



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

---

## SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 15, 2020  
10:00 a.m.

A meeting of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Training Council (LETC) was held at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy on Monday, June 15, 2020. This meeting was advertised in accordance to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### ***Agenda Item 1***

Chief Mark Keel, Chair of the Law Enforcement Training Council, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Chief Keel called for a roll call of the Council members. The roll was called by Scheri Francois.

Chief Mark Keel, State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) (Chair) and Attorney General Alan Wilson, SC Attorney General's Office, were present in person at this meeting.

Members who attended the meeting via Webex Video/Teleconference were Sheriff Lee Foster, Newberry County Sheriff's Office (Co-Chair); Director Bryan Stirling, SC Department of Corrections; Director Robert Boyles, SC Department of Natural Resources; Acting Director Robert G. Woods, SC Department of Public Safety; Sheriff Barry Faile, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office; Director John Thomas, North Augusta Department of Public Safety; Chief Tony Taylor, Williamston Police Department; and Captain Nick Gallam, Aiken County Detention Center.

Director Jerry Adger was absent but represented by proxy, Mike Nichols, who attended via Webex teleconference.

Guest attendees who attended the meeting via Webex Video/Teleconference Call and in person were Executive Director Jarrod Bruder, SC Sheriffs Association; Executive Director Ryan Alphin, SC Police Chiefs Association/SC Law Enforcement Officers Association; Barry Bernstein, SC Attorney General's Office; Vance Bettis, Esquire; Blair Jennings, Esquire; Steve Griffith, Barnwell County Sheriff's Office; Vanessa Cason, Esquire; Wesley Vorberger, Esquire, Greenville County; Keith Denny, Esquire; Lt. Robert Hefner, Rock Hill Police Department; Adam Messer, WIS TV News; and Kaitlin Stansell, WCSC Live 5 News.

***A full list of guest attendees may be obtained upon request.***



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

SC Criminal Justice Academy attendees were Director Jackie Swindler; Deputy Director Mike Lanier; Scheri Francois, Executive Assistant; James Fennell, General Counsel; Justin Miller, IT; Mark Thomas, IT; Christopher Brumlow, Investigator.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

### ***Agenda Item 2***

Upon a motion made by Attorney General Wilson and seconded by Director Woods, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

## **APPROVAL FOR MEETING MINUTES**

### ***Agenda Item 3***

1. A motion to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2020, meeting was made by Attorney General Wilson and seconded by Director Boyles. Council voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes as recorded.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### ***Agenda Item 4***

#### **2. General Counsel**

- Misconduct Cases

#### **Dewitt Ford: 2020-CJA-05-15 (Clemson University Police Department)**

**Summary:** Allegation(s) of conviction, plea of guilty, plea of no contest or admission of guilt (regardless of withheld adjudication) to a felony, a crime punishable by a sentence of more than one year (regardless of the sentence actually imposed, if any) crime of moral turpitude in this or any other jurisdiction. **Request for Final Agency Decision**

The Hearing Officer's recommendation is to approve Dewitt Ford's law enforcement certification, expunge within thirty (30) - days of the final agency decision all evidence related to the allegations of misconduct filed against Mr. Dewitt by the Clemson University Police Department.

Attorney Vance Bettis was in attendance at the meeting to represent the Clemson University Police Department. Chief Greg Mullen of the Clemson University Police Department was also in attendance at the meeting to answer any questions from Council, if applicable.

Mr. Bettis spoke and asked that Council vote contrary to the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and requested that Council deny Mr. Ford's eligibility for law enforcement certification.

Upon conclusion of Mr. Bettis' comments, Council had questions answered by Mr. Bettis in regards to the misconduct allegations against Mr. Ford.



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

Chief Keel made a motion to permanently deny Mr. Ford's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Sheriff Foster seconded the motion.

Prior to the voting process, Council asked more questions and had a brief discussion regarding Mr. Ford's misconduct case.

Upon conclusion of the discussion, Council voted unanimously to permanently deny Mr. Ford's eligibility for law enforcement certification.

## **Connie Johnson: 2019-CJA-10-04 (Barnwell County Sheriff's Office)**

**Summary:** Dangerous or unsafe practices involving firearms, weapons, or vehicles which indicate either a willful or a wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property. **Request for Final Agency Decision**

The Hearing Officer's recommendation is to either deny Ms. Johnson's law enforcement certification permanently, for a specified amount of time, or pursuant to such other conditions as may be deemed appropriate by Council.

