



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 19, 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, August 19, 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 10:00 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); Sheriff Lee Foster (Co-Chair), Newberry County Sheriff's Office; Director Bryan Stirling, S.C. Department of Corrections; Acting Director Jodi Gallman, S.C. Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services; Director Robert Woods, S.C. Department of Public Safety; Sheriff Barry Faile, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office; Captain Nick Gallam, Aiken County Detention Center; and Chief William Holbrook, Columbia Police Department.

Members present via video/conference call were Director Robert Boyles, S.C. Department of Natural Resources; and Chief Kevin Cornett, Isle of Palms Police Department.

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

Guest attendees present in-person or via Webex were Sally Foster, S.C. Sheriffs Association; Chris Cowan, Director of Strategic Initiatives (University of South Carolina – School of Law); Anthony Durr; Joel Deason, Esquire, Lexington County Sheriff's Department; Troy Rathbun; Travis McBride; Sheriff Campbell Streater, Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office; Nathaniel Porter; Joanna McDuffie, Esquire, Richland County Sheriff's Department; Carlton Bourne Jr., Esquire, North Charleston Police Department; Kyle Joslin; Caroline White, S.C. Department of Public Safety; and Marcus Gore, Esquire, S.C. Department of Public Safety; James Evans, Jr, Richland County Sheriff's Department; Shannon Bobertz, S.C. Department of Natural Resources; Kenneth D. Phelps, S.C. Department of Public Safety.

S.C. Criminal Justice Academy attendees were Director Jackie Swindler; Opel Bunn, Executive Assistant; James Fennell, General Counsel; Lauren Fennell, Accreditation and Standards Manager;



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

Madison Reynolds, Certification; Justin Miller, IT Manager; Briana Jirowetz, IT; Jared Lee, IT; Major Florence McCants, Administrative Operations; and Scott Deckard, Investigator.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda Item 2

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Director Woods. Chief Holbrook 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 July 24, 2024, meeting was made by Sheriff Faile and seconded by Captain Gallam. Council voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes as recorded.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Agenda Item 4

A. General Counsel Report

- Misconduct Cases

Raysean Alston (2023-CJA-02-01) (Charleston 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 Raysean Alston by the Charleston 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 Raysean Alston by the Charleston County Sheriff's Office.



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

Raysean Alston was not present at this meeting.

There was no representation for Raysean Alston, nor the Charleston County Sheriff's Office present at this meeting.

Sheriff Faile made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, finding no misconduct and to expunge the records within thirty (30) days. Captain Gallam seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, finding no misconduct and to expunge the records within thirty (30) days.

Shirlee Craig (2023-CJA-06-02) (South Carolina Department of Corrections)

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. **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 Shirlee Craig by the South Carolina Department of Corrections 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. 37-108A (1-5)

This case has been moved to the next meeting in September.

Anthony Durr (2023-CJA-05-06) (Lexington County Sheriff's Department)

Summary: 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. **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 Anthony Durr by the Lexington County Sheriff's Department has been proven by the preponderance of evidence; and



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

- 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)

Anthony Durr was present and spoke on his behalf and to answer question from the Council if applicable.

Joel Deason, Esquire, was present and spoke on behalf of the Lexington County Sheriff's Department and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

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

Troy Rathbun (2023-CJA-10-12) (Lexington County Sheriff's Department)

Summary: Allegation 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 Troy Rathbun by the Lexington County Sheriff's Department have been proven by preponderance of the 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)

Troy Rathbun was present and spoke on his behalf and to answer question from the Council if applicable.

Joel Deason, Esquire, was present and spoke on behalf of the Lexington County Sheriff's Department and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements for all parties, Sheriff Faile made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Troy Rathbun's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Sheriff Foster seconded the motion.



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

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

Travis McBride (2023-CJA-02-15) (Chesterfield 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 Travis McBride by the Chesterfield 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)

Travis McBride was present and spoke on his behalf and to answer question from the Council if applicable.

