

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

**Regular Commission Meeting  
April 24, 2025**

**Call to Order**

The Regular Commission meeting of the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission was called to order on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 10:31 a.m. at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel, Harrisburg, PA. Chief Benson presided.

**Members Present**

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

Chief Fogel and Director McVey were absent.

The commission stood, recited the Pledge of Allegiance, and introduced themselves.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chief Swartz made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 23, 2025, Regular Commission meeting. Chief Cortazzo seconded the motion. All agreed.

**Introduction of Guests**

Also present were representatives from the following agencies: Chief David Scirrotto, Sergeant Rick Hazelett, Buckingham Township Police; Chief Charles Zeigler, Detective Corporal Chris Power, Dave Bonaquisti, Doylestown Township Police; Accreditation Manager Carlie Stammer, Elizabeth Township Police; Chief Matthew Harley, Lieutenant Steve Schaeffer, Lieutenant Sean Fullerton, Exeter Township Police; Chief Aron Leach, Lieutenant Sam Snyder, Mayor Dennis O'Keefe, Franklin Park Borough Police; Chief Richard Mendez, Captain Robert Whiteford, Captain Randell Zook, Captain Kurtis Miller, Lieutenant Steve Reich, Lancaster City Police; Chief Jason Schiffer, Assistant Chief Chris Houtz, Captain Richard McGarr, Lehigh University Police; Chief Mark Liparela, Accreditation Manager Wade Curtis, Sergeant Kenneth Kugler, Lehman Township Police; Chief Deputy Adam Berry, Lieutenant Allen Stewart, Corporal Ryan Volk, Deputy John Cagliola, Montgomery County Sheriff; Chief Randall Miller, Accreditation Manager Brandon Rader, Honorable Mayor Lance Colondo, Nazareth Borough Police; Interim Chief Mark Bentzel, Accreditation Manager Lisa Gehr, New Holland Borough Police; Corporal Candice Trembly, Administrative Assistant Karen Kerins, New Hope Borough Police; Commander Patrick Fosnaught, Detective John Ficorilli, Pittsburgh City Police; Acting Chief Adam Zimmerman, Spring Garden Township Police; Chief Andrew Parsons, Lieutenant Brian Barnes, Upper Allen

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Township Police; Lieutenant Joseph Carr, Zachary Raymond, Upper Uwchlan Township Police; Chief Jason Wolfgang, Accreditation Manager Cindy Broas, Washington Township Police; Chief Joshua Lee, Administrative Assistant Staci King, West Chester Borough Police; Chief Andrew Winters, Sergeant Peter Mathews, Sergeant William Stickler, Accreditation Manager Michelle Enterline, Western Lebanon County Regional Police; Chief Tim Damon, York County Regional Police

**Assessment Reports for Consent Agenda**

Buckingham Township Police Department  
Carnegie Mellon University Police Department  
Central Bucks Regional Police Department  
Doylestown Township Police Department  
Exeter Township Police Department  
Lehigh University Police Department  
Marple Township Police Department  
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office  
Nazareth Borough Police Department  
New Hope Borough Police Department  
Point Park University Police Department  
University of Scranton Police Department  
Upper Allen Township Police Department  
Upper Uwchlan Township Police Department  
West Chester Borough Police Department  
Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department

On a motion by Captain Crone, seconded by Chief Ficco, the consent agenda was approved, and all agencies were granted Accredited Status for an additional 3 years. Chief Bergmann abstained from the University of Scranton Police. Captain Crone and Chief Hendershot abstained from Buckingham Township PD, Central Bucks Regional PD, Doylestown Township PD, Westtown-East Goshen Regional PD. Chief Lauth abstained from Carnegie Mellon University PD. Corporal Madrak abstained from Buckingham Township PD, Central Bucks Regional PD, Doylestown Township PD, Exeter Township PD, University of Scranton PD, Westtown-East Goshen Regional PD.

**Premier Agency Recommendations**

The following agencies have successfully completed five or more reassessments and are eligible for Premier Status: Carnegie Mellon University Police Department, Lehigh University Police Department, Upper Allen Township Police Department. On a motion made by Chief Hettinger and seconded by Chief Ficco all three agencies were granted Premier Status for 2024-2027. Chief Lauth abstained from Carnegie Mellon University Police Department.

