



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

## SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 15, 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 Monday, December 15, 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 Opel Bunn.

Members present for this meeting in-person were Chief Mark Keel, (Chairman), State Law Enforcement Division (SLED); Interim Director Joel Anderson, S.C. Department of Corrections; Director Jake Gadsden, S.C. Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services; Director Robert Woods, S.C. Department of Public Safety; Sheriff Barry Faile, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office; and Chief William Holbrook, Columbia Police Department.

Members present for this meeting via video/conference call were Sheriff Lee Foster (Co-Chair), Newberry County Sheriff's Office; Chief Kevin Cornett, Isle of Palms Police Department; and Major Nick Gallam, Aiken County Detention Center.

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

Director Mullikin, S.C. Department Natural Resources, was absent but was represented by proxy, Chisolm Frampton.

Guest attendees present in-person or via video/conference call were Sally Foster, S.C. Sheriffs Association; Kenneth D. Phelps, S.C. Department of Public Safety; Marcus Gore, Esquire, S.C. Department of Public Safety; James L. Evans, Jr., Richland County Sheriff's Department; Joanna McDuffie, Esquire, Richland County Sheriff's Department; Chief George Palmore, Prosperity Police Department; Philip Hunter, Prosperity Police Department; Chief Bruce Wade, Cayce Police Department; Daniel Green, Cayce Police Department; Eddie West, Cayce Police Department; Mary Adger, Town Administrator, Town of Summerton; John O'Leary, Esquire; Austin Fettig; Trey Townsend; and Samantha Massingale.



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

SC Criminal Justice Academy attendees were Director Jackie Swindler; Opel Bunn, Executive Assistant; James Fennell, General Counsel; Major Lauren Fennell, Accreditation and Standards Manager; Madison Quagliato, Legal Unit; Justin Miller, IT Manager; Julian Scott, IT; Scott Deckard, Investigator; Lieutenant Mikie Pylilo, Public Information Officer; Mike O'Connell, Evaluator; Debbie Bryant, Human Resources; and Grace Godwin, Human Resources Director.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Sheriff Faile. Director Woods 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 November 17, 2025, meeting was made by Director Woods and seconded by Director Gadsden. Council voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes as recorded.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

#### **A. General Counsel Report**

- Misconduct Cases

#### **Austin Fettig (2025-CJA-04-04) (South Carolina Department of Public Safety)**

**Summary:** Allegation of wilfully 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:

- Issue its final agency decision, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-107 D., finding that the allegation of misconduct reported against the Officer by the Department has not been proven by preponderance of the evidence; and



## South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

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.

Marcus Gore, Esquire was present and spoke on behalf of the South Carolina Department of Public Safety and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

Austin Fettig was present at this meeting and spoke on his behalf and to answer questions from Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from both parties, Director Gadsden made a motion to deny the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, finding misconduct, and to impose a 1-year suspension of certification or a 1-year probationary period. Sheriff Faile seconded the motion.

After a discussion among a few members of the Council and having questions asked and answered by Mr. Fennell and Director Swindler, Council chose to vote on denying the Hearing Officer's recommendation to find misconduct and to have a second motion to vote on a penalty.

Council voted unanimously to deny the Hearing Officer's recommendation, finding misconduct.

Chief Keel called for a motion regarding the penalty to be imposed. Director Anderson made a motion to impose a 1-year suspension of certification eligibility. Chief Holbrook seconded the motion.

Prior to the vote, Council had a brief discussion.

With a vote of 1 (Yes) and 7 (No) the motion failed.

Chief Keel called for a motion and Sheriff Faile made a motion to permanently deny Austin Fettig's eligibility for a law enforcement certification. Sheriff Foster seconded the motion.

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

**Neville Richardson (2025-CJA-05-14) (Cayce Police Department)**



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

---

**Summary:** Allegation of wilfully 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 reported against the Officer by the Department has not been proven by preponderance of the 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.

Neville Richardson was not present at this meeting.

Chief Wade was present and spoke on behalf of the Cayce Police Department and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After a discussion among a few members of the Council and having questions asked and answered by Chief Wade, Sheriff Foster made a motion to deny the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, finding misconduct, and to permanently deny Neville Richardson's eligibility for a law enforcement certification. Sheriff Faile seconded the motion.

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

## **Trey Townsend (2024-CJA-11-08) (Prosperity Police Department)**

**Summary:** Allegation of wilfully 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 reported against the Officer by the Department has not been proven by preponderance of the evidence; and



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

- 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.

Chief George Palmore was present and spoke on behalf of the Prosperity Police Department and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

John O'Leary was present at this meeting and spoke on behalf of Trey Townsend and to answer questions from Council if applicable.

Trey Townsend was present at this meeting.

After a discussion among a few members of the Council and having questions asked and answered by Chief Palmore and Mr. Fennell, Sheriff Faile made a motion to remand the case to the Hearing Officer for additional information. Director Woods seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to remand the case to the Hearing Officer for additional information. *Please note that Sheriff Foster recused himself from the voting process in this case.*

## **Andrew Browning (No Case Number) (J. Reuben Long Detention Center)**

**Summary:** J. Reuben Long Detention Center submitted an allegation of misconduct on November 13, 2025, with a separation date of September 2, 2025. The agency indicated that the initial submission in this case was for a policy violation and later changed to misconduct after the Academy reviewed the form. **Acceptance Request.**

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

After hearing statements from Mr. Fennell, Director Woods made a motion to accept the late allegation of misconduct submitted by J. Reuben Long Detention Center. Sheriff Faile seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to accept the late allegation of misconduct submitted by J. Reuben Long Detention Center.

## **Non-Compliance Matters**



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

## Summerton Police Department

Summerton Police Department was notified of their non-compliance under SC Code Ann. §23-23-85 on October 31, 2025. The agency was non-compliance with the required proofs for 4 areas (Vehicle Pursuits, Hiring and Termination, Post Academy Training, and Internal Affairs/Citizen Complaints). The agency did not provide documentation for required proofs.

SCCJA is seeking civil penalties for the agency's non-compliance with SC Code Ann. §23-23-85.

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

Mary Adger, Town Administrator, was present and spoke on behalf of the Summerton Police Department and to answer questions from Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from all parties, Director Woods made a motion to find non-compliance and impose a civil penalty of \$56,210. Sheriff Faile seconded the motion.

After a discussion among a few members of the Council and having questions asked and answered by Mike O'Connell, Evaluator, Council voted unanimously to impose a civil penalty of \$56,210.

## D. Director's Comments

### Director Swindler

Director Swindler addressed the Council and announced that Opel Bunn would be leaving the Academy for employment at another state agency and announced that Debbie Bryant would be retiring at the end of this year. He also announced that Grace Godwin has been hired as the new Human Resources Director.

Director Swindler stated that the January and December Council meeting dates had been updated due to scheduling conflicts.

Director Swindler shared information regarding the Academy's Holiday luncheon and extended an invitation to the Council members.

Lastly, Director Swindler shared information regarding upcoming graduation dates and guest speakers.

## OLD BUSINESS

### *Agenda Item 5*



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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

There was no new business to discuss.

## **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 Woods made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Gadsden seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted by:

*Madison Quagliato*

---

Madison C. Quagliato