Sheriff Foster made a motion to permanently deny Ms. Johnson's law enforcement certification. The motion was seconded by Attorney General Wilson. Council voted unanimously to permanently deny Ms. Johnson's eligibility for law enforcement certification.

## **Craig Johnson: 2019-CJA-02-04 (Greenville County Sheriff's Office)**

**Summary:** Allegation of willfully making false, misleading, incomplete, deceitful, or incorrect statements to a law enforcement officer, a law enforcement agency, or representative of the agency except when required by departmental policy or by the law of this State. **Request for Final Agency Decision**

The Hearing Officer's recommendation is to either deny Mr. Johnson's eligibility for law enforcement certification permanently, for a specified period of time, or pursuant to such other conditions as may be deemed appropriate by Council.

Attorney Vanessa Casen was in attendance to represent Mr. Johnson and to answer any questions from Council, if applicable.

The general counsel for Greenville County, Wesley Vorberger, was in attendance representing the agency and to answer any questions Council may have, if applicable.

After hearing statements from both attorneys, Council had questions answered by Mr. Vorberger and Ms. Casen in regards to the allegations of misconduct against Mr. Johnson.



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

---

Sheriff Foster made a motion to permanently deny Mr. Johnson's eligibility for law enforcement certification. The motion was seconded by Captain Gallam.

Prior to the voting process, Council had more questions answered by both attorneys. After having their questions sufficiently answered, a brief discussion ensued amongst Council.

Upon conclusion of discussion Council voted unanimously to permanently deny Mr. Johnson's eligibility for law enforcement certification.

## **Cedric Stokes: 2019-CJA-12-08 (Rock Hill Police Department)**

**Summary:** Allegation of willfully making false, misleading, incomplete, deceitful, or incorrect statements to a law enforcement officer, a law enforcement agency, or representative of the agency except when required by departmental policy or by the law of this State. **Request for Final Agency Decision**

The Hearing Officer's recommendation is to either deny Mr. Stokes' eligibility for law enforcement certification permanently, for a specified period of time, or pursuant to such other conditions as may be deemed appropriate by Council.

Lieutenant Robert Hefner was in attendance to represent Rock Hill Police Department and to answer any questions from Council, if applicable.

Director Thomas made a motion to permanently deny Mr. Stokes' eligibility for law enforcement certification. The motion was seconded by Director Stirling. Council voted unanimously to permanently deny Mr. Stokes' eligibility for law enforcement certification.

## **Nicholas Trevathan: 2019-CJA-08-10 (Atlantic Beach Police Department)**

**Summary:** Allegations of Unlawful Use of a Controlled Substance; physical or psychological abuses of members of the public and/or prisoners; dishonesty/untruthfulness with respect to his/her employer. **Request for Final Agency Decision**

The Hearing Officer recommended the contested case file in this matter be closed; the Personnel Change in Status Report: Notification of Separation Due to Misconduct filed by the Department in this matter be expunged, and Mr. Trevathan's certification file be updated in the records of the Criminal Justice Academy to reflect no outstanding allegations of misconduct based on the allegations reported by the Department in this matter.

The Atlantic Beach Police Department did not prosecute this matter.

Director Boyles made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. Attorney General Wilson seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and ordered the contested case file be closed and all records of this matter



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

---

be expunged and updated in Mr. Trevathan's Criminal Justice Academy file to reflect no outstanding allegations of misconduct.

**Patrick Roper: 2017-CJA-11-13 (Central Police Department)**

**Summary:** Allegations of dangerous/and or unsafe practices involving firearms, weapons, and/or vehicle which indicated either a willful or a wanton disregard for the safety of property.

**Request for Final Agency Decision**

The Hearing Officer's recommendation is that the contested case file in this matter be closed; the Personnel Change in Status Report: Notification of Separation Due to Misconduct filed by the Department in this matter be expunged, and Mr. Roper's certification file be updated in the records of the Criminal Justice Academy to reflect no outstanding allegations of misconduct based on the allegations reported by the Department in this matter.

The Central Police Department did not prosecute this matter.