**Assessment Reports**

*Elizabeth Township Review – Presented by Team Leader Deputy Chief Ford*

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Chief Lash questioned what the agency's plans were for improving their fingerprint compliance rate. AM Carlie Stammer said that they are still using ink for their fingerprints, but she has been researching digital systems to switch to.

On a motion by Chief Hendershot and seconded by Chief Lauth, the Elizabeth Police Department was granted accredited status. All agreed.

***Franklin Park Borough Review – Presented by Team Leader Deputy Chief Ford***

Chief Benson noted that 15 non-compliant standards and 15 file maintenances was a large amount. He questioned if any of the non-compliance issues had directive or policy changes. Assessment Team Leader Ford explained that these policies were Lexipol policies and were not as detailed as what is required by PLEAC. However, she is confident that all the standards are now met.

On a motion by Corporal Madrak and seconded by Chief Cortazzo, the Franklin Park Borough Police Department was granted accredited status. All agreed.

***Lancaster City Review – Presented by Team Leader Officer Evard***

Esquire Lavery asked why the fingerprint compliance rate was low and how it will be improved. Lieutenant Reich said that he believes they are now over 80% which is what is required.

On a motion by Chief Hettinger and seconded by Chief Kilgore, the Lancaster City Police Department was granted accredited status. Captain Crone, Chief Hendershot, and Corporal Madrak abstained.

***Lehman Township Review – Presented by Team Leader Captain McGarr***

Chief Wagner questioned if some of their arrests went to warrant and are outstanding as their fingerprint compliance rate was low. AM Curtis said they have 2 outstanding. He also explained that since they are a smaller agency, even one that goes to warrant can throw off their numbers greatly.

On a motion by Chief Sokoloski and seconded by Chief Wagner, the Lehman Township Police Department was granted accredited status. All agreed.

***New Holland Borough Review – Presented by Team Leader Captain McGarr***

Chief Kilgore addressed a few issues that he found in the report in the interview with Chief William Leighty. The report says, "Chief Leighty coordinated the merger of three departments into Northern Lancaster County Regional in January 2012." This is incorrect as Chief David Steffin led the merger. The report says, "He was then the Chief of Police at Northern Lancaster Regional Police Department from 2012 – 2017. During that time period, Chief Leighty began the accreditation program for NLRPD and was involved with their initial accreditation." This is incorrect as the NLRPD was not accredited till 2019 under Chief David Steffin. Chief Kilgore wanted to address these discrepancies as they affect his department.

Captain McGarr stated that he only writes what he is told during the interview, and he has no prior knowledge of the department's history.

On a motion by Chief Lash and seconded by Chief Hettinger, the New Holland Borough Police Department was granted accredited status. Corporal Madrak abstained.

***Pittsburgh City Review***

At the request of Corporal Madrak, Pittsburgh City Police Department's reassessment report was pulled from the Consent Agenda and presented during the Assessment Reports. Corporal Madrak supplied a list of questions, concerning their 30-day hold, to the PPD's representatives, Commander Pat Fosnaught and Detective John Fidorilli. Commander Pat Fosnaught went through the questions and answered them to the best of his ability.

Chief Benson questioned if there was one person that the department had designated as the Primary Custodian over all the locations.

Commander Fosnaught replied that Detective Chip Babjack has been the primary custodian for 15 years.

Captain Crone asked if the Sergeant assigned as the Property Holding Area Custodian of each location answers to the person who is in control of evidence for the PPD. Everything in the 30-day hold must go into the control of the evidence function, or it would be non-compliant.

Commander Fosnaught said that it is cleared out every 30 days, and everything is documented into their software. They follow the procedure listed in policy 37-1 for each zone.

Chief Benson asked which software they use.

Commander Fosnaught said they use Central Square, and he confirmed that all their items in the 30-day hold are entered into this primary evidence software.

Corporal Madrak questioned if they have a yearly audit done.

Captain Crone stated that the PLEAC standard requires a person other than the custodian to audit it yearly. So, there should be audits at each of their 6 zones.

Chief Kilgore asked if any items are limited to the 30-day hold.

Commander Fosnaught replied that nothing over the value of \$100 goes into the 30-day hold, neither do drugs or guns.

Corporal Madrak stated that he does not think they met standard 3.6.6.

Commander Fosnaught said the PPD is currently training the officers to make sure each zone is operating in the same way.

