

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

**Regular Commission Meeting
April 23, 2026**

Call to Order

The Regular Commission meeting of the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission was called to order on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 10:31 a.m. at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel, Harrisburg, PA. Chief Benson presided.

Members Present

Coordinator Adams, Chief Benson, Executive Director Bohn, Captain Clark, Chief Cortazzo, Chief Dyroff, Admin Assistant Feaser, Deputy Chief Ford, Chief Hendershot, Chief Hettinger, Chief Kerecman, Chief Lash, Chief Lauth, Esquire MacMain, Chief Peoples, Sergeant Ross, Chief Splain, Chief Swartz, Chief Wagner, Chief Zeigler

Chief Haberman, Chief Kilgore, Chief Kitzinger, and Chief Liparela were absent.

The commission stood, recited the Pledge of Allegiance, and introduced themselves. Chief Benson moved to New Business to discuss the nominations of Chief Frederick Dyroff to a Northeastern Chiefs seat and Chief Charles Zeigler to a Southeastern Chiefs seat. Chief Cortazzo made a motion to appoint the nominations. Chief Splain seconded the motion. All agreed.

Approval of Minutes

Chief Swartz made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 22, 2026, Regular Commission meeting. Chief Hettinger seconded the motion. All agreed.

Introduction of Guests

Also present were representatives from the following agencies: Chief Timothy Habich, Acting Sergeant Gregory Martin, Brookhaven Borough Police; Chief Timothy Rockenbach, Sergeant Ryan Berry, Sergeant Dan Ford, Clifton Heights Borough Police; Chief Garth Warner, Accreditation Manager Julia Shirk, Derry Township Police; Chief Jonathan Rosnick, Captain Thomas Mase, Lieutenant Reginald McCall, Administrative Assistant Tara Beakes, Franklin & Marshall College Police; Chief Mark Ruegg, Detective Sergeant Conner Dilks, Detective Sean Woods, Hatboro Police; Township Manager Deanna Ferry, Chief Christopher Englehart, Lieutenant Christian Browne, David Bonacquisti, Hilltown Township Police; Chief Jared Hahn, Detective Sergeant Steve Detz, Sergeant Andy Heise, Sergeant Tyler Weinoldt, Lititz Borough Police; Accreditation Manager Timothy Evard, Lower Gwynedd Township Police; Superintendent Andrew Block, Captain John Tucci, Sergeant Charles Maier, Accreditation Manager William Keith, Lower Merion Township Police; Deputy Chief Justin Depasqua, Captain Tim Hicks, Assistant Accreditation Manager Ralph Palm, Lower Paxton Township Police; Township Manager Rick Kane, Chief Brian Freysz,

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Lieutenant Michael Piacentino, Sergeant Barry Waltz, Gina Hoover, Manheim Township Police; Lieutenant Glenn Davis, Sergeant Lee Wagner, Montgomery Township Police; Chief Paul Dickinson, Sergeant Pedro Ruiz, Township Manager Marianne Morano, Township Manager Greg Lippincott, Pennridge Regional Police; Chief Jonathon Hoadley, Captain Douglas Possinger, Administrative Assistant Patricia Stonaker, Slate Belt Regional Police; Superintendent Timothy Bernhardt, Mayor Ed Brown, Captain Sean Kenny, Captain Stephen Oreskovich, Captain Michael Williams, Upper Darby Township Police; Chief Kenneth Lawson, Lieutenant Brian Sweisfurth, Administrative Assistant Michael Maxwell, Whitpain Township Police

Assessment Reports for Consent Agenda

Allegheny County Police Department
Brookhaven Borough Police Department
Derry Township Police Department
Franklin & Marshall College Police Department
Hatboro Borough Police Department
Lititz Borough Police Department
Lower Gwynedd Township Police Department
Lower Merion Township Police Department
Lower Pottsgrove Township Police Department
Manheim Township Police Department
Montgomery Township Police Department
Palmer Township Police Department
Slate Belt Regional Police Department
Tredyffrin Township Police Department
Upper Darby Township Police Department
Whitpain Township Police Department

On a motion by Chief Kerecman, seconded by Chief Wagner, the consent agenda was approved, and all agencies were granted Accredited Status for an additional 3 years. Chief Benson abstained from Lower Merion Township Police Department and Lower Gwynedd Township Police Department. Chief Peoples abstained from Montgomery Township Police Department. Chief Hendershot abstained from Franklin & Marshall College Police Department, Hatboro Borough Police Department, and Lower Merion Township Police Department. Chief Hettinger, Sergeant Ross, and Chief Splain abstained from Brookhaven Borough Police Department and Tredyffrin Township Police Department.

