



MASSACHUSETTS PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A, the Municipal Police Training Committee (“MPTC”) and the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission (“POST Commission”) will jointly conduct a public hearing for the purposes of gathering comments, ideas, and information concerning proposed amendments to the regulations governing the use of non-deadly force by law enforcement officers.

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Summary of Proposed Amendments: The MPTC and the POST Commission promulgated 550 CMR 6.00 and 555 CMR 6.00, regulations on the use of force by law enforcement officers, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 6, § 116, M.G.L. c. 6E, § 15(d), and M.G.L. c. 30A. As originally promulgated, 550 CMR 6.04(6) and 555 CMR 6.04(6) stated, “Except to temporarily gain, regain or maintain control of an individual and apply restraints, a law enforcement officer shall not intentionally sit, kneel, or stand on an individual’s chest, neck, or spine, and shall not force an individual to lie on their stomach.” The proposed amendments would strike “, neck,” and would add a sentence stating, “In no event may a law enforcement officer intentionally sit, kneel, or stand on an individual’s neck or head.” Such amendments were previously made to 555 CMR 6.04(6) on an emergency basis. Pursuant to the statutes listed above, the MPTC and the POST Commission now seek to make such amendments to 550 CMR 6.04(6) and 555 CMR 6.04(6) on a permanent basis.

Availability of Proposed Amendments: The amended regulations may be obtained by visiting the POST Commission website at: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/post-commission>. A written copy of the amended regulations may be obtained by e-mailing a request to POSTC-comments@mass.gov or by mailing a request to General Counsel Randall E. Ravitz, Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission, 100 Cambridge Street, 14th Floor, Boston, MA 02114.

Hearing Details: The hearing will be held virtually, using the Zoom platform, on October 11, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. To join via computer, click on the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/99080496083>. To join via telephone (audio only), dial 312-626-6799 and use the following conference ID: 990 8049 6083. If you are joining by computer, you may need to allow extra time to download Zoom. While it is not required, you are encouraged to pre-register if you are interested in offering comments at the hearing by sending an email to POSTC-comments@mass.gov with a subject line stating, “Use of Force Regulations.” Attendees should otherwise dress and conduct themselves as if attending the hearing in person.

Submission of Comments: Written comments or testimony in advance of the hearing are welcome and may be submitted by e-mail to POSTC-comments@mass.gov with a subject line stating, “Use of Force Regulations” or by mail to General Counsel Randall E. Ravitz, Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission, 100 Cambridge Street, 14th Floor, Boston, MA 02114. Comments received after October 11, 2022 at 5:00 PM may not be accepted. All persons desiring to be heard on this matter should appear at the designated time and event. Given the volume of comments anticipated, the MPTC and the POST Commission may limit requests to speak to no longer to three minutes.