Chief Benson questioned if this 30-day hold policy has always been in place.

Captain Crone said that he had done their previous re-assessment, and this was never presented to him.

Coordinator Adams said that he went through every one of the PPD's reports. It was noted in the 2016 report that this was presented to the assessment team. It was not hidden from them then, but the whole process was explained to the team in detail. He also stated that Team Leader Mike Murphy was kept in the loop of this and stands by his team's recommendation for reaccreditation.

Corporal Madrak reviewed standard 3.6.6. He believes that 3.6.6 a, b, d are not being met.

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Chief Benson asked if they complete an audit of the 30-day hold is using Central Square and then have a physical audit done.

Commander Fosnaught confirmed that it is.

Chief Haberman stated that the number of items in the 30-day hold room is always changing but seeing as it is all documented in their software, he sees no issues.

Chief Cortazzo asked two questions, 1) are audits conducted yearly, 2) if an officer collects evidence is it ever placed in the 30-day hold.

Commander Fosnaught replied yes to the first question and no to the second.

Chief Lauth's department is located in Pittsburgh, and they have never had a compliant in their community in regards to evidence with PPD.

Commander Fosnaught said that they are currently working with the auditors to make their procedures more compliant. They have only had 2 complaints and both were in 2015.

Corporal Madrak asked if there was a way that PLEAC could work with them to make them more compliant. He isn't suggesting that PLEAC deny their re-accreditation, but in his opinion, they do not meet standard 3.6.6.

Captain Crone suggested using Provisional Accreditation for them.

Chief Ficco questioned if they have made any policy updates.

Commander Fosnaught said that they are willing to make policy changes, but he doesn't believe that they have done any yet.

Chief Haberman, based on all that was presented by the PPD, made a motion to approve them for full re-accreditation.

Chief Lash said that he had a member from the PPD explain the whole process of the 30-day hold to him. He believes that they are in compliant and seconded Chief Haberman's motion.

With a motion on the floor, the Commission members took their vote

<i>In favor</i>	<i>Opposed</i>
Chief Benson	Captain Crone
Chief Bergmann	Corporal Madrak
Chief Cortazzo	
Chief Ficco	
Chief Haberman	
Chief Hendershot	
Chief Hettinger	
Chief Kilgore	
Chief Kitzinger	
Chief Lash	
Chief Lauth	
Esquire Lavery	
Sergeant Ross	
Captain Sharif	
Chief Sokoloski	
Chief Splain	
Chief Swartz	

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Chief Wagner	
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The motion carried 18-2.

Commander Fosnaught said that they can supply the Commission with any updates they make.

Chief Hettinger questioned if it could be presented at the June meeting.

Commander Fosnaught confirmed that it could be.

***Washington Township Review – Presented by Team Leader Officer Ketchem***

Chief Lash complimented the agency on their excellent fingerprint compliance rate.

On a motion by Chief Cortazzo and seconded by Chief Ficco, the Washington Township Police Department was granted accredited status. Chief Hettinger, Sergeant Ross, and Chief Splain abstained.

***Western Lebanon County Regional Review – Presented by Team Leader Chief Ficco***

On a motion by Corporal Madrak and seconded by Sergeant Ross, the Western Lebanon County Regional Police Department was granted accredited status. Chief Ficco abstained.

At 12:15PM, the meeting recessed for lunch.

At 12:55PM, the meeting reconvened.

**Committee Reports**

***Assessor Committee***

Committee Chairman Chief Hendershot had no report.

***Standards Committee***

Committee Chairman Corporal Madrak had no report.

***Administrative Committee***

The Administrative Committee reviewed the proposed merger of the Spring Garden Township Police Department and the York County Regional Police Department. All required documentation governing the proposed merger (section 4 of the Administrative Manual) was supplied to the Commission and members of the Administrative Committee. The review found no discrepancies or issues with the merger. Chief Hettinger made the motion that effective June 1, 2025, the Spring Garden Township Police Department will merge into the York County Regional Police Department; and this merger will result in only the York County Regional Police Department remaining; and the PLEAC accreditation status of the York County Regional Police Department will remain unchanged and continue on their current cycle; and all PLEAC accreditation status once belonging to the Spring Garden Township Police

Department, including Premier Agency status, will expire and not transfer to the new agency. Corporal Madrak seconded the motion. Chief Swartz abstained.

