PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE
PO BOX 080
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0080

MATTHEW J. PLATKIN
Attorney General

PATRICK J. CALLAHAN
Colonel

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Law Enforcement and NJ Certified Firearms Instructors

FROM: Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin & Colonel Patrick J. Callahan

RE: Civilian Carry Assessment and Range Evaluation (CCARE) Protocol

DATE: September 15, 2023

As law enforcement, we are responsible for the safety of all of those who live in New Jersey. And that includes providing meaningful training to those who choose to apply for a permit to carry a handgun. Carrying a weapon that can take the life of another comes with an incredible amount of responsibility. It is our duty to ensure that those who choose to carry are equipped with the knowledge and training necessary to safely carry a firearm.

Today, we are announcing the new Civilian Carry Assessment and Range Evaluation (CCARE) protocol. This live-range training replaces the Permit to Carry Safe Handling and Proficiency Qualification protocol (HQC2-modified) issued on July 21, 2023, and is the required range component pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:58-4(g).

All certified firearms instructors in NJ shall now instruct on the CCARE protocol.

As for individuals who completed firearms training prior to July 1, 2023, and whose permit to carry does not expire until after December 22, 2023, they must requalify on the CCARE protocol or the HQC2-modified protocol issued on July 21, 2023. An individual who completed a course of fire prior to the issuance of the CCARE Protocol is deemed to have satisfied N.J.S.A. 2C:58-4(g)(2) **if and only if** the prior course included each of the following:

- A minimum of 50 scored rounds per participant.
- Minimum passage score of 80% using an FBI type Q target.
- At least 10 rounds must be from the 15, 10, 7, 5, and 3 yard lines each, or if fewer rounds were fired from those distances, the remaining rounds must have been fired from greater distances.
- The participant must demonstrate safe holstering and unholstering during the shooting course, which must include safely drawing the weapon from a secured holster before firing at each of the required distances and reholstering after completing the round.
- The participant must demonstrate proficient and safe reloading during the shooting course.

No substantially similar courses completed after the CCARE Protocol is issued will be accepted.

In order to assist in ensuring all permit holders have taken the appropriate live-range component and are in compliance with the law, law enforcement chiefs responsible for reviewing and issuing permits to carry shall

immediately post this memorandum and the CCARE protocol to their agency websites. The New Jersey State Police Firearms Investigation Unit shall also post the documents to its website.

Further, given that the HQC2 interim training was issued on July 21, and the CCARE protocol is being implemented today, September 15, 2023, **law enforcement shall provide individuals who need to requalify until December 31, 2023 to complete the requisite training to comply with the law. Failure to requalify under N.J.S.A. 2C:58-4(g) by December 31, 2023 will render the applicable individual's permit-to-carry invalid. Instructors should also inform their applicants to send a copy of their completed certification to the police agency with which the application was filed to be included in the agency's file.**