SB 120, PN 91 (eff. 8/24/21)

Regulates dozers, tractor-driven machines which usually have a broad horizontal blade for moving earth. If the blade is more than 12 feet wide, the vehicle either must be equipped with a guide rail protector or the blade shall be angled so that the total width of the load does not exceed 12 feet. A blade wider than 15 feet shall be removed and hauled separately.

Death in Custody Reporting

As a review: The Death in Custody Reporting Act (DCRA of 2013) requires states to report the deaths of persons in the process of arrest and/or in the custody of law enforcement. Law enforcement agencies in Pennsylvania are responsible for reporting all such deaths to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), which serves as the Commonwealth’s administrator for the collection and reporting data to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

A few examples of reportable deaths are:

- Law enforcement is in pursuit of arresting or detaining an individual and the individual suffers a sudden death. (e.g., heart attack, hit by motor vehicle, drownings).
- An individual (including juveniles) is being held in a jail or detention facility and dies from any cause.
- Use of force by law enforcement.

The following is an example of a situation which does not require reporting to Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, by any law enforcement agency, under the provisions of the Death in Custody Reporting Act:

- An individual dies while a law enforcement officer is present (e.g., naloxone administration), provided the person was not in the process of being arrested or detained.
- Deaths that occur within a federal, state, or local prison or detention facility, responsibility for reporting in such cases rests with the affected prison or detention facility.

For more information, contact PCCD at www.pccd.pa.gov or 1-800-692-7292.

Mobile Vehicle Recording Systems

The Pennsylvania State Police have published standards to be used for Mobile Vehicle Recording Systems. Separate standards exist both for vehicle mounted recording systems and for non-vehicle mounted recording systems such as those worn on a law enforcement officer’s person or affixed to an all-terrain vehicle, bicycle or horse.

There are required technical standards for the camera, the monitor, the transmitter, the recording device and the control console. A list of approved devices has been published. Departments may use a mobile video recording system that is not specifically listed if the system otherwise meets the published equipment standards. Details are found in the Pennsylvania Bulletin for April 3, 2021.

Important Announcement for Wiretap Class “A” Certification Holders

Any person who holds a Class “A” certification issued prior to 2021 is required to complete a recertification course in order to maintain their current certification. **This training needs to be completed prior to December 31, 2021.** It can be accessed on the PAVTN www.pavtn.net under the Roll Call Section.



This important, mandatory, on-demand training opportunity was accomplished with the collaboration of the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), The Pennsylvania Municipal Police Officers’ Education and Training Commission (MPOETC), and The Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association (PCPA).

The course is limited to law enforcement officers who currently hold a Class “A” certification.

The interactive training module should take approximately 20 minutes to complete, and covers wiretap topics such as the law, consensual and non-consensual intercepts, hostage/barricaded persons, mobile communication and tracking information, and the Kelsey Smith Act.

Once your training is completed, you will have the option to print out your certificate of completion. Documentation of your course completion will automatically be forwarded to the MPOETC Training And Certification System (TACS).

If you are a first time user of the PAVTN, you can request access by following <https://www.pavtn.net/about/faq/?nnm=mpoetc-mist-enrollment> and then select the enrollment form link.



MPOETC Staff Updates

Tony Alsleben joined MPOETC in March of 2021. Before coming to MPOETC, Tony enjoyed a 20 year career with the Allentown Police Department, serving numerous rolls including, Special Event Coordinator, Field Training Coordinator, Office of Professional Standards Captain, and Assistant Director of Training for the Allentown Police Academy. Tony retired from the Allentown Police Department as Chief in 2019 and is now a Police Training Education Specialist in the Training Unit.

Niko Stubljar is the newest Administrative Assistant 1 for MPOETC, primarily assigned to Act 120 and Act 57. Niko has been employed with PSP since 2014 and most recently worked as a Clerical Supervisor in the Expungement Unit.

Welcome to the team, Tony and Niko!



The office of the Municipal Police Officers’ Education & Training Commission will be closed on the following dates for the purpose of transacting public business:

Columbus Day: October 11, 2021

Veterans’ Day: November 11, 2021

Thanksgiving Holiday: November 25 and 26, 2021

Regular office hours are from 8:15 A.M. to 4:15 P.M.
Monday through Friday

Highlights from the September 2021 Commission Meeting

On September 9, 2021 the Commission met virtually for their regularly scheduled quarterly meeting. After hearing the Executive Director's report, the Commission took the following significant actions:

- Increased the tuition for Mercyhurst University Police Academy to \$6000.
- Revoked the certifications of two police officers for convictions of Terroristic Threats.
- Suspended the certification of one police officer for testing positive for marijuana.
- Approved certifications for 209 police officers and 49 instructors.

