



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023
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, July 26, 2023. 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 Debbie Bryant.

Members present for this meeting in-person were Chief Keel, (Chairman), State Law Enforcement Division (SLED); Director Bryan Stirling, S.C. Department of Corrections; Director Robert Boyles, S.C. Department of Natural Resources; Chief Kevin Cornett, Isle of Palms Police Department and Director Robert Woods, S.C. Department of Public Safety.

Members present via video/conference call were Sheriff Lee Foster (Co-Chair), Newberry County Sheriff's Office; Interim Director Melvin Warren, S.C. Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services; Director John Thomas, North August Department of Public Safety, Sheriff Barry Faile, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office; Captain Nick Gallam, Aiken County Detention Center; and Attorney General Alan Wilson, S.C. Attorney General's Office.

Guest attendees present in-person or via Webex were Jarrod Bruder, S.C. Sheriffs Association; JJ Jones, S.C. Law Enforcement Officers Association/S.C. Police Chiefs Association; Deputy Attorney General Jeff Young, S.C. Attorney General's Office; Marcus Gore, Esquire, S.C. Department of Public Safety.

SC Criminal Justice Academy attendees were Director Jackie Swindler; James Fennell, General Counsel; John Yarborough, Facilities Operations Manager; Lauren Wright, Finance Director, Debbie Bryant, Human Resources Director; Justin Miller, IT Manager; and Christopher Brumlow, Investigator.



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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Director Woods. Director Stirling seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

APPROVAL FOR MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2023, meeting was made by Director Boyles and seconded by Chief Cornett. Council voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes as recorded.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Financial Updates

Lauren Wright

As of the close of the fourth quarter of FY 2023 Court Fines and Fees revenues have increased by 19% over last years receipts as of fiscal year end on June 30. Agency expenditures have increased 11% over last year, this is primarily due to capital projects funded by one time funding from the general fund. In the coming year employer contributions and personal services costs are expected to increase substantially due to the law enforcement officer pay plan. However, this increase will be met by an increase in general fund appropriations so minimal impact to fines and fees balances is expected.

B. Capital Project Update

John Yarborough

Modular Buildings: Work is complete.

Target Systems: still waiting on parts.

Generator: at OSE for approval.

West annex dorm restrooms: working on putting the new tile and fixtures in. New completion date is October 2023.

C. General Counsel Report

- Misconduct Cases

Lisa Lawson (2023-CJA-01-02) (Mt. Pleasant PD)



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Summary: Alleging she had willfully provided 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.

Hearing Officer Recommended that Council:

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

Mr. Evans, Attorney for Ms. Lawson was present and spoke on Ms. Lawson's behalf and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

Chief Arnold spoke on behalf of the agency to represent Mt. Pleasant Police Department and answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from both parties, Director Stirling made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. Sheriff Foster seconded the motion.

Council voted to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and expunge within thirty (30) days all evidence related to the misconduct filed. Director Boyles recused himself from voting on this case because his wife works for Mount Pleasant. Chief Cornett recused himself from voting because Ms. Lawson works for his Department, Isle of Palms in a non-commissioned position.

Kasey Gamble (2019-CJA-01-13) (Georgetown County Detention Center)

Summary: Conviction, plea of guilty, plea of no contested, or admission or guilt (regardless of withheld adjudication) to a felony, a crime punishable by a sentence of more than one year (regardless of the sentence actually imposed, if any) crime of moral turpitude in this or any other jurisdiction.

Request for Final Agency Decision.

Attorney Jack Cohoon was present to speak on behalf of Ms. Gamble and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.



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Director Clark Ard was present to speak on behalf of the Georgetown County Detention Center and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

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 Kasey Gamble by the Georgetown County Detention Center has been proven by the preponderance of evidence; and
- B. Impose such sanction as the Council in its discretion deems appropriate pursuant to its authority set forth at S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-108 A.

After hearing statements from Mr. Cohoon and Director Ard, Captain Gallam made a motion to recommend permanent denial of eligibility of certification. Chief Cornett seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the decision of permanent denial of eligibility for certification.

Roderick Rodriguez (2022-CJA-11-13) (North Charleston Police Department)

Summary: Allegations 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.

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 reported against Roderick Rodriguez by the North Charleston Police Department has been proven by the preponderance of evidence; and
- B. Impose such sanction as the Council in its discretion deems appropriate pursuant to the authority set forth at S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-108A.

Attorney Mark Huber spoke on behalf of Mr. Rodriguez and was present to answer questions from the Council if applicable. Attorney Carlton Bourne spoke on behalf of North Charleston Police Department and was present to answer questions from Council, if applicable.



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After hearing statements from Mr. Huber and Mr. Bourne, Chief Cornett made a motion to adopt the recommendation of misconduct made by the Hearing Officer. Director Woods seconded the motion.

Prior to a vote, Council members discussed concerns regarding the case and Chief Cornett requested to withdraw his first motion to accept the recommendation of misconduct, and Director Woods seconded the motion. Chief Cornett made a second motion to accept permanent denial of the eligibility of certification. Chief Thomas seconded the motion.

With a vote of eight (8) to three (3), the motion carried to recommend permanent denial of the eligibility for certification.

Anthony Crosby (2023-CJA-07-03) (SCDPS) (Consent Order Proposal)

Summary: Allegations 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.

Mr. John O'Leary was present for Mr. Crosby and to answer any applicable questions by the council.

Attorney Marcus Gore attended on behalf of SCDPS to speak and answer any applicable questions by the Council.

Crosby has requested Council accept the proposed Consent Order. Crosby consents to his certification begin placed in probationary status for a period of two years (Probationary Period) from the date the Consent Order is approved by Council. Crosby also consents to attending 7.5 hours of ethics training, approved, and designated by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy each year of the Probationary Period for a total of fifteen (15) hours.

After hearing statements from Attorney O'Leary, Interim Director Warren made a motion to deny the Consent Order. Director Boyles seconded the motion.

Director Woods recused himself from the vote and the remaining Council members (ten) voted to deny the Consent Order.

D. Director's Comments

Director Swindler



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The first cohort leadership course (EPPS) will start in August. We had 54 applicants and sixteen (16) have been chosen. They are coming from multiple agencies such as CPD, Lancaster Sheriff's Office, Myrtle Beach PD, Charleston PD, North Charleston PD, USCPD, Claflin University DPS, Pacolet PD, Cayce PD, Richland County Sheriff's Office, Williamston PD, Allendale PD, Sumter County Sheriff's Office, Clemson University PD, and SLED.

We will be hiring eight (8) new employees in August at the Academy. We have developed a new orientation video that introduces our new employees to our department managers and the buildings located on campus.

We are expecting twenty (20) or more students to run the PAT test this week. Most students are put into the next class within a week. The students are all using iPads now. We have very little if any paper. All manuals and tests are on the iPads.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

CLOSING REMARKS/AJOURNMENT

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. Sheriff Faile seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie T. Bryant