



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 26, 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 Monday, January 26, 2026. This meeting was advertised in accordance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

CALL TO ORDER

Agenda Item 1

Sheriff Lee Foster, Co-Chair of the Law Enforcement Training Council, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Sheriff Foster called for a roll call of the Council members. The roll was called by Madison Quagliato.

Members present for this meeting in-person were Sheriff Lee Foster (Co-Chairman), Newberry County Sheriff's Office; Interim Director Joel Anderson, S.C. Department of Corrections; Director Robert Woods, S.C. Department of Public Safety; and Chief William Holbrook, Columbia Police Department.

Members present for this meeting via video/conference call were Director Jake Gadsden, S.C. Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services; Director Tom Mullikin, SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR); Sheriff Barry Faile, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office; Chief Kevin Cornett, Isle of Palms Police Department; and Major Nick Gallam, Aiken County Detention Center.

Chief Mark Keel (Chairman), South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) and Attorney General Alan Wilson, S.C. Attorney General's Office were absent from this meeting.

Guest attendees present in-person or via video/conference call were Sally Foster, S.C. Sheriffs Association; JJ Jones, S.C. Law Enforcement Officers Association/S.C. Police Chiefs 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; William Monckton, VI, Esquire; Samuel "Buddy" Arthur, III, Esquire; Braeden Williams, Mindy Flood, and John Klein.

SC Criminal Justice Academy attendees were Director Jackie Swindler; James Fennell, General Counsel; 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 Missy Collins, Certification and Registration Manager.



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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda Item 2

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Director Woods. Director Anderson 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 15, 2025, meeting was made by Director Woods and seconded by Chief Holbrook. Council voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes as recorded.

2026 ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR

Agenda Item 4

A motion was made by Director Woods 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 2026.

A motion was made by Director Mullikin to nominate Sheriff Foster as Co-Chair. The motion was seconded by Director Anderson. Council voted unanimously to receive Sheriff Foster as Co-Chair of the SC Law Enforcement Training Council for calendar year 2026.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Agenda Item 5

A. General Counsel Report

- Misconduct Cases

Mindy Flood (2025-CJA-01-02) (Lexington County Public Safety/911)

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:



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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 the Officer by the 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).

Mindy Flood was present at this meeting and spoke on her own behalf and to answer questions from Council if applicable.

A representative from the agency was not present at this meeting.

After hearing statements from Mindy Flood, and having questions asked and answered by Mr. Fennell, Director Woods made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, finding misconduct, and to impose a permanent denial of certification. Director Anderson seconded the motion.

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

Braeden Williams (2024-CJA-07-03) (Myrtle Beach Police Department)

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. 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 Officer by the 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).

Samuel "Buddy" Arthur, III, Esquire was present and spoke on behalf of the Myrtle Beach Police Department and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.



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William Monckton, VI, Esquire was present at this meeting and spoke on behalf of Braeden Williams and to answer questions from Council if applicable.

Braeden Williams was present at this meeting.

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

Council voted unanimously accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, finding misconduct, and to permanently deny Braeden Williams' eligibility for a law enforcement certification.

John Massoud (2025-CJA-12-11) (South Carolina Law Enforcement Division)

Summary: South Carolina Law Enforcement Division submitted an allegation of misconduct on December 16, 2025, with a separation date of November 4, 2025. The agency indicated that the employee was suspended on November 4, 2025, pending an agency investigation. At the conclusion of their investigation, the agency planned to terminate Mr. Massoud, however he chose to resign in lieu of termination. The separation date was made retroactive to the date of the suspension. **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 the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division. Chief Holbrook seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to accept the late allegation of misconduct submitted by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

B. Financial Update

Lauren Wright

Expenses are up slightly due to salaries from a statewide pay increase.

Fines and fees revenues have continued to increase, however, not enough to cover inflation. Staff are currently exploring alternative ways to cover expenses. The first budget presentation is



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coming this week. The Governor's office has picked up transition of certain staff from other funds to the general funds.

C. Capital Projects Update

John Yarborough

The Academy has one current project for the renovation of the North Dorm Restroom. This renovation contains a total of 26 restrooms. The bid opening was January 20, 2026, and a total of 8 bids were submitted. Trident Veteran's Construction won the bid. The Academy intends to proceed with the project and hopes to begin construction on February 10, 2026. Construction is projected to take 220 days. The current completion timeline is October of 2026.

Director Swindler shared that the Academy would be down the beds for a period of time but should still be able to accommodate housing needs for mandated training programs.

D. Director's Comments

Director Swindler

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

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 must approve High Liability Training in the areas of: Use of Force, Defensive Tactics, Mental Illness, Civil Liability, Pursuits, Firearms, and Driving. He stated that he has reviewed the current lesson plans and programs and has approved the High Liability Training Content. He stated that as part of a CALEA standard and needed 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.



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Director Woods made a motion that the Council acknowledges the Director's review and approval of High Liability Training Content as required by CALEA. The motion was seconded by Director Anderson.

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

CLOSING REMARKS/AJOURNMENT

Agenda Item 8

Director Mullikin commended the staff of the Academy for the work that they do.

Sheriff Foster inquired whether there were any more questions or comments from Council.

Director Swindler shared information regarding the Academy's decision to suspend training for a day due to the potential for adverse weather conditions. Students will return on a delayed schedule and will provide evening classes to supplement missed training hours.

Director Swindler stated that the PAT remains scheduled for Wednesdays and that students are being assigned mandated training classes within 2 weeks of their PAT date. Class sizes will fluctuate based on the number of candidates presented for the PAT.

Sheriff Foster commended the staff for adapting to the adverse weather conditions to maintain the Council's schedule.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Madison C. Quagliato