



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 22, 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, January 22, 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 10:03 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); Director Robert Boyles, S.C. Department of Natural Resources; and Chief William Holbrook, Columbia Police Department.

Members present via video/conference call were Sheriff Lee Foster (Co-Chair), Newberry County Sheriff's Office; Director Bryan Stirling, S.C. Department of Corrections; Interim Director Chad Gambrell, 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; 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 was represented by proxy, Deputy Attorney General Jeff Young. Captain Nick Gallam, Aiken County Detention Center was also absent from this meeting.

Guest attendees present in-person or via Webex were Sally Foster, S.C. Sheriffs Association; JJ Jones, S.C. Law Enforcement Officers Association/S.C. Police Chiefs Association; Joanna McDuffie, Esquire, Richland County Sheriff's Department; James L. Evans, Jr., Richland County Sheriff's Department; Chief Kenneth D. Phelps, S.C. Department of Public Safety; Christopher Hampton; Charlton Bourne Jr., Esquire; Arletta Johnson; Sheriff Steven Mueller, Cherokee County Sheriff's Office; Captain Ronnie, Cherokee County Sheriff's Office; Nicholas Grna; John Bateman, Esquire; Caroline Cleveland, Esquire, Charleston City Police Department; Blake Johnson; Jazmon Kearse, Esquire, Columbia Police Department; Director Crayman Harvey, Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center; and Ryan Hicks, Esquire, S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice.



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SC Criminal Justice Academy attendees were Director Jackie Swindler; Opel Bunn, Executive Assistant; James Fennell, General Counsel; Lauren Fennell, Accreditation and Standards Manager; Captain Chris Eunice, Basic Training Coordinator; Madison Reynolds, Certification; Justin Miller, IT Manager; 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 Boyles. 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 December 16, 2024, meeting was made by Chief Holbrook and seconded by Director Boyles. Council voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes as recorded.

2025 ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR

Agenda Item 4

A motion was made by Sheriff Foster to nominate Chief Keel as Chair. The motion was seconded by Chief Holbrook. Council voted unanimously to receive Chief Keel as Chair of the SC Law Enforcement Training Council for calendar year 2025.

A motion was made by Sheriff Faile to nominate Sheriff Foster as Co-Chair. The motion was seconded by Director Boyles. Council voted unanimously to receive Sheriff Foster as Co-Chair of the SC Law Enforcement Training Council for calendar year 2025.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Agenda Item 5

A. General Counsel Report

- Misconduct Cases



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Christopher Hampton (2024-CJA-04-05) (North Charleston Police 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.**

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 Christopher Hampton by the North Charleston 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).

Christopher Hampton and Charlton Bourne Jr., Esquire was present to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

When it was established that John O'Leary was to attend this meeting. Chief Keel advised Mr. Hampton to contact Mr. O'Leary and let him know that this case will be continued to next month's meeting due to Mr. O'Leary's absence from this meeting.

Arletta Johnson (2024-CJA-05-15) (Cherokee County Sheriff's Office)

Summary: Allegation of wilfully 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 Arletta Johnson by the Cherokee 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 the authority set forth at S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-108 A (1-5).

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



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Sheriff Steven Mueller was present and spoke on behalf of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from both parties, Director Boyles a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, finding misconduct and to permanently deny Arletta Johnson's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Chief Holbrook seconded the motion.

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

Brock Tomlin (2024-CJA-03-02) (Jasper County Sheriff's Office)

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 Brock Tomlin by the Jasper 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 the authority set forth at S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-108 A (1-5).

James Fennell, Esquire advised the Council that this case has been postponed to next month's meeting due to the representatives for the officer and the agency inability to join this meeting via Teams.

Nicholas Grna (2023-CJA-12-18) (Charleston City Police Department)

Summary: Allegation of the dangerous or unsafe practices involving firearms, weapons, or vehicles which indicate either a wilful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property. **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 Nicholas Grna by the Charleston City 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 the authority set forth at S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-108 A (1-5).

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

John Bateman, Esquire was present and spoke on behalf of Mr. Grna and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

Caroline Cleveland, Esquire was present and spoke on behalf of the Charleston City Police Department and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from all parties, Director Boyles a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, finding misconduct with retroactive suspension of eligibility of law enforcement certification from the date of his arrest (October 7, 2023) for two years. Director Woods seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, finding misconduct with retroactive suspension of eligibility of law enforcement certification from the date of his arrest (October 7, 2023) for two years.

Blake Johnson (2024-CJA-08-13) (Columbia Police 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.**

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 Blake Johnson by the Columbia 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 the authority set forth at S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-108 A (1-5).



