



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

## SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

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, April 23, 2025. 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 Debbie Bryant.

Members present for this meeting in-person were Chief Mark Keel, (Chairman), State Law Enforcement Division (SLED); Director Bryan Stirling, S.C. Department of Corrections; Director Jake Gadsden, S.C. Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services; Director Robert Woods, S.C. Department of Public Safety; Chief Kevin Cornett, Isle of Palms Police Department; Major Nick Gallam, Aiken County Detention Center; and Chief William Holbrook, Columbia Police Department.

Attorney General Alan Wilson, S.C. Attorney General's Office was absent from this meeting but was represented by proxy, Deputy Attorney General Jeff Young.

Members present for this meeting via video/conference call were Sheriff Lee Foster (Co-Chair), Newberry County Sheriff's Office; Director Tom Mullikin, S.C. Department of Natural Resources; and Sheriff Barry Faile, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office.

Guest attendees present for this meeting in-person or via video/conference call were JJ Jones, S.C. Law Enforcement Officers Association/S.C. Police Chiefs Association; Mark Gosnell, S.C. Troopers Association; Marcus Gore, Esquire, S.C. Department of Public Safety; Chief Kenneth D. Phelps, S.C. Department of Public Safety; Belita Salters; Michael Nunn, Esquire, Florence County Sheriff's Office; Morgan Ridges; Monroe Bragg, Warden, Marlboro County Detention Center; Charles Gent; Johnny Evans, Esquire; Octavia Wright, Esquire, S.C. Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services; Allison Avinger, S.C. Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services; Cory James; Samantha Farlow-Moyd, Esquire, Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office; Jason Crawford; Jack Cohoon, Esquire; Joanna McDuffie, Esquire, Richland County Sheriff's Department; James L. Evans, Jr, Richland County Sheriff's Department; Stephanie Sturdivant; Zachary Morris; Rame Campbell, Esquire, Anderson Police Department; Chief Jim Stewart,



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Anderson Police Department; Randall Human, Anderson Police Department; Melissa Kelley, Anderson Police Department; Robert Crawford; Ryan Hicks, Esquire, S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice Police Department; Luke McConnell; Josh Bench, Iva Police Department; Scott Hayes, Esquire; Taylor Smith, Esquire, Horry County Police Department; and Chief Harold Wadford, St. Stephen Police Department.

SC Criminal Justice Academy attendees present for this meeting were Director Jackie Swindler; Debbie Bryant, Human Resources Director; James Fennell, General Counsel; Major Lauren Fennell, Accreditation and Standards Manager; Lauren Wright, Finance Director; Captain Chris Eunice, Basic Training Coordinator; Madison Reynolds, Legal Unit; Justin Miller, IT Manager; Jared Lee, IT; Major Florence McCants, Administrative Operations; Bob Bianco, Evaluator; and Scott Deckard, Investigator.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Chief Holbrook. Chief Cornett seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

## **APPROVAL FOR MEETING MINUTES**

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

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2025, meeting was made by Director Woods and seconded by Director Stirling. Council voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes as recorded.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

#### **A. Financial Updates**

#### **Lauren Wright**

Fines and fees revenues as of the end of the third quarter of FY2025 have continued to increase, coming in at 5% over the third quarter of FY2024. Current revenue levels exceed yearly other fund expenditures. SCCJA ended the third quarter of FY2025 with expenditures 1% below the same time last year.



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Lauren advised that SCCJA stopped doing the skid pad and that saved us a massive amount on the water bill. So, it's actually showing up in the overall agency budget.

Director Swindler added that the skid pad needed resurfacing and that was very expensive, and the water was extremely expensive. He reported that the skid pad is used as a remedial place. So that the space is utilized and has increased the success rate of driving and then lowered our cost.