Attorney Keith Denny was present to represent Mr. Roper and to answer any questions from Council, if applicable. Mr. Denny spoke on Mr. Roper's behalf and asked Council to uphold the recommendation of the Hearing Officer.

Captain Gallam made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. Director Boyles seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and ordered the contested case file be closed and all records of this matter be expunged and updated in Mr. Roper's Criminal Justice Academy file to reflect no outstanding allegations of misconduct.

**Shane Smith: 2018-CJA-08-10 (Folly Beach Police Department)**

**Summary:** Allegations of dangerous/and or unsafe practices involving firearms, weapons, and/or vehicle which indicated either a willful or a wanton disregard for the safety of property.

**Request for Final Agency Decision**

The Hearing Officer's recommendation is that the contested case file in this matter be closed; the Personnel Change in Status Report: Notification of Separation Due to Misconduct filed by the Department in this matter be expunged, and Mr. Smith's certification file be updated in the records of the Criminal Justice Academy to reflect no outstanding allegations of misconduct based on the allegations reported by the Department in this matter.

The Folly Beach Police Department did not prosecute this matter.

Attorney Blair Jennings was present to represent Mr. Smith and to answer any questions from Council, if applicable. Mr. Jennings spoke on Mr. Smith's behalf and asked Council to uphold the recommendation of the Hearing Officer.



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

Captain Gallam made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. Director Boyles seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and ordered the contest case file be closed and all records of this matter be expunged and updated in Smith's Criminal Justice Academy file to reflect no outstanding allegations of misconduct. ***Please note that Chief Keel recused himself from the voting process in this case.***

## **Douglas Smith: 2020-CJA-05-13 (Greenville County Detention Center)**

**Summary:** The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division notified the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy that Douglas Smith of the Greenville County Detention Center was arrested by the South Carolina Highway Patrol and charged with DUI 1<sup>st</sup> Offense .10 but less than .16. **Request for Suspension of Law Enforcement Certification**

Sheriff Foster made a motion to suspend Mr. Smith's law enforcement certification. The motion was seconded by Attorney General Wilson. Council voted unanimously to temporarily suspend Mr. Smith's law enforcement certification pending the outcome of the criminal charges.

## **Carla Grier: 2020-CJA-05-14 (Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center)**

**Summary:** The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division notified the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy that Carla Grier of the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center was arrested by the Richland County Sheriff's Office and charged with Assault and Battery 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree. **Request for Suspension of Law Enforcement Certification**

Sheriff Foster made a motion to suspend Ms. Grier's law enforcement certification. The motion was seconded by Attorney General Wilson. Council voted unanimously to temporarily suspend Ms. Grier's law enforcement certification pending the outcome of the criminal charges.

## **Creighton McDermott: 2020-CJA-05-16 (Charleston Police Department)**

**Summary:** The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division notified the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy that Creighton McDermott of the Charleston Police Department was arrested by the Charleston County Sheriff's Office and charged with Domestic Violence 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree. **Request for Suspension of Law Enforcement Certification**

Attorney General Wilson made a motion to suspend Mr. McDermott's law enforcement certification. The motion was seconded by Chief Taylor. Council voted unanimously to temporarily suspend Mr. McDermott's law enforcement certification pending the outcome of the criminal charges.

## **Gilitra Ruff: 2020-CJA-05-16 (Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center)**

**Summary:** The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division notified the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy that Gilitra Ruff of the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center was arrested



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

by the Lexington County Sheriff's Office and charged with Domestic Violence of a High and Aggravated Nature. **Request for Suspension of Law Enforcement Certification**

Attorney General Wilson made a motion to suspend Ms. Ruff's law enforcement certification. The motion was seconded by Director Thomas. Council voted unanimously to temporarily suspend Ms. Ruff's law enforcement certification pending the outcome of the criminal charges.

## **Nicholas Morella: 2019-CJA-03-16 (Summerville Police Department)**

**Summary:** The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division notified the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy that Nicholas Morella of the Summerville Police Department was arrested by the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office and charged with Burglary 1<sup>st</sup> Degree. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Training Council voted to temporarily suspend Mr. Morella's law enforcement certification pending the disposition of the charges.

