



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 19, 2022
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, October 19, 2022. 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 Scheri Eichelberger.

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

Members present via video/conference call were Sheriff Lee Foster (Co-Chair), Newberry County Sheriff's Office; Sheriff Barry Faile, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office; Chief John Thomas, North Augusta Department of Public Safety; and Captain Nick Gallam, Aiken County Detention Center.

Attorney General Alan Wilson was absent from this meeting but was represented by proxy, Chief Deputy Attorney General Jeff Young. Directors Bryan Stirling and Jerry Adger were also absent from this meeting.

In-person guest attendees were Jarrod Bruder, S.C. Sheriffs Association; JJ Jones, S.C. Police Chiefs Association/S.C. Law Enforcement Officers Association; Mark Gosnell, S.C. Troopers Association; Jody Barr, Chief Investigative Reporter, FOX Charlotte; Skylar Laird, Post and Courier; and Chris Joseph, WISTV.

Joanna McDuffie, Esquire, Richland County Sheriff's Department attended as a guest via video call.

SC Criminal Justice Academy attendees were Director Jackie Swindler; Scheri Francois, Executive Assistant; James Fennell, General Counsel; Lauren Fennel, Accreditation and Standards Manager; Florence McCants, Administrative Operations Manager; John Yarborough, Facilities Manager; Thom McQueen, Financial Manager; Justin Miller, IT Manager; and Christopher Brumlow, Investigator.



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda Item 2

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

APPROVAL FOR MEETING MINUTES

Agenda Item 3

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2022, meeting was made by Director Woods 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

Jason Sanders: 2022-CJA-10-01 (S.C. Criminal Justice Academy)

Summary: The South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy received information that Jason Sanders was arrested by the South Carolina Highway Patrol and charged with Public Disorderly Conduct after interfering with an incident under investigation by the South Carolina Highway Patrol while he was intoxicated. **Request for Suspension.**

Sheriff Foster made a motion to temporarily suspend Jason Sanders's law enforcement certification pending the outcome of criminal charges. Chief Thomas seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to temporarily suspend Mr. Sanders's law enforcement certification pending the outcome of criminal charges. *Please note that Director Woods recused himself from the voting process in this case.*

Samuel Sterling: 2022-CJA-02-09 (Greenville Police Department) –

Summary: The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) notified the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy that the Greenville County Sheriff's Office arrested Samuel Sterling of the Greenville Police Department and charged him with Domestic Violence 3rd Degree. Information stated that the Greenville County Sheriff's Office investigation revealed the physical manifestation of injury to the victim which they believed was caused by Mr. Sterling. He was placed under arrest and transported to the Greenville County Detention Center. The Law Enforcement Training Council temporarily suspended Mr. Sterling's law enforcement certification pending the disposition of the charges.



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

Documentation was provided to Academy by the Greenville Police Department advising the charges against Mr. Sterling were dismissed. **Request for Reinstatement.**

Chief Thomas made a motion to reinstate Samuel Sterling's law enforcement certification. Sheriff Foster seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to reinstate Mr. Sterling's law enforcement certification.

Matthew Underwood: No assigned case number (Columbia Police Department) –

Summary: The Columbia Police Department filed an allegation of certification misconduct against Underwood alleging the physical or psychological abuse of member of the public and/or prisoners. Factually, the allegation states that Underwood had sexual relations with a female complainant in order for the complainant to avoid traffic tickets. On May 27, 2022, Underwood resigned while under internal investigation, and his separation was submitted as routine, however; after a Command Review Board convened at the conclusion of the internal investigation, it was determined that the facts and circumstances of Underwood's resignation met the definition of certification misconduct. As such, the previously submitted routine separation was amended to misconduct. **Acceptance Request.**

Sheriff Faile made a motion to accept the amended Personnel Change in Status (PCS) form to reflect misconduct. Director Woods seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to accept the amended PCS to reflect misconduct.

B. Financial Update

Tom McQueen

In the first quarter, the Academy once again had declines compared with the prior year with Court Fine revenue decreasing \$189,900 and \$5 Surcharge funds by \$12,534. Meanwhile Miscellaneous revenue increased \$25,694 and General Fund revenue \$537,067 due to salary and fringe increases. The Academy was able to carryforward \$883,945 of General Appropriated funds from FY21 to FY22 as well as \$3.7 million of Court Fine revenue; \$263,679 of \$5 Surcharge; and \$194,820 of Miscellaneous revenues. The return of advanced students on campus for the whole quarter accounts for the increase in Miscellaneous revenue while the \$5 Surcharge funds continue to trickle in.

Overall expenditures for the Agency increased by \$190,844 which included expenses for salaries and fringes of \$104,522 while other main areas of increase were food & food supplies (\$45,000), ammunitions & law enforcement supplies (\$32,000) and fuel (\$8,200).

With fluctuations in revenues, the Academy continues to adapt expenditures based on the receipts to remain within the budget constraints.



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

C. Capital Project Update

John Yarborough

- HVAC Building 10/11: Construction underway with projected completion date of February 2023
- Modular Buildings: hip date November
- Target Systems: Still waiting on parts
- Generator: Still in design phase
- West annex dorm rest rooms: Still in design phase and waiting on bid date

D. Director's Comments

Director Swindler

Director Swindler gave updates on Academy staffing and position postings.

Director Swindler informed Council that two trainings for policy writing in reference to H. 3050 were held at the Academy. The trainings were attended by 14 law enforcement agencies and the S.C. Municipal Association. Director Swindler informed Council of the Academy's intent to post positions for compliance officers and planned to have these officers going out to agencies for auditing in January 2023.

Director Swindler gave updates on the success of the S.W.A.T. Summit, advanced, basic, and special basic training, Physical Ability Testing (PAT) and cumulative testing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Agenda Item 5

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item 6

There was no new business to discuss.



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

CLOSING REMARKS/AJOURNMENT

Agenda Item 7

Prior to adjournment, Council welcomed new member, Chief Kevin Cornett of the Isle of Palms Police Department.

When there were no more matters to discuss, Sheriff Foster made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scheri C. Eichelberger". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Scheri C. Eichelberger
Executive Assistant