Sheriff Campbell Streater was present and spoke on behalf of the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

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

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

Nathaniel Porter (2022-CJA-04-06) (Richland County Sheriff's Department)

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.**



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

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 Nathaniel Porter 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 Nathaniel Porter by the Richland County Sheriff's Department.

Nathaniel Porter was present and spoke on his behalf and to answer question from the Council if applicable.

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.

After hearing statements for all parties, Sheriff Faile made a motion not to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, finding misconduct and to permanently deny Nathaniel Porter's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Chief Holbrook seconded the motion.

With a vote of 8 (Yes) and 2 (No), the motion was carried not to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Nathaniel Porter's eligibility for law enforcement certification.

Quionica Simmons (2020-CJA-08-09) (North Charleston Police Department)

Summary: Allegation 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 Quionica Simmons by the North Charleston Police Department have been proven by preponderance of the 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)

Quionica Simmons was present and spoke on her behalf and to answer question from the Council if applicable.



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

Carlton Bourne Jr., Esquire was present and spoke on behalf of the North Charleston Police Department and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements for all parties, Sheriff Foster made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Quionica Simmons'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 Quionica Simmons's eligibility for law enforcement certification.

B. Director's Comments

Director Swindler

Director Swindler gave updates on classes. He explained that all students were sent home for two weeks due to Tropical Storm Debby. All students reported back today. The students in BLE Class 814 were graduated on Monday August 5.

He reported that due to the storm two small classes (BLE 817 and BLE 818) were combined into one. He stated that BLE Class 818 will start in two weeks. In September we will be back on our regular schedule. So, all the graduations were moved up two weeks and all our speakers agreed to change their schedules.

Director Swindler provided an update regarding housing at the Academy several of the high-water rescue teams.

In closing he also provided an update on the generator project as well. The generator has been scheduled to be delivered in October if not sooner.

OLD BUSINESS

Agenda Item 5

EPPS Presentation – Chris Cowan, provided a brief update on the Excellence of Policing Public Safety (EPPS) program in collaboration with the Law Enforcement Training Council.

He reported that the Excellence of Policing Public Safety (EPPS) program began about a year and half ago and has been gradually gaining momentum across the state. He explained that law enforcement agencies across the state are eager for support when it comes to leadership. The goal is to make sure that the EPPS program provides relevant training, resources, and instruction, making sure that the academic portions of the training are rigorous.



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

He believes this program is unique. The training consists of 70% interaction and 30% instruction, which makes it practical, applicable, and actionable. This training can be completed in 2 – 3 days or 5 days, afterwards officers are able to go back to their agencies and apply what they have learned. The goal during this timeframe is to get feedback on the things that worked, and the things did not work, that way the program can provide these officers with supplemental or advance training and support.

He stated that the program is designed to include agencies from the smallest agencies in the state to the largest agencies in the state, making sure that these agencies have the ability and the support they need to make sure that they are supporting each other. He explained how the program can create additional networks and strategic partnerships.

In conclusion, he added that additional cohorts are starting in 2025 throughout the state. He stated that Ad Hoc trainings can be provided if an agency makes a request for support. The program provides collaborative communications within the community and promotes working with each other. The principles of the initiative are leadership and management, collaborative communications, organizational change, and emerging tech budgets.

Director Swindler gave additional updates and provided feedback he received from Chief Amy Prock, Myrtle Beach Police Department on the EPPS program.

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item 6

Reserve Officer transitioning to Class 1 with another agency

Sheriff Foster reported they would like to hire a reserve officer from another agency. He added that he wanted to see if a reserve officer was not afforded the opportunity to become a Class 1 with their current agency if they are able to go to another agency, who can provide a Class 1 position.

Council has a brief discussion the current requirements to be a reserve officer who transitions to a Class 1 position.

During the discussion and having questions asked and answered by James Fennell, Sheriff Foster made a motion to change the standard to allow reserve officers, who meet the minimum requirements, to go Class 1 with another agency. Captain Gallam seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to change the standard to allow reserve officers, who meet the minimum requirements, to go Class 1 with another agency.



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

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, Director Stirling made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Woods seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Opel C. Bunn

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