



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 26, 2024
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 26, 2024. 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 10:01 a.m. Chief Keel called for a roll call of the Council members. The roll was called by Opel Bunn.

Members present for this meeting in-person were Chief Mark Keel, (Chairman), State Law Enforcement Division (SLED); Director Robert Boyles, S.C. Department of Natural Resources; and Chief William Holbrook, Columbia Police Department.

Members present via video/conference call were Sheriff Lee Foster (Co-Chair), Newberry County Sheriff's Office; Attorney General Alan Wilson, S.C. Attorney General's Office, Sheriff Barry Faile, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office; Chief Kevin Cornett, Isle of Palms Police Department; Captain Nick Gallam, Aiken County Detention Center; and Director Bryan Stirling, S.C. Department of Corrections.

Acting Director Jodi Gallman, S.C. Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services was absent from this meeting but was represented by proxy, Ben Aplin.

Director Robert Woods, S.C. Department of Public Safety was absent from this meeting but was represented by proxy, Mike Oliver.

Chief Keel introduced the newest member of the Council, Chief Holbrook of the Columbia Police Department. He was in attendance at this meeting.

Guest attendees present in-person or via Webex were JJ Jones, S.C. Law Enforcement Officers Association/S.C. Police Chiefs Association; Deputy Chief Jim Stewart, Richland County Sheriff's Department; Joanna McDuffie, Esquire, Richland County Sheriff's Department; Marcus Gore, Esquire, S.C. Department of Public Safety; Captain Moye, Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center; Stephanie Bowman; John Steadman, Esquire, S.C. Department of Corrections; Henley Ellis, S. C. Department of Corrections; Karen Holden, S.C. Department of Corrections; Efrain Pellot; Scotty



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Bodiford, Jail Administrator, Greenville County Detention Center; Jeanette Hall, Greenville County Detention Center; Makayla Collins, Greenville County Detention Center; Juan Fures, Greenville County Detention Center; Logan Royals, Esquire, S.C. Department of Mental Health; April Drakeford; John Klein; MaryBeth Mullaney, Esquire; Matthew Sewell; John O’Leary, Esquire; Detective Sergeant Thomas Aiken, Travelers Rest Police Department; Chief Ben Ford, Travelers Rest Police Department; Chief Quinton Joyner, Ridgeville Police Department; and Thomas Muckelvaney, Ridgeville Police Department.

SC Criminal Justice Academy attendees were Director Jackie Swindler; Opel Bunn, Executive Assistant; James Fennell, General Counsel; Lauren Fennell, Accreditation and Standards Manager; Madison Reynolds, Certification; Justin Miller, IT Manager; Briana Jirowetz, IT; Major Florence McCants, Administrative Operations; and Scott Deckard, Investigator.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Director Boyles. Sheriff Faile 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 24, 2024, meeting was made by Director Boyles and seconded by Sheriff Faile. Council voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes as recorded.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

A. General Counsel Report

- Misconduct Cases

Rayonna Johnson (2021-CJA-08-05) (Alvin S. Glenn Det. Center) (Prosecutorial Discretion)

Summary: The Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center wished to exercise prosecutorial discretion pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 23-23-150 (B) (2) and declining to prosecute the misconduct allegation. **Request for Final Agency Decision.**

The Hearing Officer Recommended that Council:

A. Order that the contested case file in this matter be closed; and



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- 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.

Rayonna Johnson was not present in this meeting.

Captain Moye was present and spoke on behalf of the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from Captain Moye, Director Boyles made a motion for the purpose of discussion. Sheriff Foster seconded the motion.

After a brief discussion, Sheriff Foster made a motion to defer action on this item to receive additional guidance from legal counsel. Attorney General Wilson seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to defer action on this item to receive additional guidance from legal counsel.

Stephanie Bowman (2023-CJA-06-04) (South Carolina Department of Corrections)

Summary: Allegation(s) of engaging in the unlawful use of a controlled substance. **Request for Final Agency Decision.**

The 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 Stephanie Bowman by the South Carolina Department of Corrections have been proven by preponderance of the evidence; and
- B. Impose such sanction as the Council in its discretion deems appropriate pursuant to its authority set forth at S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-108 A.

Stephanie Bowman was present and spoke on her behalf and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

John Steadman, Esquire, was present and spoke on behalf of the S.C. Department of Corrections and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.



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After hearing statements from all parties, Director Boyles made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Stephanie Bowman's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Captain Gallam seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Stephanie Bowman's eligibility for law enforcement certification. ***Please note that Director Stirling recused himself from the voting process in this case.***

Efrain Pellot (2023-CJA-06-12) (Greenville County Detention Center)

Summary: Allegation(s) of engaging in the physical or psychological abuses of members of the public or prisoners as well as the willful use of excessive force in an objectively unreasonable manner. **Request for Final Agency Decision.**

The 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 Efrain Pellot by the Greenville County Detention Center has been not proven by a preponderance of the evidence; and
- B. Expunge within (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 allegations of misconduct filed against Efrain Pellot by the Greenville County Detention Center.