## **B. Capital Project Update**

Chris Eunice

- **Generator:** Waiting on final inspection and close out documents. The generator project is completed and operational.
- **West dorm restrooms:** Final inspection completed April 14, 2025. There were some minor things on the punch list, but it did pass the inspection.
- **North dorm restrooms:** This project is being delayed to ensure that funding is available. We are still planning to start the project in the 25-26 budget year.

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

## **C. General Counsel Report**

- Misconduct Cases

### **Belita Salters (2024-CJA-08-12) (Florence 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 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:

- A. Issue its final agency decision, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-107 D. finding that the allegations of misconduct filed against Belita Salters by the Florence County Sheriff's Office have not been proven by the preponderance of evidence; and
- B. Expunge within thirty days of the final agency decision in this matter, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 23-23-150 (M), all evidence related to the allegations of misconduct filed against Belita Salters by the Florence County Sheriff's Office.



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Michael Nunn, Esquire, was present and spoke on behalf of the Florence County Sheriff's Office and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

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

After hearing statements from both parties, Chief Cornett made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to expunge the records of misconduct within thirty (30) days. Director Woods seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to expunge the records within thirty (30) days.

### **Morgan Ridges (2023-CJA-05-03) (Marlboro County Detention Center)**

**Summary:** Allegation of engaging in the physical or psychological abuse of members of the public or prisoners. **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 allegations of misconduct filed against Morgan Ridges by the Marlboro County Detention Center have not been proven by the preponderance of evidence; and
- B. Expunge within thirty days of the final agency decision in this matter, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 23-23-150 (M), all evidence related to the allegations of misconduct filed against Morgan Ridges by the Marlboro County Detention Center.

Monroe Bragg, Warden, was present to speak on behalf of the Marlboro County Detention Center and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

Morgan Ridges was present to speak on his behalf and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

When there were no statements provided by both parties, Chief Holbrook made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to expunge the records within thirty (30) days. Director Mullikin seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to expunge the records within thirty (30) days.



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## Charles Gent (2024-CJA-03-07) (South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services)

**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.**

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 the Charles Gent by the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services has not been proven by the preponderance of evidence; and
- B. Approve, pursuant to the authority of the Law Enforcement Training Council set for at S.C. Code Ann. § 23-23-150 (G) (1), Charles Gent'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 allegations of misconduct filed against the Charles Gent by the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services.

Octavia Wright, Esquire, was present and spoke on behalf of the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

Allison Avinger was present on behalf of S.C. Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

Johnny Evans, Esquire was present and spoke on behalf of Charles Gent and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

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

After hearing statements from all parties, Director Mullikin made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to expunge the records within thirty (30) days. Major Gallam seconded the motion.



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Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to expunge the records within thirty (30) days. ***Please note that Director Gadsden recused himself from the voting process in this case.***

### **Cory James (2023-CJA-03-07) (Orangeburg 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 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:

- A. Issue its final agency decision, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-107 D. finding that the allegation of misconduct filed against Cory James by the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office has been proven by the preponderance of evidence; and
- B. Impose a sanction as the Law Enforcement Training Council in its discretion deems appropriate pursuant to its authority set forth at S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-108 A(1-5)

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

Samantha Farlow-Moyd, Esquire, was present and spoke on behalf of the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office and to answer questions from Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from both parties, Chief Cornett made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Cory James's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Major Gallam seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Cory James's eligibility for law enforcement certification.

### **Jason Crawford (2024-CJA-09-02) (Richland County Sheriff's Department)**

**Summary:** Allegation of misrepresentation of employment related information by 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.



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Allegation of willfully making false, misleading, incomplete, deceitful, or incorrect statements to any court of competent jurisdiction, or their staff members, whether under oath or not.

Allegation of 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.

Allegation of willfully providing false information to the Criminal Justice Academy or the Law Enforcement Training Council. **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 allegations of misconduct filed against Jason Crawford by the Richland County Sheriff's Department have not been proven by the preponderance of evidence; and
- B. Expunge within thirty days of the final agency decision in this matter, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 23-23-150 (M), all evidence related to the allegations of misconduct filed against Jason Crawford by the Richland County Sheriff's Department.

