

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

**Regular Commission Meeting  
October 23, 2025**

**Call to Order**

The Regular Commission meeting of the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission was called to order on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 10:29 a.m. at the Penn Harris Hotel, Camp Hill, PA. Chief Benson presided.

**Members Present**

Coordinator Adams, Chief Benson, Executive Director Bohn, Chief Cortazzo, Captain Crone, Admin Assistant Feaser, Chief Haberman, Chief Hendershot, Chief Hettinger, Chief Kerecman, Chief Kilgore, Chief Kitzinger, Chief Lash, Corporal Madrak, Sergeant Ross, Captain Sharif, Chief Sokoloski, Chief Splain, Chief Swartz, Chief Wagner

Chief Ficco, Chief Lauth, Chief Liparela, and Director McVey were absent.

The commission stood, recited the Pledge of Allegiance, and introduced themselves. A moment of silence was held in remembrance of Commissioner Frank Lavery and the three fallen Northern York Regional officers, Detective Sergeant Cody Becker, Detective Mark Baker, and Detective Isaiah Emenheiser.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chief Cortazzo made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 24, 2025, regular Commission meeting. Chief Hendershot seconded the motion. All agreed.

**Introduction of Guests**

Also present were representatives from the following agencies: Chief James Nolan, District Attorney Jack Stollsteimer, Lieutenant William Wright, Lieutenant Vince Ficchi, Lieutenant William Gordon, Detective Ed Silberstein, Delaware County District Attorney's Office; Deputy Chief Jeff Yankanich, Corporal Detective Cyle Harnish, East Brandywine Township Police; Chief Stephen Zerbe, Accreditation Manager Nathan Westerman, East Lampeter Township Police; Chief Eric Richardson, Sergeant Ryan Cywinski, Hanover Township Police; Chief David Clemens, Accreditation Manager Richard Leight, Sergeant Matthew Lynch, Corporal David Vallimont, Christian Fishel, Lewistown Police; Chief David Erenius, Accreditation Manager Tara Claffey, North Wales Borough Police; Superintendent Christopher Flanagan, Sergeant Mark Stiansen, Radnor Township Police; Chief William Fitzsimmons, Lieutenant Brian McCarthy, Schuylkill Township Police; Chief Thomas Carroll, Mayor Paige Cognetti, Business Administrator Eileen Cipriani, Deputy Chief Joseph Lafferty, Captain Dennis Lukasewicz, Sergeant Christopher Hallock, Lieutenant James Pappas, Lieutenant James Weaver, Lieutenant Michael Perry, Sergeant Anthony Shields, Sergeant Christian Gowarty, Administrative Professional Daria Dileo, Madeline Lewis, Scranton City

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Police; Chief David Tedjeske, Accreditation Manager John Skulski, Villanova University  
Police; Sergeant Andrew Oreo, West Norriton Township Police

**Assessment Reports for Consent Agenda**

East Brandywine Township Police Department  
East Lampeter Township Police Department  
East Whiteland Township Police Department  
Hanover Township Police Department  
Radnor Township Police Department  
Schuylkill Township Police Department  
Villanova University Police Department  
West Norriton Township Police Department

On a motion by Chief Hettinger, seconded by Chief Haberman, the consent agenda was approved, and all agencies were granted Accredited Status for an additional 3 years. Corporal Madrak abstained from West Norriton Township Police Department. Chief Hettinger, Sergeant Ross, and Chief Splain abstained from Radnor Township Police Department.

**Premier Agency Recommendations**

The following agencies have successfully completed five or more reassessments and are eligible for Premier Status: East Lampeter Township Police Department and West Norriton Township Police Department. On a motion made by Chief Hettinger and seconded by Chief Cortazzo both agencies were granted Premier Status for 2025-2028. Corporal Madrak abstained from West Norriton Township Police Department.

**Assessment Reports**

*Delaware County District Attorney's Office Review – Presented by Ret. Chief Murphy*

The assessment team was very impressed with how successfully the department approached accreditation.

On a motion by Chief Swartz and seconded by Chief Lash, the Delaware County District Attorney's Office was granted accredited status. Chief Hettinger, Sergeant Ross, and Chief Splain abstained.

*Lewistown Borough Review – Presented by Ret. Chief Murphy*

Chief Clemens is very proud of his department for becoming the first agency in their county to be accredited.

On a motion by Chief Splain and seconded by Chief Hettinger, the Lewistown Borough Police Department was granted accredited status. Captain Crone, Chief Hendershot, and Corporal Madrak abstained.

*North Wales Borough Review – Presented by Ret. Chief Murphy*

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Chief Benson questioned if the files were filled with sufficient proofs since the department is so small. Chief Murphy said that there were many non-occurrences; however, the assessment team was impressed with the agency's work.

