



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

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SOUTH CAROLINA  
LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 21, 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 Wednesday, July 21, 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 10:01 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); Sheriff Lee Foster (Co-Chair), Newberry County Sheriff's Office; Director Robert Woods, S.C. Department of Public Safety; Chief Tony Taylor, Williamston Police Department.

Members present via video/conference call were Attorney General Alan Wilson, S.C. Attorney General's Office; Director Jerry Adger, S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services; Director Bryan Stirling, S.C. Department of Corrections; Director Robert Boyles, S.C. Department of Natural Resources; Chief John Thomas, North Augusta Department of Public Safety; Captain Nick Gallam, Aiken County Detention Center.

Sheriff Barry Faile, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office, was absent from this meeting.

Guest attendees were Deputy Attorney General Barry Bernstein, S.C. Attorney General's Office; Jarrod Bruder, S.C. Sheriffs Association; Mark Gosnell, S.C Troopers Association; Marcus Gore, Esquire, S.C. Department of Public Safety; JJ Jones, S.C. Police Chiefs Association/S.C. Law Enforcement Officers Association; Douglas Barfield, Esquire, Chester County Sheriff's Office; Ryan Hicks, Esquire; J. Paul Porter, Esquire; Matthew Lafave, Esquire; Town of Pine Ridge; Ronald Ivey; Amir Johnson; Ryan Davis; and Re-Na Miller.

SC Criminal Justice Academy attendees were Director Jackie Swindler; Scheri Francois, Executive Assistant; James Fennell, General Counsel; Justin Miller, IT Manager; Christopher Brumlow, Investigator; Timothy Plunkett, Attorney/Instructor; John Yarborough, Facilities Operation Manager; and Tom McQueen, Finance Manager.



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## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Prior to a motion being made to adopt the agenda, Chief Keel suggested that the viewing of the Open Carry video be added as an item on the agenda. Upon a motion made by Director Boyles and seconded by Director Woods, Council voted unanimously to amend and adopt the agenda to include the viewing of the Open Carry video.

## **APPROVAL FOR MEETING MINUTES**

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

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 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

#### **Ronald Ivey: 2020-CJA-09-05 (Chester Co. SO) -**

**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 Ronald Ivey by the Chester County Sheriff's Office has been proven by substantial evidence; and
- B) Deny Ronald Ivey eligibility for certification as a law enforcement officer in the State of South Carolina, either permanently, for a specified period of time, or pursuant to such other conditions as may be deemed appropriate by Council, pursuant to its authority set forth at S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-108 A.

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

Attorney Douglas A. Barfield attended this meeting to represent the agency and answer questions from Council, if applicable.



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After hearing from Mr. Ivey and Mr. Barfield, Director Adger made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. Chief Taylor seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer to permanently deny Mr. Ivey's eligibility for law enforcement certification. ***Please note that Sheriff Foster recused himself from the voting process in this case.***

### **Thomas Lovingood: 2020-CJA-03-01 (Pickens Co. Det. Ctr.)-**

**Summary:** Allegation of willfully making false, misleading, incomplete, deceitful, or incorrect statement 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 Thomas C. Lovingood by the Pickens County Detention Center have been proven by substantial 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.

Director Boyles made a motion to permanently deny eligibility for law enforcement certification. Director Stirling seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to permanently deny Mr. Lovingood's eligibility for law enforcement certification.

### **Amir Johnson: 2020-CJA-09-10 (Allendale PD) -**

**Summary:** Allegation of physical or psychological abuse 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 allegations of misconduct reported against Amir Johnson by the Allendale Police Department have not been proven by substantial evidence; and
- 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 the allegations of misconduct filed against Amir Johnson by the Allendale Police Department.

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



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After hearing from Mr. Johnson, Director Adger made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. Director Woods seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and grant Mr. Johnson continued eligibility for law enforcement certification. ***Please note that Chief Keel recused himself from the voting process in this case.***

### **Isaiah Spearing: 2020-CJA-04-04 (North Charleston PD)-**

**Summary:** Allegations of physical or psychological abuse of members of the public and/or prisoners; dangerous and/or unsafe practices involving firearms, weapons and/or vehicle which indicated either a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of property; 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 filed against Isaiah Spearing by the North Charleston Police Department has been proven by substantial evidence; and
- B. Impose such sanctions as the Council in its discretion deems appropriate pursuant to its authority set forth at S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-108 A.

Captain Gallam made a motion to permanently deny eligibility for law enforcement certification. Sheriff Foster seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to permanently deny Mr. Spearing's eligibility for law enforcement certification.

### **Ryan Davis: 2020-CJA-09-09 (SCPPP) –**

**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 the 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 an allegation of misconduct reported against Ryan Davis by the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services has been proven by substantial evidence; and
- B. Determine a fitting and appropriate sanction regarding Ryan Davis's continuing eligibility for certification as a law enforcement officer in the State of South Carolina, pursuant to the authority set for at S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-108 A.



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

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

Attorney Octavia Wright attended this meeting to represent the agency and answer questions from Council, if applicable.