Joanna McDuffie, Esquire, was present and spoke on behalf of the Richland County Sheriff's Department and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

Jack Cohoon, Esquire was present and spoke on behalf of Jason Crawford and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

Jason Crawford was present and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from all parties, Chief Cornett made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to expunge the records within thirty (30) days. Director Woods seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to expunge the records within thirty (30) days.

### **Zachary Morris (2024-CJA-09-01) (Anderson Police Department)**

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



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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 Zachary Morris by the Anderson Police Department have been proven by preponderance of the evidence; and
- B. Impose the sanction of withdrawal of certification for the definite period of one (1) year from the date Zachary Morris was reported for misconduct.

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

Rame Campbell, Esquire was present and spoke on behalf of the Anderson Police Department and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from both parties, Sheriff Faile made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, finding misconduct and to permanently deny Zachary Morris's eligibility for law enforcement certification. The motion was not seconded. The motion failed.

Sheriff Foster made a new motion accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer with a one (1) year suspension of Mr. Morris's law enforcement certification and he be required to attend drug and alcohol counseling with periodic drug testing for one (1) year after rehire. Director Mullikin seconded the motion.

With a vote of 5 (Yes) and 5 (No) the motion failed.

Chief Keel advised that the vote is a tie and encouraged that the Council have some additional discussion. Chief Keel acknowledged that Chief Stewart, Anderson Police Department was in attendance and asked if he would like to speak.

Chief Stewart spoke on behalf of the Anderson Police Department and in support of Mr. Morris. He stated that Zachary Morris has been an incredible officer, and he believes that it was a slip up, like their attorney said, it was a bad wreck. He stated that Mr. Morris told the Sergeant there on the scene that he had used marijuana the day before and that he would probably test positive.

Chief Stewart reported that Mr. Morris tested negative on the drug test. He added that Mr. Morris was very open and forthcoming with Internal Affairs. He believes that Mr. Morris is salvageable and that Anderson Police Department would be the agency that would hire him once he gets done with this one (1) year probation.



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After a lengthy discussion among a few members of the Council and having questions asked and answered from Chief Stewart, Mr. Morris, and Mr. Campbell. Chief Cornett made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer to find misconduct and impose a one (1) year suspension, mandatory drug screening prior to being rehired anywhere and random drug screening for two (2) years from the date of hire, if hired. Major Gallam seconded the motion.

Prior to the vote, Director Gadsden expressed his concerns about the case.

With a vote of 5 (Yes) and 5 (No) the motion failed.

After another discussion among a few members of the Council and having questions asked and answered by Mr. Fennell and Mr. Morris. Major Gallam made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer for one (1) year suspension, mandatory drug screening prior to hire and random drug screening for two (2) years after hire.

Director Stirling made a motion for the purpose of discussion about whether it was marijuana. Chief Cornett seconded the motion. Council had another discussion regarding the case.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Chief Keel restated the motion made by Major Gallam to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer for one (1) year suspension, mandatory drug screening prior to hire and random drug screening for two (2) years after hire. Chief Cornett seconded the motion.

With a vote of 5 (Yes) and 5 (No) the motion failed.

Council had another discussion and Mr. Campbell suggested to allow Mr. Morris to get a hair strand test, which he stated goes back farther than a urine test, then submit the results to the Council and come back for a later date for the hearing. Mr. Campbell stated that this may help alleviate some issues that some of the members of the Council may be having in regard to Mr. Morris being truthful or not truthful.

Chief Keel reminded the Council that they have the right to accept the offer from Mr. Campbell and come back again or resolve this case today. He stated that the Council has the ability to change whatever the discipline is with regards to certification.

Director Mullikin made a motion for permanent denial of Mr. Morris's law enforcement certification. Sheriff Faile seconded the motion.

With a vote of 5 (Yes) and 5 (No) the motion failed.

