



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

## SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 27, 2023  
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, February 27, 2023. 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 10:02 a.m. Chief Keel called for a roll call of the Council members. The roll was called by Scheri Eichelberger.

Members present for this meeting in-person were Chief Keel, State Law Enforcement Division (SLED); Director Jerry Adger, S.C. Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services; Director Bryan Stirling, S.C. Department of Corrections; Director Robert Woods, S.C. Department of Public Safety; and Chief Kevin Cornett, Isle of Palms Police Department.

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

Attorney General Alan Wilson, S.C. Attorney General's Office and Director Robert Boyles, S.C. Department of Natural Resources were absent from this meeting but represented by proxy, Deputy Attorney General Jeff Young and Colonel Chisolm Frampton, respectively.

Guest attendees were Jarrod Bruder, S.C. Sheriffs Association; Mark Gosnell, S.C. Troopers Association; JJ Jones, S.C. Law Enforcement Officers Association/S.C. Police Chiefs Association; Joanna McDuffie, Esquire, Richland County Sheriff's Department; Marcus Gore, Esquire, S.C. Department of Public Safety; and Ryan K. Hicks, Esquire.

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



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## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Director Stirling. Director Adger seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

## APPROVAL FOR MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2023, meeting was made by Director Stirling and seconded by Sheriff Faile. Council voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes as recorded.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### A. General Counsel Report

#### - Misconduct Cases

#### **Tremelia Gore: 2022-CJA-10-02 (Horry County PD) (Prosecutorial Discretion) –**

**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. Order that the contested case file in this matter be closed; and
- B. Order, pursuant to the requirements of S.C. Code Ann. § 23-23-150 (M), that the “Personnel Change in Status Report: Notification of Separation Due to Misconduct” filed by the Department in this matter be expunged, and that the certification file of the Officer 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.

Attorney Ryan Hicks attended this meeting to represent Tremelia Gore and answer questions from Council, if applicable.

After hearing a statement from Mr. Hicks, Director Adger made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. Director Woods seconded the motion.



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After a brief discussion and having questions answered by James Fennell regarding the allegation against Ms. Gore and the Horry County Police Department's failure to prosecute the allegation, Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and granted Tremelia Gore eligibility for law enforcement certification.

**Thad Morgan: 2022-CJA-09-03 (Horry County PD) (Prosecutorial Discretion) –**

**Summary:** Allegation(s) of misrepresentation of employment-related information; and 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; and willfully providing false, misleading, incomplete, deceitful, or incorrect information on a document, record, report, form, except when required by departmental policy or by the laws of this State. **Request for Final Agency Decision.**

Hearing Officer recommended that Council:

- A. Order that the contested case file in this matter be closed; and
- B. Order, pursuant to the requirements of S.C. Code Ann. § 23-23-150 (M), that the "Personnel Change in Status Report: Notification of Separation Due to Misconduct" filed by the Department in this matter be expunged, and that the certification file of the Officer 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.

There was no representation for the officer nor the Department at this meeting.

Director Stirling made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. Director Adger seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and granted Thad Morgan eligibility for law enforcement certification.

**Gregory Woods: 2022-CJA-08-05 (Fairfield County Detention Center) –**

**Summary:** Allegation of misrepresentation of employment-related information. **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 Gregory Woods by the Fairfield County Detention Center has not been proven by the preponderance of the evidence; and



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- B. 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 allegation of misconduct filed against Gregory Woods by the Fairfield County Detention Center.

There was no representation for the officer nor the Department in this meeting.

For the purpose of discussion, Director Adger made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. Director Woods seconded the motion.

Prior to the voting process, Council had a brief discussion regarding their concerns with the nature of the filing of the allegation made by the Fairfield County Detention Center against Mr. Woods.

During this discussion, Council had questions answered by James Fennell regarding the scope of Council's ability to make a differing determination in the case other than what the Hearing Officer recommended.

After it was determined that Council was limited to either adopting or not adopting the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and could make no other recommendations, Director Adger amended his motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer due to being limited by the nature of the way the allegation against Mr. Woods was filed by the Fairfield County Detention Center. Chief Cornett seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and granted Gregory Woods eligibility for law enforcement certification. *Please note that Director Stirling recused himself from the voting process in this case.*

### **Jeremy Vinson: 2023-CJA-01-10 (Great Falls PD) –**

**Summary:** The South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy received information that Jeremy Vinson was arrested by SLED and charged with Misconduct in Office. **Request for Suspension.**

Chief Cornett made a motion to temporarily suspend Jeremy Vinson's law enforcement certification. Director Woods seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to temporarily suspend Jeremy Vinson's law enforcement certification pending the outcome of the Misconduct in Office charge. *Please note that Chief Keel recused himself from the voting process in this case.*

### **Scott Yurchuck: 2023-CJA-02-07 (Lander University Public Safety) –**

**Summary:** The South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy received information that Scott Yurchuck was arrested by the South Carolina Highway Patrol and charged with Driving Under the Influence. **Request for Suspension.**



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Director Stirling made a motion to temporarily suspend Scott Yurchuck's law enforcement certification. Sheriff Faile seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to suspend Mr. Yurchuck's law enforcement certification pending outcome of the criminal charges.

## **Creighton McDermott: 2020-CJA-05-15 (Charleston PD) –**

**Summary:** McDermott was arrested by the Charleston County Sheriff's Office. Council voted to temporarily suspend Mr. McDermott's law enforcement certification pending the disposition of the charges.

Documentation was provided to the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy advising the charges against Mr. McDermott were dismissed and expunged from his record and the dismissal was pursuant to successful completion of Pre-Trial Intervention. **Request for Reinstatement.**

Director Stirling made a motion to reinstate Creighton McDermott's law enforcement certification. Director Adger seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to reinstate Creighton McDermott's law enforcement certification.

## **David Eck: 2020-CJA-02-16 (South Carolina Highway Patrol) –**

**Summary:** David Eck was charged by SLED for Assault and Battery 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree.

The charges against David Eck were dismissed and the dismissal was not pursuant to Pre-Trial Intervention. **Request for Reinstatement.**

*It should be noted that Mr. Eck currently has an outstanding allegation of certification misconduct filed against him by the South Carolina Highway Patrol and the re-instatement request is to allow him to request a contested case hearing to adjudicate the misconduct allegation.*

Director Stirling made a motion to reinstate Mr. Eck's law enforcement certification. Chief Cornett seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to reinstate David Eck's law enforcement certification to allow for a contested hearing to adjudicate the misconduct allegation, if Mr. Eck so chooses. ***Please note that Chief Keel and Director Wood's recused themselves from the voting process in this case.***

## **B. Director's Comments**

Director Swindler

Director Swindler gave updates on capital projects at the Academy.



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Director Swindler gave updates on basic training classes, Physical Abilities and Cumulative testing, and student performance.

Director Swindler also gave an update on vacant Academy positions.

Lastly, Director Swindler gave updates on the progress of the new Evaluators and the work they have already begun regarding auditing agencies for compliance.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to discuss.

## **CLOSING REMARKS/AJOURNMENT**

Chief Keel asked Director Stirling and Captain Gallam to gather information for Council's discussion of possibly adding language to the Training Act to account for misconduct situations that are currently not addressed in the Act for detention officers.

Chief Keel then opened the door for any closing remarks or comments.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Scheri C. Eichelberger  
Executive Assistant