



"The Only Union for Police Officers and 911 Dispatchers"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Today, the Massachusetts Coalition of Police (MassCOP), the Boston Police Superior Officers Federation (BPSOF), and the Boston Police Detectives Benevolent Society (BPDBS) announced that three plaintiffs - acting in the interest of law enforcement professionals as well as all citizens of Massachusetts - have filed a complaint in Suffolk Superior Court against the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission ('POST Commission').

This complaint alleges and details repeated violations of the Commonwealth's Open Meeting Law by the POST Commission, including a disturbing practice of conducting much of the Commission's critical work in secret. Additionally, the plaintiffs filed a motion for short order of notice and expedited discovery.

The POST Commission was established under the Commonwealth's criminal justice reform legislation - *An Act Relative to Justice, Equity and Accountability in Law Enforcement in the Commonwealth* - which was signed into law by Governor Charles Baker on December 31, 2020. *One of the stated goals of this law is to enhance transparency and accountability in the administration of justice and law enforcement.*

Yet despite this mandate, the POST Commission has repeatedly violated the principles of the very law under which it was created; while violating the *letter* of the law governing open meetings, transparency in government, and accountability of government bodies to the public.

The attached complaint and motion demonstrate how the POST Commission created subcommittees that have illegally performed their work in total secrecy - without any notice to the public and without any public involvement or observation.

These illegal subcommittee meetings produced a broad range of policy materials and other work product that was rubber stamped into formal policy by the POST Commission – with zero input from members of the law enforcement profession, and no scrutiny from the public. This work product includes - among other things - *a series of highly invasive, improper, unfair, and irrational questionnaires* to be administered to both new and existing law enforcement officers. The details of this action - and other actions by the POST Commission and its illegal subcommittees – are contained in the attached motion and complaint.

The complaint and motion was filed todayon Wednesday, April 27 in Suffolk Superior Court.

The plaintiffs seek a court order making ***“all actions taken based on work product, advice, or recommendations”*** of the subcommittees that was generated in violation of the Open Meeting Law ***“null and void.”***

They also seek an order compelling the POST Commission to *“immediately and in the future comply with the Open Meeting Law,”* and to make public all meeting minutes, records and other materials from the illegal meetings of the subcommittees.

The plaintiffs who have brought this action are:

- Scott Hovsepien, a resident of Waltham and a patrolman with the Waltham Police Department. Officer Hovsepien is President of the Massachusetts Coalition of Police (MassCOP), which represents nearly 5,000 members from over 200 cities and towns across the Commonwealth.
- Jeanne Carroll, a resident of Boston and a sergeant with the Boston Police Department. Sgt. Carroll is President of the Boston Police Superior Officers Federation (BPSOF), which represents all sworn supervisors at the rank of sergeant, lieutenant, and captain (excepting those rated as detective) within the Boston Police Department.
- Donald Caisey, a resident of Boston and a detective with the Boston Police Department. Det. Caisey is President of the Boston Police Detectives Benevolent Society (BPDBS), which represents detectives and superior officer ranked detectives in the Boston Police Department.

The three plaintiffs jointly issued the following statement today:

“We believe that the people of Massachusetts deserve – and the laws of this Commonwealth demand – an open and transparent public process in the development and implementation of policy, rules, requirements, and practices governing police standards and training. The Post Commission has violated the public’s trust, disregarded and defied the Open Meeting Law, and betrayed the very principles upon which the Massachusetts police reform act of 2020 was based. These actions are wrong, and we as plaintiffs in this case seek to correct them on behalf of all citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.”

Officer Scott Hovsepian – President, Massachusetts Coalition of Police (MassCOP)

Sergeant Jeanne Carroll – President, Boston Police Superior Officers Association (BPSOF)

Detective Donald Caisey – President, Boston Police Detectives Benevolent Society (BPDBS)