

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

**Regular Commission Meeting
January 22, 2026**

Call to Order

The Regular Commission meeting of the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission was called to order on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at the Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey Hotel, Harrisburg, PA. Chief Benson presided.

Members Present

Coordinator Adams, Chief Benson, Chief Cortazzo, Admin Assistant Feaser, Deputy Chief Ford, Chief Haberman, Chief Hettinger, Chief Kerecman, Chief Kilgore, Chief Kitzinger, Chief Lash, Chief Lauth, Chief Liparela, Esquire MacMain, Chief Peoples, Sergeant Ross, Captain Sharif, Chief Sokoloski, Chief Splain, Chief Swartz, Chief Wagner

Director Bohn, Chief Hendershot, and Director McVey 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 October 23, 2025, regular Commission meeting. Chief Cortazzo seconded the motion. All agreed.

Introduction of Guests

Also present were representatives from the following agencies: Sergeant Jeff Heidenreich, Deputy Chief Dan Cuiffi, Mt. Lebanon Police; Chief Jay Ciarllo, Corporal Matthew Dean, Police Specialist Joanna Vanaman, New Hanover Township Police; Chief Joseph Glover, Peters Township Police; Chief Richard Ficco, Sergeant Mike Kisthardt, Detective Sergeant Matt Lawhead, Richland Township Police; Chief Brandon Rader, Accreditation Manager Kevin O'Hay, Roseto Township Police; Chief Christopher Raubenstine, Accreditation Manager Chris Butler, Administrative Assistant Penni Bernard, Silver Spring Township Police; Chief Larry Palmer, Lieutenant Mike Martin, Accreditation Manager Bryan Congo, Washington & Jefferson College Police; Chief Charles Rozzo, Sergeant Daniel Kinzel, West Homestead Borough Police; Chief Henry Giammarco, Jr., Lieutenant Shawn Burns, Mayor Rohan Hepkins, Council President Antionette Truehart, Council Vice President Liana Roadcloud, Yeadon Borough Police

Assessment Reports for Consent Agenda

Lower Saucon Township Police Department
Mt. Lebanon Police Department
North East Borough Police Department
Peters Township Police Department

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Richland Township Police Department
Silver Spring Township Police Department

On a motion by Chief Swartz, seconded by Chief Lash, the consent agenda was approved, and all agencies were granted Accredited Status for an additional 3 years. Deputy Chief Ford abstained from North East Borough PD and Peters Township PD. Chief Haberman, Chief Hettinger, and Chief Lauth abstained from Mt. Lebanon PD.

Premier Agency Recommendations

There were no premier agencies.

Assessment Reports

New Hanover Township Review – Presented by Team Leader Sergeant Ross

Chief Benson commended the department for only having seven file maintenances.

On a motion by Chief Kerecman and seconded by Chief Sokoloski, the New Hanover Township Police Department was granted accredited status. Sergeant Ross abstained.

Roseto Borough Review – Presented by Team Leader Chief Murphy

Chief Wagner praised the agency for their evident hard work towards accreditation considering they are an extremely small agency.

Chief Benson noted that there were many file maintenances, non-compliance, and applied discretion. He questioned if the assessment team thought the agency was in a good position to continue in accreditation.

Chief Murphy said that the agency fixed every error very quickly and that the assessors were very confident that the agency is in a good position.

On a motion by Deputy Chief Ford and seconded by Chief Hettinger, the Roseto Borough Police Department was granted accredited status. All agreed.

Washington & Jefferson College Review – Presented by Team Leader Chief Murphy

On a motion by Chief Splain and seconded by Chief Haberman, the Washington & Jefferson College Police Department was granted accredited status. All agreed.

West Homestead Borough Review – Presented by Team Leader Captain McGarr

On a motion by Chief Cortazzo and seconded by Chief Lauth, the West Homestead Borough Police Department was granted accredited status. All agreed

Yeadon Borough Review – Presented by Team Leader Captain McGarr

Chief Lash commended the department for their exceptional handling of recently crimes that happened in their borough.

Chief Benson noted that it is wonderful to see that the Yeadon Borough government is so supportive of their police department.

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On a motion by Chief Wagner and seconded by Chief Kilgore, the Yeadon Borough Police Department was granted accredited status. Chief Hettinger, Sergeant Ross, and Chief Splain abstained.

Committee Reports

Assessment Committee

The Assessment Committee had no report.

Standards Committee

The Standards Committee had no report.

Administrative Committee

The Administrative Committee had no report.

Strategic Planning Committee

Committee Chairman Chief Wagner discussed the report submitted to the Commission. The committee is working on a plan to improve PLEAC membership and will provide it to the Commission once it is completed.

Chief Benson noted the importance of Chiefs in allowing their accreditation managers to be MOCK assessors.

Chief Wagner said that the committee will work on a way to address the lack of participation as MOCK assessors.

Coordinator Adams observed that an accreditation manager can gain great experience and learn improved methods when they participate as MOCK assessors.

Coordinator's Report

Coordinator Adams discussed the extension granted to the Telford Borough Police Department, his coordinator's report, and the upcoming PLEAC Training Conference.

A motion was made by Chief Splain and seconded by Chief Kitzinger to accept the Strategic Planning Committee Report and the Coordinator's Report. All agreed.