After hearing from Mr. Davis and both attorneys, Director Woods made a motion to permanently deny eligibility for law enforcement certification. Director Boyles seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to permanently deny Mr. Davis's eligibility for law enforcement certification. ***Please note that Director Adger abstained from the voting process in this case.***

## **Keith Parks:2020-CJA-10-24 (Pine Ridge PD)-**

**Summary:** Allegations of misrepresentation of employment-based 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. **Request for Final Agency Decision.**

Hearing Officer recommended that Council:

- A. Deny the Respondent's motion for directed verdict based on alleged defects in the October 30, 2020, Personnel Change in Status Report (Misconduct);
- B. Issue its final agency decision, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-107 D., finding that the allegations of misconduct reported against Keith Parks by the Pine Ridge Police Department has been proven by substantial evidence; and
- C. Determine a fitting and appropriate sanction regarding Keith Parks' continuing eligibility for certification as a law enforcement officer in the State of South Carolina, pursuant to the authority set forth at S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-108 A.

Attorney J. Paul Porter attended this meeting to represent Mr. Parks and answer questions from Council, if applicable.

Attorney Matthew Lafave attended this meeting to represent the agency and answer questions from Council.

After hearing from both attorneys, Director Boyles made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. Sheriff Foster seconded the motion.



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Prior to the voting process, Director Stirling made a motion to enter an Executive Session to get legal advice from General Counsel James Fennell. Director Woods seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously and entered an Executive Session at 11:28 am.

The meeting was reconvened after Council ended Executive Session at 11:54 am.

Upon reconvening, the voting process based upon Director Boyles's motion took place. Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and permanently denied Mr. Parks' eligibility for law enforcement certification. *Please note that Chief Keel recused himself from the voting process in this case.*

## **ReNa Miller: 2021-CJA-02-03 (SCCJA) – 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 against ReNa Miller has been proven by substantial evidence; and
- B. Deny permanently ReNa Miller eligibility for certification as a law enforcement officer in the State of South Carolina, pursuant to the authority set forth at S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-108(A)(1).

Mr. Miller attended the meeting to speak on his own behalf and answer questions from Council, if applicable.

Mr. Timothy Plunkett attended this meeting to represent the agency and answer from Council, if applicable.

After hearing from Mr. Miller and Mr. Plunkett, Sheriff Foster made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. Captain Gallam seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer to permanently deny Mr. Miller's eligibility for law enforcement certification. *Please note that Chief Keel recused himself from the voting process in this case.*

## **B. Financial Update**

Tom McQueen



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

The Academy finished the year with a decline in Fees & Fines revenue of \$291,000 (6%) compared with the prior year. Through April, the Academy was more than a million dollars lower than the prior year. Then, May and June had receipts that far exceeded expectations by \$726,000. By not having advanced students on campus, the Miscellaneous revenue also declined \$162,000 (74%). However, we continue to receive the \$5 Surcharge funds receiving \$84,000 this year which is \$19,000 more than last year. It is anticipated that by the time the books are closed for FY2021, the Academy will carryforward \$750,000 of General Fund monies, have \$25,000 more in Fees & Fines money and \$78,000 more in \$5 Surcharge money than we began the year with.

Increases in salaries, fringes and new hires increased payroll expenses \$75,000 for the year while other expenditures for the Agency increased only \$116,000, so the Academy remains cognizant of its spending and remaining within the amounts received for the year.

In the FY2022 budget, the Academy was given \$383,135 to replace HVAC units in Buildings 10 & 11; \$ 302,500 for Target System Upgrades; \$ 1,682,000 for FATS Training Building and replacing Building 4; \$ 632,500 for a Paving Project and \$ 2,750,000 for an Emergency Generator for Academy Main Building. Additionally, we were granted an increase in our Federal funds authorization of \$128,000 and \$255,718 for step increases for the instructors.

## **C. Capital Project Update**

John Yarborough

### **Basic Training Village**

We are in the process of getting bids to install awnings over all entrances on the sprung buildings to prevent rain from entering the doors and destroying the carpet.

### **Capital Projects**

Funded projects for this fiscal year are:

- Replace the HVAC systems in buildings 10 and 11.
- Target system upgrade on range 3.
- Replace 3 modular buildings (F.A.T.S., Forensics, and building 4.)
- Repave the parking lot and pave the gravel parking lot between buildings 4 and 7.
- Install an emergency generator for the main building.

## **D. Director's Comments**

Director Swindler



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Director Swindler gave updates on advanced training, basic law enforcement classes, basic detention classes, and training of Class 3 officers.

Director Swindler gave employee updates regarding positions that had been vacated and subsequently filled since the last quarter.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### ***Agenda Item 5***

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Agenda Item 6***

Council viewed the Open Carry video. After viewing the video, Sheriff Foster made a motion to accept the video and make it a mandated training for all law enforcement officers. Director Boyles seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the video and mandatory viewing as part of training for all law enforcement officers.

## **CLOSING REMARKS/AJOURNMENT**

### ***Agenda Item 7***

When there were no more comments, Sheriff Foster made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Scheri E. Francois  
Executive Assistant