The South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy was advised that the charge against Mr. Morella was dismissed, nolle prossed, or he was found not guilty on February 4, 2020. The charge was subsequently expunged from his record. **Request for Reinstatement of Law Enforcement Certification**

Director Stirling made a motion to reinstate Mr. Morella's law enforcement certification. The motion was seconded by Captain Gallam. Council voted unanimously to reinstate Mr. Morella's law enforcement certification.

## **Kevin Schlieben: 2019-CJA-11-12 (Charleston Police Department)**

**Summary:** The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division notified the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy that their agency arrested and charged Kevin Schlieben of the Charleston Police Department with Assault and Battery 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree. The South Carolina Training Council voted to temporarily suspend Mr. Schlieben's law enforcement certification pending the disposition of the criminal charges.

The South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy was advised that the charge against Mr. Schlieben was dismissed, nolle prossed, or he was found not guilty on March 12, 2020, and the charge was subsequently expunged from his record. **Request for Reinstatement of Law Enforcement Certification**

Captain Gallam made a motion to reinstate Mr. Schlieben's law enforcement certification. The motion was seconded by Director Thomas. Council voted unanimously to reinstate Mr. Schlieben's law enforcement certification. ***Please note that Chief Keel recused himself from the voting process in this case.***



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

## **Rickey Moore: 2020-CJA-06-03 (South Carolina Department of Mental Health)**

**Summary:** Mr. Moore was arrested by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety for DUI less than .10 First Offense. **Request for Suspension of Law Enforcement Certification**

Attorney General Wilson made a motion to suspend Mr. Moore's law enforcement certification. Director Boyles seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to temporarily suspend Mr. Moore's law enforcement certification pending the outcome of the criminal charges. ***Please note that Director Woods recused himself from the voting process in this case.***

## **Justin Cottingham: 2020-CJA-04-08 (South Carolina Department of Public Safety)**

**Summary:** Allegation(s) of 1) willfully making false, misleading, incomplete, deceitful, or incorrect statements to a law enforcement officer, a law enforcement agency, or a representative of the agency, except when required by departmental policy or by the laws of this State. 2) Willfully making false, misleading, incomplete, deceitful, or incorrect statements to any court of competent jurisdiction, or their staff members, whether under oath or not. 3) Willfully providing false, misleading, incomplete, deceitful or incorrect information on a document, record, report or form except when required by departmental policy or by the laws of this State.

The South Carolina Department of Public Safety submitted a PCS of Separation Due to Misconduct regarding Mr. Cottingham on April 28, 2020. The PCS of Separation Due to Misconduct cited Mr. Cottingham's date of separation as February 22, 2020. SCDPS advised that Cottingham was initially placed on suspension pending an investigation by their agency's Office of Professional Responsibility and SLED. Upon conclusion of the investigation, Mr. Cottingham was given his termination letter on April 24, 2020, with his termination date being retroactive to his suspension date of February 22, 2020. **Request to Accept Late PCS Due to Misconduct**

Director Boyles made a motion to accept the PCS Due to Misconduct. The motion was seconded by Attorney General Wilson. Council voted unanimously to accept the PCS Due to Misconduct. ***Please note that Director Woods recused himself from the voting process in this case.***

## **DISCUSSION/CLOSING REMARKS/ADJOURNMENT**

Chief Keel opened the discussion speaking on the recent events that had taken place surrounding the death of George Floyd and other deaths of that nature that continue to come up in the law enforcement profession.

Chief Keel stated that he has been closely following bills proposed by both Senator Graham and Senator Scott. Chief Keel has also been following various recommendations, suggestions and legislative issues that he believes will be presented to the SC General Assembly in the very near future.



## South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

---

Chief Keel has spoken with Representative Govan about a bill the Legislative Black Caucus is proposing and will be meeting with him later in the week. Chief Keel has also spoken with the executive directors of the SC Sheriffs Association and the SC Police Chiefs Associations/SC Law Enforcement Officers Association, Jarrod Bruder and Ryan Alphin, respectively, about proposals that he believes will make a difference in the law enforcement profession.

Over the last week, Chief Keel has spoken with Director Swindler and some members of Council, namely, Director Adger and Chief Taylor, about things Council can do now that will not take legislation. Issues Chief Keel emphasized were the following: 1) law enforcement agencies failing to prosecute misconduct cases their departments brought against their officers, 2) what is being taught in regards to neck restraint, 3) annual training on implicit bias, cultural diversity, sensitivity and de-escalation.