The meeting was turned over to Chief Cortazzo as Chief Benson had to step out.

Old Business

Assessor Manual

The Commission was presented with changes to the Assessor Manual.

Chief Lash asked for clarification on the sentence stating, "While there is no requirement or need for the consultant to be present during the PLEAC assessment, they may be present as silent observers.

Coordinator Adams explained that the assessment team should work directly with the agency's accreditation manager and chief, not the consultant. This statement is not a

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prohibition on consultants talking during the assessment; however, the accreditation manager should be the one mainly addressing the assessors.

Coordinator Adams stated that Deputy Chief Ford will be rewriting the assessor training for the PLEAC Conference. The training for the class will be based off the updated Assessor Manual.

On a motion by Deputy Chief Ford and seconded by Chief Lash, Assessor Manual updates were accepted. All agreed.

By-Law Changes

The Commission was presented with changes to the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission By-Laws

On a motion by Chief Haberman and seconded by Sergeant Ross, the proposed By-Law Changes were accepted. All agreed.

Chief Benson resumed leading the meeting.

Standards Manual

The Commission was presented with updates to the Standards Manual.

On standard 2.1.1, Chief Wagner noted the need for careful consideration when making a standard that mandates training as it can take away from the autonomy of an agency.

Coordinator Adams pointed out that the standard says “determined by the agency” to specifically address this issue.

On standard 1.3.12, Chief Lash stated his opposition to the standard requiring a written form to get a statement from an officer. He believes it is not practical nor is it in the best interest of the officer.

Chief Cortazzo noted that it is the narrative that mentions the form; therefore, it is not binding.

Coordinator Adams stated that the committee made it as an “if” standard, so that agencies do not have to implement it if they do not agree with it.

Chief Haberman stated that the Public Safety Exemption allows one to talk to an officer before an official statement is made. He believes that standard 1.3.12 should be removed from the updates.

Chief Kilgore agreed with Chief Lash and suggested an amendment to the narrative.

Chief Lauth agreed that it should not say form as this is about collecting basic facts after an incident; it is not an interrogation.

Esquire MacMain noted that a written document in this case would not be preferred. However, it is important to have guidelines for a public statement.

Due to a significant amount of confusion with standard 1.3.12, Chief Benson suggested the standard be removed from the updates.

Chief Lash made a motion to table the updates in their entirety and have the Standards Committee rediscuss them.

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Chief Haberman seconded the motion.

Coordinator Adams noted that due to the updates training held at the PLEAC Conference, the Standards Manual must be updated in April. He does not agree with delaying approval of the other standards because of disagreement on one standard.

Chief Lash rescinded his motion.

On standard 3.3.3, Chief Hettinger questioned if this would eliminate the need for an agency to get a form from 911.

Coordinator Adams confirmed that it would.

Chief Lash made a motion to accept the Standards Committee recommendations for adoption in 2026 with the removal of 1.3.12. Chief Cortazzo seconded the motion. All agreed. The recommendations, excluding 1.3.12, were approved.

At 12:07 p.m., the meeting recessed for lunch.

At 12:37 p.m., the meeting reconvened.

New Business

Coordinator Adams discussed the nominations and election process for the Commission's Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Chief Cortazzo made a motion to nominate Chief Benson to remain as the Commission Chairman. Sergeant Ross seconded this motion. Chief Hettinger made a motion to close nominations for the Commission Chairman. Chief Kerecman seconded this motion. All agreed. Chief Benson was reappointed to be the Commission Chairman.

Chief Haberman made a motion to nominate Chief Cortazzo to remain as the Commission Vice Chairman. Chief Lauth seconded the motion. Chief Hettinger made a motion to close nominations for the Commission Vice Chairman. Chief Lash seconded the motion. All agreed. Chief Cortazzo was reappointed to be the Commission Vice Chairman.

For the Good of the Order

Chief Benson discussed the appointment of Deputy Chief Jennifer Ford and the reappointments of Sergeant John Ross, Captain Farzad Sharif, Chief William Peoples, and Chief Jason Haberman.

Chief Benson noted the need for several members on the subcommittees. He advised the Commissioners to contact him to be added to a committee.

Coordinator Adams noted that Director Bohn had a scheduling conflict and was unable to attend this meeting. He also discussed the timeframe that determines which agencies will be on the agenda for each Commission meeting.

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Date of Next Meeting

The next Regular Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at the Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey Hotel.

Adjournment

At 12:54 p.m., a motion was made by Chief Splain to adjourn; seconded by Chief Haberman. All agreed.

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Abstentions Noted in Advance

Commissioner	Business Interest	Agenda Item	Reason for Abstention
Jennifer Ford	No	North East Borough Police Department	Assessment Team Member
	No	Peters Township Police Department	Former Employee
Jason Haberman	No	Mt. Lebanon Police Department	Own Agency
Guy Hettinger	No	Mt. Lebanon Police Department	Assessment Team Member
	Yes	Yeadon Borough Police Department	Aspirant Client
Aaron Lauth	No	Mt. Lebanon Police Department	Former Employee
John Ross	No	New Hanover Township Police Department	Assessment Team Leader
	Yes	Yeadon Borough Police Department	Aspirant Client
David Splain	Yes	Yeadon Borough Police Department	Aspirant Client