Premier Agency Recommendations

The following agencies have successfully completed five or more reassessments and are eligible for Premier Status: Allegheny County Police Department, Derry Township Police Department, Franklin & Marshall College Police Department, Lititz Borough Police Department, Lower Merion Township Police Department, Manheim Township Police Department, and Montgomery Township Police Department. On a

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motion made by Chief Hettinger and seconded by Chief Hendershot all agencies were granted Premier Status for their next accreditation cycle. Chief Benson abstained from Lower Merion Township Police Department. Chief Hendershot abstained from Franklin & Marshall College Police Department and Lower Merion Township Police Department. Chief Peoples abstained from Montgomery Township Police Department.

Assessment Reports

Clifton Heights Borough Review – Presented by Team Leader Officer Ketchem

Chief Benson commended the department for having few file maintenances and non-compliances.

On a motion by Chief Lash and seconded by Deputy Chief Ford the Clifton Heights Borough Police Department was granted accredited status. Chief Hettinger, Sergeant Ross, and Chief Splain abstained.

Hilltown Township Review – Presented by Team Leader Chief Murphy

Chief Benson noted that the department having only five file maintenances for their initial assessment was outstanding.

On a motion by Deputy Chief Ford and seconded by Sergeant Ross, the Hilltown Township Police Department was granted accredited status. Chief Hendershot abstained.

Lower Paxton Township Review – Presented by Team Leader Officer Ketchem

Lower Paxton Township Police Department's reassessment report was presented before the Commission due to the assessment team's inability to recommend them for reaccreditation.

Chief Swartz questioned the number of years that the department has been in the accreditation program.

Assistant Accreditation Manager Palm replied that they enrolled in 2001.

Chief Swartz asked the agency to discuss the standards that were noncompliant when the assessment team left.

Captain Hicks discussed the standards:

1.1.1 – The oath was changed and unawares to him, failed to incorporate the necessary language required by PLEAC.

1.9.1 – This standard was added as a new one during their cycle. He did not believe there was an issue with their standard wording.

2.1.2M – Because their Corporals conduct monthly audits of their officer's MVR/BWC footage and report their findings, the need for the Director to conduct an annual audit is redundant.

Based on this information, Chief Swartz stated that he did not support the reaccreditation of Lower Paxton Township Police Department.

Chief Cortazzo questioned if standard 1.1.1 was in compliance at their last assessment.

Deputy Chief Depasqua confirmed that it was. They had unintentionally used an old document to swear in new officers during this cycle.

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Chief Benson asked if the officers sworn in with the old oath were re-sworn in with the corrected oath once the issue was brought to their attention.

Captain Hicks answered that they were not.

Chief Cortazzo questioned why this wasn't corrected after year one.

Captain Hicks answered that it wasn't caught until the assessment.

Chief Wagner asked if the MOCK team had caught this problem.

Captain Hicks confirmed that they had; however, there was no way for the department to undo the swearing in of those officers.

Deputy Chief Ford asked why this was not fixed after the MOCK.

Captain Hicks said that the policies were changed, but again, they couldn't undo the swearing in of the officers undo the wrong oath.

When asked why the officers had not retaken the oath once the language was changed, Deputy Chief Depasqua explained that they were focused on changing their policy and getting their officers to sign the new policy.

Chief Benson questioned if anyone outside of their agency reviewed their new policies.

Deputy Chief Depasqua stated that no one had.

Chief Swartz made a motion to decertify Lower Paxton Township Police Department. Chief Cortazzo seconded the motion.

Chief Kerecman questioned why they would be decertified if the corrections have been made. He opposed the motion.

Chief Benson clarified that there were still multiple non-compliance issues after the assessment team had left. As of yet, no one outside the agency has reviewed the changes to verify that they are truly in compliance. The new officers, sworn in under the old oath, have not taken the new oath.

After discussion on the aforementioned points, Chief Kerecman supported the motion on the floor.

All agreed. The motion carried. Lower Paxton Township Police Department was decertified.