***Strategic Planning Committee***

Committee Chairman Chief Wagner had no report.

**Coordinator's Report**

***Ephrata Borough Police Departments Decertification***

Coordinator Adams discussed his meeting with Chief Christopher McKim from the Ephrata Borough Police Department. Due to deficiencies resulting in non-compliance, Ephrata PD has withdrawn from the PLEAC program.

***Content Hub***

Coordinator Adams also discussed the new PowerDMS feature, Content Hub, which will now be used to enhance department's use of the PLEAC PowerDMS site. Using Content Hub, the PCPA staff will work with certain agencies to use their clean assessments as Sample Assessments for other departments. Lehigh University Police Department and Upper Allen Township Police Department will both provide their recent assessments for 2025.

**Old Business**

Nothing was reported for Old Business.

**New Business**

Nothing was reported for New Business.

**For the Good of the Order**

***File Maintenance/Non-Compliant***

Captain Crone has noticed inconsistencies throughout the assessment reports when it comes to things that are classified as file maintenance or non-compliant. He believes that this should be assigned to a committee to define each and provide guidance to assessors.

Coordinator Adams agreed with Captain Crone as he has noticed the same inconsistencies.

Chief Benson tasked the Assessment Committee with this and asked Committee Chairman Chief Hendershot to present the Commission with the results at the June meeting.

Chief Hendershot thinks this should be addressed for the new assessor's requirements.

Coordinator Adams stated that he had previously tasked the Assessment Committee with the job of reviewing the requirements set for the New Assessor training at the PLEAC Conference.

Chief Hettinger mentioned that it would also be helpful to teach assessors how to do brief presentations when presenting assessment reports to the Commission.

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***PowerDMS***

Corporal Madrak thanked Coordinator Adams for his help in postponing some updates that PowerDMS was going to push out.

***Commission***

Chief Hendershot stated his concerns for making sure the Commission is consistent in their basis for approving agencies' accreditation/re-accreditation. Today, an agency came before the Commission and was granted some leniency. However, another agency had come before the Commission and their re-accreditation was denied due to compliancy issues.

***Pit Maneuvers***

Captain Sharif wanted clarification on a question concerning pit maneuvers asked at the PLEAC Conference during the panel discussion.

Chief Hendershot explained that an agency had authorized pit maneuvers, but the assessors found fault with the training for it.

Corporal Madrak said that he would email Captain Sharif with updates they have been working on concerning pit maneuvers.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next Regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 AM, Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at the Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square, during the PCPA annual conference.

**Adjournment**

At 1:22PM, a motion was made by Chief Hettinger to adjourn; seconded by Chief Lauth. All agreed.



PLEAC Meeting - April 24, 2025			
Abstentions Noted in Advance			
Commissioner	Business Interest	Agenda Item	Reason for Abstention
Donald Bergmann	No	University of Scranton	Own Agency
Leon Crone	Yes	Buckingham Township	LEAS Client
	Yes	Central Bucks Regional	LEAS Client
	Yes	Doylestown Township	LEAS Client
	Yes	Westtown-East Goshen	LEAS Client
	Yes	Lancaster City	LEAS Client
Richard Ficco	No	Western Lebanon County Regional	Assessment Team Leader
Jason Hendershot	Yes	Buckingham Township	LEAS Client
	Yes	Central Bucks Regional	LEAS Client
	Yes	Doylestown Township	LEAS Client
	Yes	Westtown-East Goshen	LEAS Client
	Yes	Lancaster City	LEAS Client
Guy Hettinger	Yes	Washington Township	Aspirant Client
Aaron Lauth	No	Carnegie Mellon University	Own Agency
David Madrak	Yes	Buckingham Township	LEAS Client
	Yes	Central Bucks Regional	LEAS Client
	Yes	Doylestown Township	LEAS Client
	Yes	Exeter Township	AM works for LEAS
	No	University of Scranton	AM works for PPAC
	Yes	Westtown-East Goshen	LEAS Client
	Yes	Lancaster City	LEAS Client
	Yes	New Holland Borough	AM works for LEAS
John Ross	Yes	Washington Township	Aspirant Client
David Splain	Yes	Washington Township	Aspirant Client
George Swartz	No	Spring Township	Own Agency
	No	York County Regional	Own Agency