



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, September 16, 2024
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, September 16, 2024. 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 Opel Bunn.

Members present for this meeting in-person were Chief Mark Keel, (Chairman), State Law Enforcement Division (SLED); Director Bryan Stirling, S.C. Department of Corrections; Acting Director Jodi Gallman, 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; Chief Kevin Cornett, Isle of Palms Police Department; Captain Nick Gallam, Aiken County Detention Center; and Chief William Holbrook, Columbia Police Department.

Members present via video/conference call were Sheriff Lee Foster (Co-Chair), Newberry County Sheriff's Office and Director Robert Boyles, S.C. Department of Natural Resources.

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

Guest attendees present in-person or via Webex were JJ Jones, S.C. Law Enforcement Officers Association/S.C. Police Chiefs Association; Sally Foster, S.C. Sheriffs Association; John Steadman, Esquire, S.C. Department of Corrections; Special Agent Zuri Gebert, S.C. Department of Corrections, Office of Inspector General; Special Agent Trevor Sherbert, S.C. Department of Corrections, Office of Inspector General; John Mosser, Esquire, Clemson Police Department; Chief Jorge Campos, Clemson Police Department; Jacob Moore; Marcus Gore, Esquire, S.C. Department of Public Safety; Kenneth D. Phelps, S.C. Department of Public Safety; Joanna McDuffie, Esquire, Richland County Sheriff's Department; James L. Evans, Jr, Richland County Sheriff's Department; Harry DePew, Esquire; and John O'Leary, Esquire.

S.C. Criminal Justice Academy attendees were Director Jackie Swindler; Opel Bunn, Executive Assistant; James Fennell, General Counsel; Lauren Fennell, Accreditation and Standards Manager;



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

Madison Reynolds, Certification; Justin Miller, IT Manager; Briana Jirowetz, IT; Jared Lee, IT; and Tim Plunkett, Esquire, S.C. Criminal Justice Academy.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda Item 2

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Director Woods. Sheriff Faile 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 August 19, 2024, meeting was made by Sheriff Faile and seconded by Director Woods. Council voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes as recorded.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Agenda Item 4

A. General Counsel Report

- Misconduct Cases

Justin Cottingham (2023-CJA-07-05) (Florence County Sheriff's Office) (Consent Order)

Summary: Upon approval by Council and in lieu of a contested case hearing, without agreeing that he committed any alleged misconduct, Former Officer Cottingham, by and through his counsel, permanently and irrevocably surrenders and relinquishes any and all right and/or privileges he may have in the future to serve as a law enforcement officer in the State of South Carolina or any other State and/or Commonwealth of the United States of America due to a health issue.

Justin Cottingham was not present at this meeting.

There was no representation for Justin Cottingham, nor the Florence County Sheriff's Office present at this meeting.

Director Boyles made a motion to adopt the consent order and to permanently deny Justin Cottingham's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Director Woods seconded the motion.



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

Council voted unanimously to adopt the consent order and to permanently deny Justin Cottingham's eligibility for law enforcement certification.

Shirlee Craig (2023-CJA-06-02) (South Carolina Department of Corrections)

Summary: Conviction, plea of guilty, plea of no contested, or admission of guilt to a felony, a crime punishable by a sentence of more than one year, regardless of the sentence actually imposed, crime of moral turpitude in this or any other jurisdiction. **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 Shirlee Craig by the South Carolina Department of Corrections 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. 37-108A (1-5)

Shirlee Craig was not present at this meeting.

John Steadman, Esquire, was present and spoke on behalf of the South Carolina Department of Corrections and to answer questions from Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from Mr. Steadman, Director Boyles made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Shirlee Craig's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Captain Gallam seconded the motion.

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

Tianna Dunn (2024-CJA-04-10) (South Carolina Department of Corrections)

Summary: Allegation of engaging in the unlawful use of a controlled substance. **Request for Final Agency Decision.**

The Hearing Officer Recommended that Council:



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

- A. Issue its final agency decision, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-107 D. finding that the allegation of misconduct filed against Tianna Dunn by the South Carolina Department of Corrections have 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)

Tianna Dunn was not present at this meeting.

John Steadman, Esquire, was present and spoke on behalf of the South Carolina Department of Corrections and to answer questions from Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from Mr. Steadman, Sheriff Faile made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Tianna Dunn's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Director Woods seconded the motion.

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

Desmond Weston (2023-CJA-11-03) (South Carolina Department of Corrections)

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 reported against Desmond Weston by the South Carolina Department of Corrections has been proven by preponderance of the 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)

Desmond Weston was not present at this meeting.

John Steadman, Esquire, was present and spoke on behalf of the South Carolina Department of Corrections and to answer questions from Council if applicable.



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

After hearing statements from Mr. Steadman, Chief Cornett made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Desmond Weston's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Captain Gallam seconded the motion.

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

Hector Luna (2021-CJA-03-26) (Clemson 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 Hector Luna by the Clemson 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)

Hector Luna was not present at this meeting.

John Mosser, Esquire, was present and spoke on behalf of the Clemson Police Department and to answer question from the Council if applicable.