Chief Keel then opened the floor for suggestions and discussion.

Sheriff Foster made a suggestion for trainings such as cultural bias and de-escalation to be placed on ACADIS for officers to have continuous training on issues such as these annually. Sheriff Foster believes it is important to offer more training to do everything possible to keep these issues from occurring.

Chief Taylor agreed that trainings such as cultural bias and de-escalation need to be mandated, and he feels there needs to be more engaging forms of training.

Chief Keel agreed that annual training on these issues should be mandated and that the best solution to ensure all agencies and officers have access to this training is through ACADIS. While he agrees that officers would benefit from more engaging training versus watching videos, he is unsure of how it would be possible to have engaging training with the more than 12,000 commissioned officers in SC on an annual basis. If individual agencies brought in trainers to their departments to engage with their officers, as SLED has often done, these trainings would be credited to their officers as completing the required annual training. Another avenue departments could explore for receiving training in these areas is to connect with partners such as Federal law enforcement and the LECC.

Attorney General Wilson agreed with everything that had been said thus far in the discussion. In light of recent events such as Officer-Involved Shootings in Chester, SC and Atlanta, GA, and of course the shooting of George Floyd, Attorney General Wilson has been engaged in conversation with a number of legislators. He is certain that these issues will be addressed and recommendations and bills will be proposed in the upcoming legislative session. The SC Law Enforcement Training Council is the "board of trustees" for the SC law enforcement community, and Attorney General Wilson believes that Council needs to take the lead on tackling these issues. Attorney General Wilson agreed that there needs to be mandated training but agencies should not limit their training to only consist of what is required. Attorney General Wilson feels that each agency should go



## South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

beyond the mandated training to have their officers trained on these issues. It is important that agencies make it known to their local government and communities that they are participating in trainings on these issues because there is an obvious perception gap between what is actually happening and what the law enforcement community says it is doing.

Director Boyles agreed with all things that had been discussed. He also pledged his agencies willingness to support and participate in more training on these issues.

Chief Taylor stated that trainings such as Train the Trainer sessions would be great training for instructors.

Sheriff Foster mentioned that funding for these trainings needs to be addressed with the Legislature because bringing in instructors for outside training incurs cost, a cost that may not be doable for smaller agencies.

Director Stirling stated that his agency participated in a crisis intervention training, and the training was offered for free through the Department of Justice. While the class was time extensive, 40 hours, the training includes some interactive scenarios that officers will find useful when dealing with real on-the-job incidents.

Chief Keel sought clarity from James Fennell as to whether Council has the authority to mandate such trainings as de-escalation, implicit bias and cultural diversity. After Mr. Fennell confirmed that Council does have this authority, Chief Keel asked for a vote of Council on mandating these types of training. Chief Keel asked for a member of Council to make a motion to have the Academy staff begin working on an appropriate training that would cover the issues discussed.

Attorney General Wilson communicated that he would like the Academy to come up with an action plan to identify what kinds of revenue neutral training can be done on an agency level now while waiting for funds from the federal government and General Assembly. Additionally, Attorney General Wilson would like to see a drafted request to the Legislature for funding for the training needs of agencies to take SC law enforcement to the next level. Attorney General made a motion to that effect.

Chief Keel stated that he would also like the Academy to look at what is currently being taught in basic training regarding restraint techniques. Chief Keel then asked if any member of Council would like to second Attorney General Wilson's motion.

Sheriff Foster seconded the motion proposed by Attorney General Wilson. A roll call vote was taken, and Council voted unanimously to adopt the motion.

Discussion amongst Council continued.



## South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

Attorney General Wilson spoke on an Officer-Involved Shooting incident that took place in Chester a few months ago. This incident involved an off-duty officer who was working part time as a loss prevention employee at Walmart. The officer was wearing a Chester Police Department shirt with tactical pants and his service firearm issued by Chester Police Department. Bits and pieces of the incident were caught on the body-worn camera of an on-duty officer who had arrived at the scene of the incident.

People have voiced their concerns to Attorney General Wilson about whether officers should wear their body-worn-cameras while working part time/off duty hours and wearing a modified uniform and department issued service weapon. Attorney General Wilson has been told by several legislators that this matter will be addressed in the General Assembly in the upcoming session. Attorney General brought this before Council for some thought as to whether this is something to be discussed in the future.

