



Vermont Criminal Justice Council (VCJC)

Legislative Briefing 2023

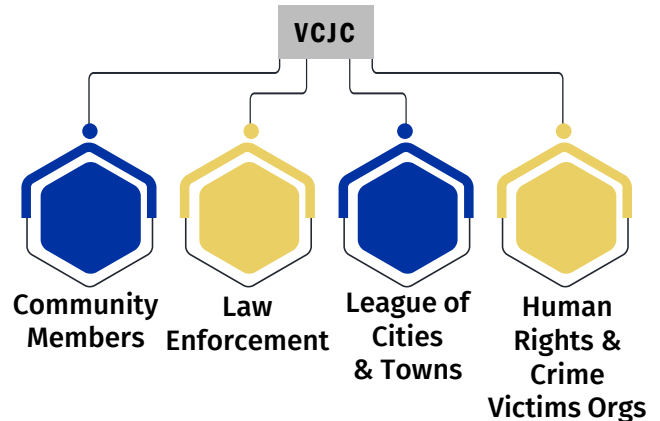
The primary mission of the police academy is to train and certify all of Vermont's law enforcement professionals. This includes two 17-week Level III basic classes, and two 2-week Level II classes. Additional state-mandated training and ongoing Rule 13 (in-service) trainings are ongoing.

STRUCTURE

Established by the Legislature in the fall of 2020, the VCJC assumed its duties on January 1, 2021. The Council is comprised of 24 members and its mission is to establish rules, policies, regulations and standards for certification and training of criminal justice personnel.

The Council and Vermont Police Academy (VPA) are supported by 18 sub-committees and work groups. These include Use of Force, Professional Regulation, and Fair and Impartial Policing. Members are either unpaid or otherwise do not serve on the Council as part of their primary employment.

COMPOSITION



- **Chair:** William Sorrell
- **co-Vice Chair:** State Police Major Kevin Lane
- **co-Vice Chair:** Racial Equity Director Xusana Davis
- **VPA Executive Director:** Heather Simons
- **VPA Deputy Director:** Christopher Brickell
- **VPA Professional Staff:** 11 Members

ACCOUNTABILITY EFFORTS

- Professional regulation (Act 56). The de-certifying process for law enforcement officers.
- Compliance with training requirements for individual officers.
- Adherence to rules and laws for all law enforcement agencies across the state.
- Race data collection (traffic stop data).
- Statewide Standards and Model Policies.

MODERNIZATION EFFORTS

- Move toward National Accreditation.
- Modernization of programs and courses of instruction.
- Alternate pathways to certification.
 - Reviewing the levels (I, II and III) of certification for law enforcement.
 - Non-residential style academy.
 - Reciprocity of out of state certifications.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

Three resources that are critical to the success of the Council and the Police Academy are additional **funding**, staff **positions**, and **statutory changes**.