



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

SOUTH CAROLINA  
LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, April 22, 2026  
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 22, 2026. This meeting was advertised in accordance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

### ***Agenda Item 1***

Chief Mark Keel, Chairman 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 Shannon Bowers.

Members present for this meeting in-person were Chief Mark Keel (Chairman), South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED); Director Joel Anderson, S.C. Department of Corrections; Director Robert Woods, S.C. Department of Public Safety; Chief William Holbrook, Columbia Police Department; Director Jake Gadsden, S.C. Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services; Sheriff Barry Faile, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office; Chief Kevin Cornett, Isle of Palms Police Department; and Major Nick Gallam, Aiken County Detention Center

Members present for this meeting via video/conference call were Sheriff Lee Foster (Co-Chairman), Newberry County Sheriff's Office

Attorney General Alan Wilson, S.C. Attorney General's Office; Director Tom Mullikin, SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR); were absent from this meeting.

Guest attendees present in-person or via video/conference call were Jeff Young South Carolina Attorney General's Office; Major Matt McCaskill, SC Department of Natural Resources; Sally Foster, South Carolina Sherriff's Association; Kenneth Phelps, SC Department of Public Safety; Joanna McDuffie, Esquire, Richland County Sherriff's Office; Tim Baxley, Clarendon County Sheriff's Office; Marty Sawyer; Kenneth Phelps, SC Department of Public Safety; Jordan White, WBTW; Renee Ortiz, Index Journal; KD Cowan; Chief Donald Tarbell, Francis Marion Police Department; Jim Duff; Claude Powell; Ryan Hicks, Esquire, SC Department of Juvenile Justice; Montrio Belton, Esquire; Scotty Bodiford, Administrator, Greenville County Detention Center; Perry Hill; Shelton Hughes, Director, Clarendon County Detention Center; Alex Craven, Esquire, Dorchester County Sheriff's Office; Raymond Larson, Mayor, Calhoun Falls; Amy Battaglia, Mayor Pro Tem, Calhoun Falls; Shaki-Franklin Johnson; Katherine Swancy, Esquire, Chester County Sheriff's Office



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SC Criminal Justice Academy attendees were Director Jackie Swindler; Shannon Bowers, Executive Assistant; Major Lauren Fennell, Accreditation and Standards Manager; Madison Quagliato, Legal Unit; Lauren Wright, Finance Manager; John Yarborough, Facilities Manager; Justin Miller, IT Manager; Jared Lee, IT; Scott Deckard, Investigator; Mike O'Connell, Evaluator; Grace Godwin, Human Resources Director; and Bob Bianco, Evaluator

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Chief Keel noted an addition to the agenda to discuss concerns from the Sheriff's Association regarding prosecution of cases and other issues. A motion to adopt the agenda as amended was made by Major Gallam. Sheriff Faile 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 16, 2026, meeting was made by Sheriff Faile and seconded by Director Gadsden. Council voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes as presented.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

#### **A. Financial Update**

##### Lauren Wright

Fines and fees revenues increased 4% over the same time last year. Still in a good spot financially, but revenues are not keeping up with inflation. Will be looking at a long-term plan to manage. Should have approximately \$5,000,000 going into the start of the next fiscal year.

#### **B. Capital Projects Update**

##### John Yarborough

**North Dorm Restrooms** – Construction began on April 6, 2026, and expected completion in October 2026. First phase began with removing old tile and asbestos and should approximately take four weeks to complete.



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## C. General Counsel Report

### Misconduct Cases

#### **Shaki Franklin-Johnson (2023-CJA-10-08) (South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice)**

**Summary:** Allegation of misconduct due to conviction, plea of guilty, plea of no contest or admission of guilt to a felony, a crime punishable by a sentence of more than one year, regardless of the sentence actually imposed, or a crime of moral turpitude, any of which were committed in this or any other jurisdiction.

#### **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 Franklin-Johnson by the DJJ 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)

Ryan Hicks, Esq., was present at this meeting and spoke on behalf of SC Department of Juvenile Justice and answered questions from Council if applicable.

Shaki Franklin-Johnson was present at this meeting.

After hearing statements, Chief Holbrook made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, finding misconduct, and to impose a permanent denial of eligibility for certification. Director Anderson seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Officer Franklin-Johnson's eligibility for a law enforcement certification.

#### **Jim Duff (2025-CJA-08-05) (North Myrtle Beach Police Department)**

**Summary:** Allegation of misconduct due to willfully providing 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 Officer Duff by the North Myrtle Beach Police Department 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)

Jim Duff was present at this meeting and spoke on his own behalf and answered questions from Council if applicable.