Efrain Pellot was present and spoke on his behalf and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

Scotty Bodiford was present and spoke on behalf of the Greenville County Detention Center and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from all parties, Director Boyles made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to expunge the record of misconduct within thirty (30) days and grant Efrain Pellot's continued eligibility for law enforcement certification. Sheriff Foster seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to expunge the record of misconduct within thirty (30) days and grant Efrain Pellot's continued eligibility for law enforcement certification.



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Tyler Parks (2023-CJA-01-04) (South Carolina Department of Mental Health)

Summary: Allegation(s) of the dangerous or unsafe practices involving firearms, weapons, or vehicles which indicate either a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property and an arrest for Malicious Injury to Personal Property. **Request for Final Agency Decision.**

The 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 filed against Officer by the Department has been proven by the preponderance of evidence; and
- B. Impose such sanction as the Council in its discretion deems appropriate pursuant to its authority set forth at S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-108 A.

Tyler Parks was not present in this meeting.

Logan Royals, Esquire was present and spoke on behalf of the S.C. Department of Mental Health and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from all parties, Director Boyles made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Tyler Park's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Director Stirling seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Tyler Park's eligibility for law enforcement certification.

April Drakeford (2023-CJA-08-04) (South Carolina Department of Corrections)

Summary: Allegation(s) of engaging in the unlawful use of a controlled substance. **Request for Final Agency Decision.**

The Hearing Officer Recommended that the 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 April Drakeford by the South Carolina Department of Corrections have been proven by preponderance of the evidence; and
- B. Impose such sanction as the Council in its discretion deems appropriate pursuant to its authority set forth at S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-108 A.



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April Drakeford was present and spoke on her behalf and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

John Steadman, Esquire, was present and spoke on behalf of the S.C. Department of Corrections and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from all parties, Captain Gallam made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny April Drakeford's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Sheriff Faile seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny April Drakeford's eligibility for law enforcement certification. *Please note that Director Stirling recused himself from the voting process in this case.*

John Klein (2023-CJA-01-01) (Beaufort County Sheriff's Office) (Prosecutorial Discretion)

Summary: The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office wished to exercise prosecutorial discretion pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 23-23-150 (B) (2) and declining to prosecute the misconduct allegation. **Request for Final Agency Decision.**

The 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.

John Klein was present in this meeting.

Marybeth Mullaney, Esquire, was present and spoke on behalf of Mr. Klein and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

There was no representation for the Department was present at this meeting.

After hearing statements from Marybeth Mullaney, Esquire, Director Boyles made a motion to defer action on this item to receive additional guidance from legal counsel. Sheriff Foster seconded the motion.



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Council voted unanimously to defer action on this item to receive additional guidance from legal counsel.

Russell Young (2023-CJA-09-18) (Timmons Police Department)

Summary: Allegation(s) of engaging in the physical or psychological abuses of members of the public or prisoners. **Request for Final Agency Decision.**

The Hearing Officer Recommended that the 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 Russell J. Young by the Timmons Police Department has not been proven by a preponderance of the evidence; and
- B. Expunge within (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 allegations of misconduct filed against Russell Young by the Timmons Police Department.

Russell Young was not present in this meeting.

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

Director Boyles made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to expunge the record of misconduct within thirty (30) days and grant Russell Young's continued eligibility for law enforcement certification. Sheriff Faile seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to expunge the record of misconduct within thirty (30) days and grant Russell Young's continued eligibility for law enforcement certification.

Matthew Sewell (2022-CJA-12-09) (Travelers Rest Police Department)

Summary: Allegation(s) 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.**

The Hearing Officer Recommended that Council:



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- A. Issue its final agency decision, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-107 D. finding that the allegation of misconduct filed against Matthew Sewell by the Travelers Rest Police Department has been proven by the preponderance of evidence; and
- B. Impose such sanction as the Council in its discretion deems appropriate pursuant to its authority set forth at S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-108 A.

Matthew Sewell was present and spoke on his behalf and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

Chief Ben Ford and Detective Sergeant Thomas Aiken were present and spoke on behalf of the Travelers Rest Police Department and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from all parties, Director Boyles made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Matthew Sewell's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Sheriff Faile seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Matthew Sewell's eligibility for law enforcement certification.

Quinton Joyner (2024-CJA-02-07) Ridgeville Police Department

Summary: The officer is found to be ineligible for service as a law enforcement officer because of his or her failure to meet prerequisite qualifications for training and certification, as set by law, even though such ineligibility was not discovered until after the officer's initial certification. The officer willfully falsified material information provided to the Criminal Justice Academy. **Request for Withdrawal.**

Chief Quinton Joyner was present and spoke on his behalf and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After a brief discussion, Director Boyles made a motion to withdraw Chief Quinton Joyner's certification for law enforcement. Sheriff Faile seconded the motion.

D. Director's Comments

Director Swindler

Director Swindler gave updates on Cohort 1 and Cohort 2 at the EPPS University of South Carolina Law School.



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Director Swindler also gave an update regarding testing, training, class sizes and graduation rates.

OLD BUSINESS

There was unfinished business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

CLOSING REMARKS/AJOURNMENT

Chief Keel inquired whether there were any more questions or comments from Council.

When there were no more remarks or comments, Sheriff Foster made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Captain Gallam seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Opel C. Bunn

Opel C. Bunn