On a motion by Captain Sharif and seconded by Chief Cortazzo, the North Wales Borough Police Department was granted accredited status. Chief Hettinger, Sergeant Ross, and Chief Splain abstained.

***Scranton City Review – Presented by Officer Ketchem***

Chief Benson commended Chief Carroll for being extremely involved in the accreditation process, which isn't always the case for larger departments.

On a motion by Chief Kerecman and seconded by Chief Sokoloski, the Scranton Police Department was granted accredited status. Chief Hettinger, Sergeant Ross, and Chief Splain abstained.

**Committee Reports**

***Assessor Committee***

Committee Chairman Chief Hendershot discussed the documents presented to the Commission. The Committee recommended changes to the Assessor Manual and the Assessor Application Form.

***Assessor Manual***

The following wording was suggested: Assessors ~~should~~ shall not be selected to assess an agency that is geographically located in the county of their agency.

Coordinator Adams believes that assessors from adjacent departments (even if in different counties) should not be selected.

Chief Cortazzo suggested using airmiles as the determining factor rather than county lines.

Corporal Madrak suggested keeping it one away from a neighboring jurisdiction. Chief Benson agreed with Corporal Madrak's suggestion.

Chief Lash was in agreement that one municipality away is a good idea, but it's important to note that regional agencies, such as his own, border most of the municipalities in a county.

Chief Benson tabled the discussion on the assessor manual. He tasked the Commission with thoroughly reviewing the changes, as a vote will take place at the January meeting.

***Assessor Application Form***

Chief Hettinger questioned if counsel weighed in on the addendum that was added to the Assessor Application Form.

Coordinator Adams said that counsel had not.

Chief Hendershot noted that no one on the Committee had any issues with the addendum; however, they were unsure how enforceable it would be.

Captain Crone questioned if the PCPA had a similar document.

Chief Lash said that he was not aware of them having one.

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A motion was made by Chief Kitzinger to accept the Committee report. Chief Kilgore seconded the motion. All agreed.

At 11:47 a.m., the meeting recessed for lunch.

At 12:39 p.m., the meeting reconvened.

***Standards Committee***

Committee Chairman Corporal Madrak discussed the proposed changes to the Standards Manual. There was discussions on standards 1.3.12 and 3.3.3.

***1.3.12***

Chief Hettinger questioned if new standard 1.3.12 should be an “if” standard.

Corporal Madrak stated that they didn’t want to get in the way of the DA’s office or agencies that have their own.

Chief Benson suggested creating a narrative to clarify exactly what the standard is looking for.

Captain Crone said that they could also put a definition in the glossary if needed.

Corporal Madrak and Coordinator Adams will clarify with a narrative statement.

***3.3.3***

Chief Hettinger questioned if most agencies would be able to have standard 3.3.3 be “not applicable”.

Corporal Madrak said that they would.

Sergeant Ross made a motion to accept the Committee report. Chief Kerecman seconded the motion. All agreed.

Chief Benson tasked the Commission with thoroughly reviewing the changes, as a vote will take place at the January meeting.

***Administrative Committee***

Committee Chairman Chief Hettinger had no report but observed that the four new departments having very few file maintenances is outstanding.

***Strategic Planning Committee***

Committee Chairman Chief Wagner discussed the report he had submitted. The committee plans to meet monthly.

Chief Splain made a motion to accept the report. Chief Hendershot seconded that motion. All agreed.

***Coordinator’s Report***

Coordinator Adams discussed his report, highlighting the sections of the timeframe for scheduling initial assessments, accreditation manager training timeline, Falls Township correspondence, and the PowerDMS agreement.

*Accreditation Manager Training*

Chief Cortazzo questioned if forcing accreditation manager to register for and attend the PLEAC conference is an unethical way to get business at our conference.

Coordinator Adams noted that it has always been a requirement for them to get their training. The only thing that is being changed is the timeframe in which they must get their training.

Chief Haberman questioned whether it would be possible to do a second training course in the fall.

Captain Crone noted that that was done in the past.

Coordinator Adams believes that that would take away from the networking aspect of the conference.

Chief Benson questioned how long the class was.

Coordinator Adams noted that it is 6 hours long. Corporal Madrak will do the first half and PowerDMS will do the second half.

Corporal Madrak noted that they may add a PAVTN part to the training.

Chief Benson stated that since an agency has to pay for PowerDMS, it should be encumbered upon them to do the training.

Chief Cortazzo pointed out that PowerDMS does provide training; however, it is not Pennsylvania specific.

Chief Hettinger thinks splitting the training is a good idea.