There was no representative for the North Myrtle Beach Police Department present at this meeting.

After hearing statements Director Gadsden made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, finding misconduct, and to impose a permanent denial of eligibility for certification. Sheriff Faile seconded the motion.

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

## **Shane Reid (2023-CJA-07-08) (Dorchester County Detention Center)**

**Summary:** Allegation of misconduct due to the repeated use of excessive force in dealing with the public or prisoners, 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 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 allegation of misconduct filed against Officer Reid by the Dorchester County Detention Center 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)

Alexander Craven, Esq., was present at this meeting and spoke on behalf of the Dorchester County Detention Center and answered questions from Council if applicable.

Shane Reid was not present at this meeting.



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After hearing statements, Chief Cornett made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, finding misconduct, and to impose a permanent denial of eligibility for certification. Director Anderson seconded the motion.

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

## **Kevin Ortega (2025-CJA-10-05) (Greenville County Detention Center)**

**Summary:** Allegation of misconduct due to willfully providing false, misleading, incomplete, deceitful, or incorrect statements on a document, record, report, or form, 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 Officer Ortega by the Greenville County Detention Center 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)

Administrator Scotty Bodiford was present at this meeting and spoke on behalf of the Greenville County Detention Center and answered questions from Council if applicable.

Kevin Ortega was not present at this meeting.

After hearing statements, Major Gallam made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, finding misconduct, and to impose a permanent denial of eligibility for certification. Chief Holbrook seconded the motion.

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

## **Jalisha Rhodes (2025-CJA-09-13) (Clarendon County Detention Center)**

**Summary:** Allegation of misconduct due to 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 making 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.

### **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 filed against Officer Rhodes by the Clarendon County Detention Center 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)

Director Shelton Hughes, Jr. was present at this meeting and spoke on behalf of the Clarendon County Detention Center and was available to answer questions from Council if applicable.

Jalisha Rhodes was not present at this meeting.

After hearing statements, Chief Cornett made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, finding misconduct, and to impose a permanent denial of eligibility for certification. Director Woods seconded the motion.

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

## **Claude Powell (2025-CJA-01-17) (Chester County Sheriff's Office)**

**Summary:** Allegation of misconduct due to dangerous or unsafe practices involving firearms, weapons, or vehicles which indicate either a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or 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 Powell by the Chester County Sheriff's Office has not been proven by the preponderance of evidence; and
- B. Approve, pursuant to the authority of Council set for at S.C. Code Ann. § 23-23-150 (G) (1), the Officer'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 Officer by the Department.

Katherine Swancy, Esq., was present at this meeting and spoke on behalf of the Chester County Sheriff's Office and answered questions from Council if applicable.



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Claude Powell was present at this meeting and spoke on his behalf and answered questions from Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from both parties, Sheriff Faile made a motion to reject the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, finding misconduct and to impose a permanent denial of eligibility for certification. Chief Cornett seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to reject the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Officer Powell's eligibility for a law enforcement certification.

## 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 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, Esq. spoke on behalf of the SC Criminal Justice Academy and to answer questions from council if applicable

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

Council unanimously 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.***

## Non-Compliance Matters

### Non-Compliance – Forest Acres Police Department

Forest Acres Police Department was notified of their non-compliance with SC Code Ann. §23-23-85 an §23-23-160(D) on March 10, 2026. The agency was given a deadline of April 9, 2026, to provide all required policies and proofs. The agency was able to provide all policies within the required timeframe. The agency could not provide proofs of compliance for 6 of the 9 standards (Use of Force, Vehicle Pursuits, Post-Academy Recruit Training, Body Worn Cameras, Internal Affairs, Early Warning System). The agency provided the remaining proofs of compliance on April 16th, 2026.



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James Fennell, Esquire was present at this meeting and spoke on behalf of the Criminal Justice Academy and to answer questions from Council if applicable. The Academy is seeking a civil penalty of \$37,000.00 for the agency's non-compliance. 30.5% of the requested civil penalty is \$11,285.00.

There was no representative for the Forest Acres Police Department at this meeting.

Director Woods made a motion to impose a reduced penalty on the Forest Acres Police Department, totaling \$11,285.00 for 37 days of non-compliance on the Forest Acres Police Department. Sheriff Faile seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to impose a reduced penalty on the Forest Acres Police Department, totaling \$11,285.00 for 37 days of non-compliance on the Forest Acres Police Department.