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

Jazmon Kearse, Esquire was present and spoke on behalf of the Columbia Police Department and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from both parties, Director Boyles a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, finding misconduct and to permanently deny Blake Johnson's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Sheriff Foster seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, finding misconduct and to permanently deny Blake Johnson's eligibility for law enforcement certification. ***Please note that Chief Holbrook recused himself from the voting process in this case.***

Shontae Salmond (2022-CJA-01-11) (Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center)

Summary: Allegation of wilfully 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 Shontae Salmond by the Alvin S. Glenn 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 the authority set forth at S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-108 A (1-5).

Shontae Salmond was not present at this meeting.

Director Crayman Harvey was present and spoke on behalf of the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from Director Harvey, Director Boyles a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, finding misconduct and to permanently deny Shontae Salmond's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Chief Holbrook seconded the motion.



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

2020 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 have 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, 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 Boyles made a motion that Council accept the individuals listed on the notice for failure to request a contested case hearing within the 3 years period, with a notation that proper recusals were made for agencies represented here on the Council where appropriate. Chief Cornett 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.***

Ayanna Brown (2025-CJA-01-07) (South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice)

South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice submitted an allegation of misconduct on January 13, 2025, with a separation date of March 21, 2024. **Acceptance Request**

Ayanna Brown was not present at this meeting.

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

After hearing statements from Mr. Hicks, Director Boyles made a motion to find extenuating circumstances as South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice was conducting their internal investigation and accept the late PCS.

Council voted unanimously to find extenuating circumstances and accept the late PCS.



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B. Financial Update

Director Swindler

Fines and fees revenues as of the end of the second quarter of FY2025 have continued to increase, coming in at 5% over the prior the second quarter of FY2024. Current revenue levels exceed yearly other fund expenditures.

SCCJA ended the second quarter of FY2025 with expenditures 3% below the same time last year. This is largely due to billing timing and will continue to even out as the year progresses.

Director Swindler advised that the House Budget meeting is next week and reported that we are under budget on a lot of our projects.

Director Swindler gave an update on the camera systems project as well.

C. Capital Project Update

Chris Eunice

- **Generator:** The installation is complete. Dominion finishing some final things before a test fire can be done in the near future.
- **West dorm restrooms:** Work going as planned should be completed in late February.
- **North dorm restrooms:** Starting the process to get bids.

Director Swindler gave an update on the disconnection of the individual small generators at different buildings. He stated that we will be running that test. The individual small generator will be placed at the Range. They will be backup generators for some building down there. He stated that this project took a long time due to design, supply chain, and the construction of the generator. It was a good project, but it took a while.

D. Director's Comments

Director Swindler

Director Swindler gave updates regarding vacant and filled Academy positions since last quarter.

Director Swindler stated that Captain Gallam notified us that he could not be on today, and then he will be back on next month, but he would be Major Gallam. He received a promotion at Aiken County. So, we will start calling him Major Gallam.



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Director Swindler is not sure about timing, but it may or may not be Director Boyles's last meeting with us with his retirement coming up.

Chief Keel asked Director Swindler if he had a chance to talk with anyone from Senator Darrell Jackson's office. He stated that he knows that he introduced a bill about the Training Council making sure about having a pursuit policy that's already in place. He thought that might be something that the Council or somebody need to reach out to Senator Jackson and let him know that the pursuit policy is already done.

Director Swindler stated that he had attended a meeting with the various Associations, Chiefs, Sheriffs, and Troopers and the pursuit policy was mentioned in that meeting, so those lobbyists certainly were going to express that, but we can on our end also. We made it clear in that meeting that we believed that was already covered.

Chief Keel stated that the requirements are already in place for every agency to have a pursuit policy. Director Swindler stated that they all clearly understand this at the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Agenda Item 6

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item 7

High Liability Training Content Approval

Director Swindler addressed the Council regarding a CALEA standard that he as the Director has to approve some High Liability Training: Use of Force, Defensive Tactics, Mental Illness, Civil Liability, Pursuits, Firearms, and Driving. He stated that he has looked at those lesson plans and programs and have approved those High Liability Training. He stated that as part of a CALEA standard and need to make the Council aware and for the Council's approval. Lastly, he stated that the minutes need to reflect that the Council was presented with the information.

Chief Keel stated to do a motion and make it official. Director Boyles made a motion that the Council acknowledge the Director's review and approval of High Liability Training as required by CALEA. Seconded by Chief Holbrook.



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Council voted unanimously to acknowledge the Director's review and approval of High Liability Training as required by CALEA.

CLOSING REMARKS/AJOURNMENT

Agenda Item 8

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Opel C. Bunn

Opel C. Bunn