

**Kenneth J. Hopkins**  
Mayor



**Colonel Michael J. Winquist**  
Chief of Police

*"A Nationally Accredited Agency"*

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February 23, 2024

Executive Director Stephen Brown  
ACLU Rhode Island  
128 Dorrance Street  
Providence, RI 02913

VIA MAIL AND EMAIL

Dear Director Brown:

I received your letter dated February 22, 2024, addressed to me in my capacity as Chair of the Rhode Island Police Officers Commission on Standards and Training (POST) regarding your concerns about the content of a training conducted in New Jersey in December 2021 by a private company called "Street Cop." I reviewed your request for the POST to take action, including requiring police officers to self-report if they attended the conference so they can be retrained in relevant areas of the law and policies and turn in pertinent materials provided during the conference.

The actions you are requesting are outside the POST's scope of authority. Rhode Island General Law § 42-28.2-8 defines the legal authority and responsibilities of the Commission. The POST sets minimum training requirements for police recruits attending the Rhode Island Municipal Police Training Academy (not including Rhode Island State Troopers and Providence Police Officers) and officers other than those appointed permanently. Once an Officer becomes permanently employed by their respective municipality, any additional training is within the discretion of the employing city and town and police chief.

Undoubtedly, all POST members would never condone any training that promotes unconstitutional or discriminatory policing practices at the Rhode Island Police Municipality Training Academy, for probationary police officers, or otherwise.

*Col. Michael J. Winquist*

Respectfully,  
Colonel Michael J. Winquist  
Chair of the RI POST  
Chief of the Cranston Police Department

cc: R.I. POST members  
Attorney General Peter Neronha  
Executive Director Sid Wordell, RIPCA  
Colonel Darnell Weaver, Commissioner of RI DPS  
Lieutenant Christopher Zarrella, RISP and Director of Training RIMPTA