## **Non-Compliance – Calhoun Falls Police Department**

Calhoun Falls Police Department was notified of their non-compliance with SC Code Ann. §23-23-40(A) and §23-23-60(C)(3) on February 27, 2026. The agency allowed an uncertified officer to act as a law enforcement officer and perform law enforcement duties without submitting a PCS of Hire within three working days of hire, and without submitting a Firearms Verification form within three working days of the PCS of Hire. The individual was hired on November 11, 2025, and was separated from the agency on December 28, 2025. Additionally, the agency's chief allowed his own law enforcement certification to expire and performed law enforcement duties from December 16, 2025, until January 6, 2026, while his certification was expired.

James Fennell, Esquire was present at this meeting and spoke on behalf of the Criminal Justice Academy and to answer questions from Council if applicable. The Academy is seeking a civil penalty of \$68,000.00 for the agency's non-compliance. 30.5% of the requested civil penalty is \$20,740.00.

Mayor Larson, Mayor Pro Tem Battaglia, and Chief Hill were present at this meeting and spoke on behalf of the Town of Calhoun Falls and to answer questions from Council if applicable.

Sheriff Faile made a motion to impose a reduced penalty on the Town of Calhoun Falls Police Department, totaling \$20,740.00 for 68 days of non-compliance on the Calhoun Falls Police Department. Major Gallam seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to impose a reduced penalty on the Town of Calhoun Falls Police Department, totaling \$20,740.00 for 68 days of non-compliance on the Calhoun Falls Police Department.



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## **Withdrawal Requests**

### **Perry Hill – Calhoun Falls Police Department**

On February 27, 2026, Perry Hill was notified that his Law Enforcement certification had been suspended, pending withdrawal by the Training Council. Hill provided false statements to a CJA investigator and provided and submitted false documents to CJA's certification unit. After obtaining witness statements and collecting evidence, it was determined that Hill willfully falsified material information to CJA in violation of SC Code of Regulations 37-026(4)(k) and willfully provided false information to CJA or the Law Enforcement Training Council in violation of SC Code of Laws Ann. §23-23-150 (A)(3)(k).

James Fennell, Esquire was present at this meeting and spoke on behalf of the Criminal Justice Academy and to answer questions from Council if applicable. The Academy is requesting that the Law Enforcement Training Council withdraw the Law Enforcement certification of Perry Hill due to the above violations

Montrio Belton, Esquire was present at this meeting and spoke on behalf of Perry Hill and to answer questions from Council if applicable.

Chief Cornett made the motion to withdraw the law enforcement certifications for Perry Hill. Director Woods seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to withdraw law enforcement certifications for Perry Hill.

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

##### **Director Swindler**

Director Swindler gave a brief update to the council, which included an update on incoming classes and updates on new hires to include: Darren Amick (Behavioral Sciences), Shannon Bowers (Executive Assistant), Kurtis Garner (Facilities), Tyrone Stevens (Food Services), and Larry Crutchlow (Behavioral Sciences), and separations to include: Chad Spence (Facilities) – Resignation, and Desiree Busko (Behavioral Sciences) – transfer to DPPPS.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

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

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

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

##### **Discussion of letter from the SC Sheriff's Association**



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The Council discussed a letter from the SC Sheriff's Association regarding state statute requirements for misconduct cases. Sheriff Sawyer and Sheriff Baxley spoke to the topic, stating the financial burden for agencies to contest cases was more than some agencies could reasonably maintain in their budgets. They, along with Sheriff Foster, noted that smaller sheriff agencies and police chiefs for smaller towns found that the current timeline and regulations for agencies required to prosecute were creating burdensome financial costs that many agencies could not maintain.

Chief Keel noted that when the statute was written, the Academy recommended 60, 90, and 180 days for contesting cases, and the final decision from the General Assembly was a 3-year period for contesting cases.

After further discussion, Chief Holbrook moved to create a committee to review the letter sent by the SC Sheriff's Association and make a recommendation to the Council for appropriate changes. Sheriff Faile second the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve creating a committee to make a recommendation to the Council for consideration.

## **CLOSING REMARKS/AJOURNMENT**

### *Agenda Item 7*

Major Gallam requested an update on the K-9 certification program previously discussed. Chief Keel noted that it has not been discussed further but can be reviewed for another meeting.

When there were no more remarks or comments, Director Woods made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Major Gallam seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Shannon Bowers*

Shannon Bowers