Coordinator Adams discussed problems he was having with certain consultants performing a MOCK assessment on their own work.

Corporal Madrak made a motion to accept the Coordinator's report. Chief Wagner seconded the motion. All agreed.

**Old Business**

There was nothing reported under Old Business.

**New Business**

The Commission was provided with changes to the Commission By-laws.

Chief Hettinger suggested that Article 3 Section 5 be changed to "nominees". If it is an appointment, then it wouldn't need a vote. He believes that there is a conflict with the Pennsylvania State Police and Pennsylvania Police Accreditation Coalition appointments. He suggested that the vote be made a part of the agenda.

Chief Benson said that it will be added to the agenda when needed. He tasked the Commission with thoroughly reviewing the changes, as the first reading will take place at the January meeting.

**For the Good of the Order**

Chief Benson read the following letters: Central PA Chiefs reappointment of Chief Lash, Northeast PA Chiefs appointments of Chief Kerecman and Chief Liparela,

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Southeastern PA Chiefs reappointment of Chief Benson, Chief Bergmann's resignation, Chief Ficco's resignation, and the Commissioner Terms Expiring end of 2025.

Coordinator Adams discussed the correspondence with Falls Township Police Department who displayed the PLEAC seal as an unaccredited agency, Lehigh Township Police Department's decertification and the resulting vacated seat of Chief Fogel on the Commission, and West Lampeter Township Police Department's extension.

***At Large Seat Appointee***

Chief Benson discussed Captain Crone's resignation letter. He thanked Captain Crone for his many years of dedication service.

Captain Crone expressed his gratitude for being able to be a part of the Commission. He also inquired about the rationale of removing Corporal Madrak from the Commission.

Under the current PLEAC Bylaws, as the PCPA President Chief Lash has the responsibility to appoint the PPAC Commission representative. Chief Lash sent a letter to Corporal Madrak addressing the reasons why he is not reappointing him to the Commission. He will be going in a different direction and appointing Deputy Chief Jennifer Ford. Chief Lash encouraged him to share the letter with Captain Crone.

Captain Crone made a motion to appointment Corporal Madrak to his at large seat. Chief Kerecman seconded the motion.

Corporal Madrak took a few moments to explain his background in accreditation and PLEAC. He truly believes in the program and has put much effort into improving the program. He would like to stay on the Commission and continue that work.

Chief Benson questioned if the nomination is acceptable since a Commission member cannot be appointed if they are a consultant. It needs to be determined if this is a new appointment into a new position or if this would be considered a re-appointment since Corporal Madrak is already on the board.

Coordinator Adams read the section of the PLEAC Bylaws addressing appointments and reappointments.

Captain Sharif said that this would be a termination of one position, and then a start of a new one. Therefore, according to the Bylaws, Corporal Madrak would not be eligible for the at large seat as he is affiliated with a consulting group.

Chief Benson and Coordinator Adams both agree that it would go against the Bylaws.

Corporal Madrak suggested that he stays on as the PPAC appointee and Deputy Chief Ford be appointed to the at large seat.

Chief Kilgore agrees that we must adhere to the Bylaws. With that said, he believes that losing Corporal Madrak would be a great loss for the Commission.

Chief Hendershot mentioned that when the Commission discussed how to address the consultant issue, Chief Cortazzo mentioned it would be a loss of knowledge to remove all consultant Commission members. He believes the Commission will suffer greatly with the loss of Corporal Madrak, especially since losing Esquire Lavery and Captain Crone. He noted that a great amount of work goes into the PLEAC conference,

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and Corporal Madrak does a great deal of it. He questions who will fill those shoes in Corporal Madrak's absence.

Chief Haberman believes that consultants weaken the integrity of the Commission.

Sergeant Ross disagrees. He believes that consultants have broadened the PLEAC program. He thinks that it would be a great loss of knowledge to lose Corporal Madrak.

Chief Benson stated that the PPAC appointment is up to the PCPA president. Under the current Bylaws, it would not be lawful to appoint Corporal Madrak to a new seat on the Commission seeing as he is a consultant.

Captain Crone disagrees stating that the Bylaws do not say that a person cannot be reappointed to another position.

Chief Benson noted the importance of strictly following the PLEAC Bylaws. The motion on the floor is against the Bylaws and therefore is invalid.

Coordinator Adams stated that according to the Bylaws, at large appointments are at the discretion of the the PLEAC Chairman.

Chief Swartz spoke to Esquire Lavery's dedication to the Commission and how his impact must be memorialized.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next Regular Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel.

**Adjournment**

At 1:52 p.m., a motion was made by Chief Swartz to adjourn; seconded by Chief Hettinger. All agreed.