Sheriff Foster then made a motion to defer the decision to next month's meeting. Director Woods seconded the motion.



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Council voted unanimously to defer the decision to next month's meeting.

## **Robert Crawford (2024-CJA-09-07) (South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice Police Department)**

**Summary:** Conviction, plea of guilty, plea of no contested, or admission of guilt to a felony, a crime punishable by a sentence of more than one year, regardless of the sentence actually imposed, crime of moral turpitude in this or any other jurisdiction.

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.**

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 allegations of misconduct filed against Robert Crawford by the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice Police Department have not been proven by the preponderance of evidence; and
- B. Expunge within thirty days of the final agency decision in this matter, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 23-23-150 (M), all evidence related to the allegations of misconduct filed against Robert Crawford by the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice Police Department.

Robert Crawford was not present at this meeting.

Ryan Hicks, Esquire was present and spoke on behalf of the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice Police Department and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from Mr. Hicks, Director Woods made a motion to deny the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, finding misconduct and to permanently deny Robert Crawford's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Major Gallam seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to deny the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, finding misconduct and to permanently deny Robert Crawford's eligibility for law enforcement certification.



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## Luke McConnell (2024-CJA-03-20) (Pickens County Sheriff's Office) (Prosecutorial Discretion)

**Summary:** On March 29, 2024, the Pickens County Sheriff's Office submitted an allegation of misconduct through the "Personnel Change in Status Report: Notification of Separation Due to Misconduct," to the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy (Academy) against Luke McConnell. Pickens County Sheriff's Office alleged that Luke McConnell violated South Carolina Code section 23-23-150.

The Pickens 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 Pickens County Sheriff's Office in this matter be expunged, and that the certification file of Luke McConnell be updated in the records of the Criminal Justice Academy to reflect no outstanding allegations of misconduct based on the allegations reported by the Pickens County Sheriff's Office in this matter.

Luke McConnell was present to speak on his behalf and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

There was no representation for the Pickens County Sheriff's Office present at this meeting.

Major Gallam made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer for lack of prosecution due to the Pickens County Sheriff's Office's decision to exercise prosecutorial discretion and to expunge the records within thirty (30) days. Chief Cornette seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer for lack of prosecution due to the Pickens County Sheriff's Office's decision to exercise prosecutorial discretion and to expunge the records within thirty (30) days.



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## Alexander Banas (2024-CJA-08-03) (Horry County Police Department) (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.

The Horry County Police Department 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 Horry County Police Department in this matter be expunged, and that the certification file of Alexander Banas be updated in the records of the Criminal Justice Academy to reflect no outstanding allegations of misconduct based on the allegations reported by the Horry County Police Department in this matter.

Alexander Banas nor a representative for Mr. Banas were not present during this meeting.

Taylor Smith, Esquire, was present and spoke on behalf of the Horry County Police Department and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from Mr. Smith, Chief Cornett made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer for lack of prosecution due to the Horry County Police Department’s decision to exercise prosecutorial discretion and to expunge the records within thirty (30) days. Director Woods seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer for lack of prosecution due to the Horry County Police Department’s decision to exercise prosecutorial discretion and to expunge the records within thirty (30) days. ***Please note that Director Stirling and Sheriff Foster left the meeting and did not vote in this case.***

## 2021 Failure to Request Cases

The individuals were properly served an allegation of certification misconduct pursuant to South Carolina Code Ann. Section 23-23-150(C) and failed to request a contested case hearing within



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three years of receipt of the allegation. SCCJA requests that the Law Enforcement Training Council issue a judgement by default and proceed with determining a final agency action.

James Fennell, Esquire spoke on behalf of the SC Criminal Justice Academy and to answer questions from Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from Mr. Fennell, Director Woods made a motion that Council accept the individuals listed on the notice for failure to request a contested case hearing within the three (3) years period, with a notation that proper recusals were made for agencies represented here on the Council where appropriate. Chief Holbrook seconded the motion.