Pennridge Regional Review – Presented by Team Leader Chief Murphy

Chief Dickinson spoke on the positive effect accreditation has had on his officers.

On a motion by Chief Hettinger and seconded by Chief Swartz, the Pennridge Regional Police Department was granted accredited status. Chief Hendershot abstained.

Committee Reports

Assessment Committee

Committee Chairwoman Deputy Chief Ford discussed her submitted report. Fifteen applicants were approved to take the New Assessor Training at the PLEAC Annual Conference. Two applicants were denied due to not being members of accredited agencies.

On a motion by Chief Hendershot and seconded by Chief Lauth, the Assessment Committee report was accepted. All agreed.

Standards Committee

Committee Chairman Chief Hendershot spoke of standard changes that the committee is working on. The committee will tentatively submit proposed changes to the Commission at the next quarterly meeting.

Additionally, Chief Hendershot discussed his request to the Commission Chairman to have Corporal David Madrak from the Upper Dublin Police Department added to the Standards Committee.

Chief Benson approved the request and has appointed Corporal Madrak to the committee.

Administrative Committee

Committee Chairman Chief Hettinger had no report.

Strategic Planning Committee

Committee Chairman Chief Wagner had no report.

Coordinator's Report

Coordinator Adams had submitted a report to the Commission for review. He spoke on the 21st Annual PLEAC Training Conference and on updates to the location for the 22nd conference. He thanked Corporal David Madrak, Upper Dublin Police Department, Deputy Chief Jennifer Ford, Duquesne University Police Department, and Accreditation Manager Christie Kertis, Carnegie Mellon University Police Department, for presenting at the PLEAC Conference.

Per a request from Coordinator Adams, Chief Benson tasked the Administrative Committee with reviewing the criteria for becoming and maintaining a Premier Status.

Old Business

The Commission was presented with a letter from the Pennsylvania Police Accreditation Coalition to their Commission representative Deputy Chief Ford.

New Business

Chief Benson revisited the appointments of Chief Dyroff and Chief Zeigler. He thanked them for filling the seats left vacant from Director McVey's and Chief Sokoloski's resignations. Chief Benson noted the work Director McVey and Chief Sokoloski had done for the Commission.

The Commission was presented with a committee appointment list. Chief Benson requested that if any member should desire to serve on multiple committees that they should contact him.

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For the Good of the Order

PHRC Complaint

The Commission was presented with a Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission Complaint filed by Keri Diehl against the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association. Coordinator Adams discussed that the complaint was dismissed as there was no substantiation to her allegations.

Assessment Report Template

Chief Hettinger noted that several reports on the meeting agenda were missing the fingerprint compliance section.

Coordinator Adams confirmed that the new report template has the section. However, some assessment team leaders still use the old template that does not have the section.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Regular Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at the Valley Forge Casino Resort at 10:00 a.m. in the Laurel Ballroom.

Adjournment

At 11:50 p.m., a motion was made by Chief Splain to adjourn; seconded by Chief Lash. All agreed.

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Abstentions Noted in Advance

Commissioner	Business Interest	Agenda Item	Reason for Abstention
Lee Benson	No	Lower Merion Township Police Department	Assessment Team Leader
	No	Lower Gwynedd Township Police Department	Assessment Team Member
Jason Hendershot	Yes	Franklin & Marshall College Police Department	LEAS Client
	Yes	Hatboro Police Department	LEAS Client
	Yes	Hilltown Township Police Department	LEAS Client
	No	Lower Merion Township Police Department	Assessment Team Member
	Yes	Pennridge Regional Police Department	LEAS Client
Guy Hettinger	Yes	Brookhaven Borough Police Department	Aspirant Client
	Yes	Clifton Heights Borough Police Department	Aspirant Client
	Yes	Tredyffrin Township Police Department	Aspirant Client
William Peoples	No	Montgomery Township Police Department	Own Agency
John Ross	Yes	Brookhaven Borough Police Department	Aspirant Client
	Yes	Clifton Heights Borough Police Department	Aspirant Client
	Yes	Tredyffrin Township Police Department	Aspirant Client
David Splain	Yes	Brookhaven Borough Police Department	Aspirant Client
	Yes	Clifton Heights Borough Police Department	Aspirant Client
	Yes	Tredyffrin Township Police Department	Aspirant Client