



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 20, 2021
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, September 20, 2021. This meeting was advertised in accordance with 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 10:05 a.m. Chief Keel called for a roll call of the Council members. The roll was called by Scheri Francois.

Members present for this meeting in-person were Chief Keel, State Law Enforcement Division (SLED); Director Robert Woods, S.C. Department of Public Safety; Director Robert Boyles, S.C. Department of Natural Resources; and Chief Tony Taylor, Williamston Police Department.

Members present via video/conference call were Sheriff Lee Foster (Co-Chair), Newberry County Sheriff's Office; Director Bryan Stirling, S.C. Department of Corrections; Sheriff Barry Faile, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office; Chief John Thomas, North Augusta Department of Public Safety; and Captain Nick Gallam, Aiken County Detention Center.

Members absent from the meeting were Attorney General Alan Wilson, S.C. Attorney General's Office and Director Jerry Adger, S.C. Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services. Attorney General Wilson was represented by proxy, Deputy Attorney General Barry Bernstein.

Guest attendees were JJ Jones, S.C. Police Chiefs Association/S.C. Law Enforcement Officers Association; Major Jim Stewart, Richland County Sheriff's Department; Joanne McDuffie, Esquire, Richland County Sheriff's Department; Phillip Trotter, Administrator, City of Pickens; Chief Randall Beach, Pickens Police Department; Captain Andrew Glover, North Charleston Police Department; Lieutenant Kelly Washburn, North Charleston Police Department; Joshua Hawkins, Esquire; Giles Schanen, Esquire; Scott Holmes; and Tariq Ramkalup.

SC Criminal Justice Academy attendees were Director Jackie Swindler; Scheri Francois, Executive Assistant; James Fennell, General Counsel; Lauren Fennell; Accreditation Manager; Justin Miller, IT Manager; and Christopher Brumlow, Investigator.



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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda Item 2

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Director Boyles and seconded by Director Woods. Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

APPROVAL FOR MEETING MINUTES

Agenda Item 3

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2021, meeting was made by Director Boyles and seconded by Director Woods. Council voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes as recorded.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Agenda Item 4

A. General Counsel Report

- Misconduct Cases

Lena Elrod: 2020-CJA-05-02 (Pickens PD) -

Summary: Allegation of 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. **Request for Final Agency Decision.**

Hearing Officer recommended that Council:

A) Issue its final agency decision, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-107 D., finding that the allegation of misconduct reported against Lena Elrod by the Pickens Police Department has not been proven by substantial evidence;

B) Approve, pursuant to the authority of Council set for at S.C. Code Ann. § 23-23-150 (G) (1), Lena Elrod's eligibility for certification as a law enforcement officer in the State of South Carolina; and

C) Expunge within thirty (30) days of the final agency decision in this matter, pursuant to the requirements of S.C. Code Ann. § 23-23-150 (M), all evidence related to the allegation of misconduct filed against Lena Elrod by the Pickens Police Department.

Attorney Joshua Hawkins attended this meeting to represent Ms. Elrod and to answer questions from Council, if applicable.



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Attorney Giles Schanen attended this meeting to represent the Pickens Police Department and to answer questions from Council, if applicable.

After hearing statements from both attorneys, Director Boyles made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and grant Ms. Elrod eligibility for law enforcement certification. Director Woods seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and granted Ms. Elrod eligibility for law enforcement certification.

Scott Holmes: 2018-CJA-12-03 Edgefield Co. Det. Ctr.)-

Summary: Allegation of physical or psychological abuses of members of the public and/or prisoners. **Request for Final Agency Decision.**

Hearing Officer recommended that Council:

A) Issue its final agency decision, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-107 D., finding that the allegation of misconduct reported against Scott Holmes by the Edgefield County Detention Center has not been proven by substantial evidence;

B) Approve, pursuant to the authority of Council set for at S.C. Code Ann. § 23-23-150 (G) (1), Scott Holmes' eligibility for certification as a law enforcement officer in the State of South Carolina; and

C) Expunge within thirty (30) days of the final agency decision in this matter, pursuant to the requirements of S.C. Code Ann. § 23-23-150 (M), all evidence related to the allegation of misconduct filed against Scott Holmes by the Edgefield County Detention Center.

Scott Holmes attended this meeting to speak on his own behalf and to answer questions from Council, if applicable.

After hearing a statement from Mr. Holmes regarding the misconduct allegation made by the Edgefield County Detention Center, Sheriff Foster 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 granted Mr. Holmes eligibility for law enforcement certification.

Tariq Ramkalup: No assigned case number (N. Charleston PD) -

Summary: Tariq Ramkalup is a Class 1 officer candidate with the North Charleston Police Department. In 2016, Mr. Ramkalup was convicted in New York for Assault and Battery 3rd Degree, which carries a sentence of one-year, and was sentenced to three (3) years' probation. S.C. Code Ann 23-23-60 (B)(4) states: "evidence satisfactory to the director that the applicant has not been convicted of any criminal offense which carries a sentence of one year or more or of any



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criminal offense that involves moral turpitude. Forfeiture of bond, a guilty plea, or a plea of nolo contendere is considered the equivalent of a conviction.” Further inquiry was conducted into the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident for which he was arrested and convicted.

Request for Eligibility.

Tariq Ramkalup attended this meeting to speak on his own behalf and to answer any questions from Council, if applicable.

Captain Andrew Glover and Lieutenant Kelly Washburn of the North Charleston Police Department attended this meeting to petition on behalf of Mr. Ramkalup and to answer any questions from Council, if applicable.

Council had an in-depth discussion regarding the criminal charges and conviction of Mr. Ramkalup. During this discussion, Council was addressed by Mr. Ramkalup, Captain Glover, and Lieutenant Washburn. Council also had questions answered by James Fennell.

Upon conclusion of discussion, Director Boyles made a motion to grant Mr. Ramkalup eligibility for law enforcement certification due to evidence of good character. The motion was seconded by Director Woods. With a vote of 5-4, with the majority voting ‘Yes’, the motion passed, and Mr. Ramkalup was granted eligibility for law enforcement certification.

B. Director’s Comments

Director Swindler

Director Swindler gave updates on Covid as it relates to Academy staff and students, classes, training, and updates on filling Academy positions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Agenda Item 5

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item 6

There was no new business to discuss.

CLOSING REMARKS/AJOURNMENT

Agenda Item 7

Director Stirling gave an update on SCDC inmate and staff Covid cases.



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When there were no more remarks, Director Woods made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

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