At the meeting the Commission was provided updates from staff on the status of curriculum revisions for the basic training program, waiver assessment testing, the implementation of the Act 57 database, and the revision of the Act 120 regulations.

Information Regarding the December 2021 Commission Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission is on December 8 and 9, 2021 at the Radisson Hotel Valley Forge, 1160 First Avenue, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Phone: 610-337-2000. Further information about the meeting, including a topical agenda, will be available at <https://mpoetc.psp.pa.gov/Pages/about-us.aspx>. *Please note that a public notification will be made if this meeting is rescheduled.*

- Committee meetings begin on Wednesday, the 8th at 12:30 P.M.
- Executive Committee meeting will begin on Wednesday, the 8th at 3:30 P.M.
- School Directors meeting will begin on Thursday, the 9th at 8:00 A.M.
- Full Commission meeting will begin on Thursday, the 9th at 10:00 A.M.

The Commission encourages attendance by police chiefs, law enforcement officers, police academy directors, instructors and other interested parties. If you have further questions concerning the meetings, please feel free to contact the Executive Director.

The Executive Committee will hear reports from all committees. In addition, the Executive Committee will also open their meeting to comments from the audience. If you would like to make a presentation to any committee, please contact the Executive Director in order to be placed on the agenda for the appropriate committee. This is your opportunity to have your concern or suggestion heard by the Commission.

Questions, comments and information for inclusion in the *Newsletter* are always welcome. This is your opportunity to submit your concerns or suggestions to the Commission. To do so, please contact the Executive Director, Major William M. Bowen or the Editor, Mr. Craig L. Hevalow, by calling toll-free at 1-800-342-0858. The Commission can be contacted using the email addresses on page 5. You may also write to:

MPOETC Newsletter

Municipal Police Officers' Education & Training Commission

8002 Bretz Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17112-9748

The Municipal Police Officers' Education & Training Commission was established in 1974 to set hiring and training standards for police departments in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through strict certification procedures and standardized basic and continuing professional in-service training for police officers. The Commission needs the support of the entire law enforcement community, state and local government officials, and the general public to be successful. Please circulate this Newsletter throughout your agency and to the government officials in your municipality. The quarterly newsletter is also available on the MPOETC website at www.psp.pa.gov/MPOETC, under About Us > Quarterly Newsletters.

New Agency Executives

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Chief John T. Bey | Lancaster City PD Lancaster County |
| Chief Richard C. Clowser | New Britain Township PD Bucks County |
| Chief Glenn E. Granitz Jr. | West Reading Borough PD Berks County |
| Chief James T. Kirsch | California Borough PD Washington County |
| Chief Robert J. Loper | West Deer Township PD Allegheny County |
| Chief Troy J. Schantz | Emmaus Borough PD Lehigh County |
| Chief Raymond J. Siko II | Shamokin City PD Northumberland County |
| Chief Joseph F. Sokolofski | West Pottsgrove Township PD Montgomery County |
| Chief Michael L. Vice | Brookhaven Borough PD Delaware County |
| Chief Todd R. Woodward | Summit Hill Borough PD Carbon County |

Congratulations!



Areas of Responsibility and Contact Information for Commission Staff

The following resource accounts are provided to allow your questions and concerns to reach the Executive Director, Staff Member, or Members of the Commission.

ADMINISTRATION AND CERTIFICATION

Act 120 Applications and Certification, Act 120 Instructor Application and Certification

Email: mpocertification@pa.gov
 Telephone: (717) 346-4086
 Fax: (717) 346-7781 or (717) 346-7782

TRAINING

Basic Training Curriculum, Mandatory In-Service Training, Instructor Training, Retired Law Enforcement Identification Act

Email: mpotraining@pa.gov
 Telephone: (717) 346-4086
 Fax: (717) 346-7781 or (717) 346-7782

GRANT REIMBURSEMENT

Continuing Law Enforcement Education Reimbursement (Mandatory In-Service Training), Basic Training Tuition and Salary

Email: RA-SPMPOFSS@pa.gov
 Telephone: (717) 346-4086
 Fax: (717) 346-7781 or (717) 346-7782

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND INSPECTIONS

Regulatory Compliance, School Inspections

Email: mpostandards@pa.gov
 Telephone: (717) 346-4086
 Fax: (717) 346-7781 or (717) 346-7782