Council voted to acknowledge that the listed individuals on the notice did not request a contested case hearing in the required time frame and impose a sanction of permanent denial. ***Please note that Council members are recused from their respective cases.***

### **Brian Ward (2025-CJA-03-16) (Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center)**

**Summary:** Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center provided a separation due to misconduct to SCCJA on March 20, 2025, with a separation date of February 12, 2025. **Acceptance Request**

Major Gallam made a motion to accept late allegation of misconduct. Chief Cornett seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to accept late allegation of misconduct.

### **Peter R. Tidot (2025-CJA-03-21) (Columbia Police Department)**

**Summary:** Columbia Police Department provided a separation due to misconduct to SCCJA on March 28, 2025, with a separation date of December 10, 2024. **Acceptance Request**

Major Gallam made a motion to accept late allegation of misconduct. Chief Cornett seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to accept late allegation of misconduct. ***Please note that Chief Holbrook recused himself from the voting process in this case.***



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## **Non-Compliance with 23-23-85 (St. Stephen Police Department)**

**Summary:** St. Stephen Police Department was notified of their non-compliance with 23-23-85 and given ample opportunity to submit proofs to come into compliance. To date, St. Stephen Police Department has not submitted acceptable proofs for the following areas: Use of Force, Hiring & Termination, Post-Academy/Field Training, Body Worn Camera, Internal Affairs, and Early Warning Systems.

James Fennell spoke on behalf of the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy and to answer questions from Council if applicable.

Mr. Fennell expressed his concerns regarding agencies not being in compliance with the 9 policies that Council has implemented for agencies to specialize themselves and the only way we're getting compliance from certain agencies is to do a non-compliance order to bring them in front of the Council for civil sanctions. He stated that all nine policies with examples of proofs and how to gather proofs is provided online for the agencies who are not accredited can access and use.

He further stated that St. Stephen Police Department has been out of compliance for several months, so were going to backdate it to March 18, 2025, for our \$1,000.00 a day per violation.

Chief Harold Wadford was present and spoke on behalf of St. Stephen Police Department and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

Chief Wadford stated that due to being a small agency, he does not have an administrative staff to help with fulfilling all the requirements. He stated that with the assistance of the compliance officer that St. Stephens Police Department came in compliance, but late. He reported that he received a letter for being in compliance and working on procedures now to put in place so that it don't happen again moving forward. He also reported that he moved the training programs under the Sheriff's Department and partnered with Berkeley County Sheriff's Department to do all of their in-service training for block training.

When asked by Chief Keel when did St. Stephen Police Department actually come into compliance on April 14, 2025. Chief Wadford stated that he accepts all the responsibilities for not being in compliance.

Director Swindler expressed his concerns with agencies ignoring multiple opportunities to come into compliance in a timely manner. He further expressed the importance of being in compliance and that there should be consequences when agencies come in front of the Law Enforcement Training Council.



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Director Mullikin made a motion to impose a civil penalty in the amount of \$27,000.00 for 27 days of non-compliance on the city of St. Stephen from March 18, 2025, through April 14, 2025. Chief Holbrook seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to impose a civil penalty in the amount of \$27,000.00 for 27 days of non-compliance on the city of St. Stephen from March 18, 2025, through April 14, 2025.

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

### **Director Swindler**

Director Swindler reminded the Council that the Police Officers Memorial where we'll recognize and honor all the officers who have passed away last year as well as those who have lost their lives in the line of duty is on May 7<sup>th</sup> at SCCJA at 10:00 a.m.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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

Chief Keel asked if Council would consider looking at canine certification and add this item to the agenda for June. He stated that he would like to have Doug Wannemacher from SLED come in and do a presentation, so that the canine certifications are consistent.

## **CLOSING REMARKS/AJOURNMENT**

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

Chief Keel inquired whether there were any more questions or comments from Council. When there were no more remarks or comments, Chief Cornett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Woods seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



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*Debbie T. Bryant*

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Debbie T. Bryant