Next, Council discussed imposing fees and fines on agencies who fail to prosecute misconduct allegations against their officers. Council agreed that these agencies need to be held responsible for not prosecuting misconduct allegations.

Sheriff Foster suggested there be a due process. Agencies who do not prosecute cases should be required to come before Council to give their reason(s) for not prosecuting allegations of misconduct.

Sheriff Faile stated that agencies who fail to prosecute misconduct allegations should be automatically fined with no other options given.

Chief Keel requested that Academy staff develop a document for Council to agree upon that outlines the process in which Council will handle imposing fees and fines on agencies who fail to prosecute misconduct allegations, in as much as is within the authority given to them.

Chief Taylor voiced his concern about granting law enforcement certification to individuals who completed PTI for serious offenses such as assault. PTI should not factor into decisions Council makes in regards to granting individuals law enforcement certification.

Sheriff Foster stated that Council does a good job of governing SC law enforcement and weeding out those who should not be in the profession. Unfortunately since most of the public is not aware of what Council does, the fact that the law enforcement community in SC does a great job of policing their own might never be known.

Chief Keel agreed and reiterated his request for the Academy to recommend some mandates in regards to the prosecution of misconduct allegations against officers.



## South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

Director Swindler stated that he would like to see agencies brought before Council who did not adhere to other regulations such as failing to check with former employing departments of officers, failing to check with SCCJA for officers' history, or for being untruthful in the process. Sanctions need to be imposed upon agencies who fail to adhere to these regulations.

Chief Keel agreed and in his opinion, a department that cannot adhere to regulations should not be a department. Chief Keel said that perhaps Legislature will give Council authority to appropriately deal with repeat offending agencies.

Next, Chief Keel asked James Fennell if Council has authority to require an officer involved in excessive use of force to take another psychological or "fit-for-duty" exam before the officer is allowed to go back to work. Mr. Fennell stated that he would check into this and report back to Council.

Sheriff Foster stated that the officers of his department are mandated to take another psychological exam in cases where they have been involved of excessive use-of-force.

Chief Keel then opened a discussion regarding neck restraint and where it should be on the use-of-force continuum. Chief Keel asked Deputy Director Mike Lanier (SCCJA) to speak on the matter.

Deputy Director stated that years ago a technique used to restrain suspects was the chokehold. Academy staff realized the problems this was causing and moved to using a technique termed the shoulder pin. The intent is to pin at least one arm above the individuals head, putting them in a disadvantageous position to keep them from continuing to fight or struggle. The officer does have the ability to control the pressure he applies. This technique also enables an assisting officer to easily put handcuffs on the suspect.

Deputy Director Lanier said one problem that he sees with this technique is that an individual could potentially pass out if an officer applies too much pressure. Deputy Director Lanier stressed the point that officers using these forms of restraining techniques must remain in control over themselves so they can understand when to stop. When the officer's actions are no longer to restrain and become punitive, then things go too far.

Deputy Director Lanier went on to say that part of the problem is the maturity level of the individuals involved in these incidents. Actions to bridge the gap in the maturity levels of this new generation of officers must be determined.

Chief Keel followed up with the question 'how do you teach maturity?' This is not something that can be taught through training.



## South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

Deputy Director Lanier responded by saying that while maturity cannot be taught, it can be pressed upon officers that they will be held fully accountable for their actions.

Chief Keel expressed his concern that incidents such as what happened to George Floyd will not be the last of its kind. With all of the legislation policies or procedures that may be put in place; these things will not be effective in changing a person's heart.

Chief Keel stated that it may come to a point in time where any techniques considered a chokehold may be banned altogether. Chief Keel has not reached a place where he wants to see this happen because he would like to leave every option open to officers fighting for their lives, the lives of fellow officers and the safety of the public. He stressed that officers need to be equipped with the right training and techniques to avoid causing unjust harm.

At the conclusion of discussion, Chief Keel asked if more discussion was needed on the topics brought forth or if anyone had any other topics to discuss.

When it was established that there was nothing more to discuss, Attorney General Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sheriff Foster seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scheri E. Francois". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Scheri E. Francois  
Executive Assistant