Chief Jorge Campos was present and spoke on behalf of the Clemson Police Department and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from all parties, Chief Holbrook made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Hector Luna's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Director Stirling seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Hector Luna's eligibility for law enforcement certification. ***Please note that Chief Keel recused himself from the voting process in this case.***



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

Jacob Moore (2023-CJA-11-09) (Greenville County Sheriff's Office)

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 allegations of misconduct filed against Jacob Moore by the Greenville 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 its authority set forth at S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-108 A (1-5)

Jacob Moore was present and spoke on his behalf and to answer question from the Council if applicable.

There was no representation for the Greenville County Sheriff's Office present at this meeting.

After hearing statements from Mr. Moore, Director Boyles made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Jacob Moore's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Sheriff Faile seconded the motion.

Dennis Stanton (2023-CJA-11-02) (Simpsonville Police Department)

Summary: Allegation of engaging in the physical or psychological abuses of members of the public or prisoners. **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 Dennis Stanton by the Simpsonville Police Department has been proven by preponderance of the 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)

Dennis Stanton was not present at this meeting.



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

There was no representation for Dennis Stanton, nor the Simpsonville Police Department present at this meeting.

Sheriff Faile made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Dennis Stanton's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Director Woods seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Dennis Stanton's eligibility for law enforcement certification.

Brian Gray (No Case Number) (Blackville Police Department)

Summary: Willfully falsifying material information provided to the Criminal Justice Academy. **Request for Withdrawal.**

Brian Gray was not present during this meeting.

John O'Leary, Esquire was present to observe only.

Timothy Plunkett, Esquire was present and spoke on behalf of the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy and to answer questions from Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from Mr. Plunkett, Director Boyles made a motion to withdraw Brian Gray's law enforcement certification. Chief Cornett seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to withdraw Brian Gray's law enforcement certification.

Charles Lemon

Summary: Acquitted of charges. **Request for Reinstatement.**

A motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Director Boyle for legal advice for the purposes of rendering a decision in this case. Sheriff Foster seconded the motion. Council entered Executive Session at 10:33 a.m. *Please note that Chief Keel did not take part in any discussion since SLED investigated the case.*

The public meeting reconvened at 10:49 a.m. *Please note that there was no discussion, except for advice from legal counsel with regards to the Charles Lemon certification issue, Chief Keel noted again that he did not take part in any discussion. No voting took place during Executive Session.*



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

Captain Gallam made a motion to reinstate Charles Lemon's law enforcement certification. Director Gallman seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to reinstate Charles Lemon's law enforcement certification. *Please note that Chief Keel recused himself from the voting process in this case.*

Hishea Adams (2024-CJA-08-10) (South Carolina Department of Corrections)

Summary: South Carolina Department of Corrections submitted a PCS of Misconduct Separation on August 28th, 2024, with a separation date of November 14, 2023. **Acceptance Request.**

Director Woods made a motion to accept late allegation of misconduct. Sheriff Faile seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to accept late allegation of misconduct. *Please note that Director Stirling recused himself from the voting process in this case.*

B. Director's Comments

Director Swindler

Director Swindler reported that we have been hosting a lot of additional trainings on top of our regular basic law enforcement, basic detention and telecommunication training. He stated that basic detention is around 90% completion, which is a much higher success rate lately. The classes have been large and have been successful, the new program is really working well. Basic law enforcement is tracking at a little over 80% completion. Once they start, we still have students who come here and have difficulty, particularly during legal weeks, which we have failures.

Director Swindler stated that we have a graduation this Friday, Chief Terrence Green is the speaker. Next week is the annual SWAT Summit that we host here for the FBI, about 100 SWAT operators from around the state will be here for a week.

Director Swindler gave an update on the School Resource Officer (SRO) program. He stated that it's been working out well over at the Gilbert Elementary School, where we do the Active Shooter training for the SRO program. He further stated that we do an entire day that Friday, so we go over there all that day, and we take our staff and meet with SLED, so that's been going really well.

Director Swindler commented that he speaks to all the Sheriffs and Chiefs at the meetings and conferences. He reported that he has been asked about getting someone in an SRO class. He stated that we have the SRO classes all summer long. He reported that we had 44 in one class and a little over 30 in another class, so there are a lot of seats there.



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

In his opinion, he believes that their training officers are not giving the people the right information. The training officers are reporting that the classes are full or there's a waiting list. We have plenty of seats, so there's some disconnect there. We have fulfilled every obligation we had through the Office of Highway Safety, who provides the grants for the SRO program and Mr. Tucker gives us information about who they've given the grants to, and we've got people who need to be trained. We've had classes and certainly had the opportunity to catch up with everybody that wanted one or needed one all throughout the summer. He reported that he will have another one in the fall and in the winter.

Director Swindler reported that it is working out well going over to the school. The students drive there that last day and stay the whole day, then leave from the school. So, that has worked well, that's a good setting. He stated that we can give statistics on the success of the SRO program.

Chief Keel commented that we have been hosting training even though the center is not really open every week. He reported that he went out there one day and we had a clan lab training going on, plus 43rd CST was doing an exercise, and we had our canines were out there. He stated that we got 9.1 million to spend on renovations and we're in the process right now, going through the bureaucratic part of it. As far as procurement and getting an architect on board to do the things we need to do, but the school is open, and we are hosting training out there every week. He stated that it will get better now as it gets a little bit cooler. He reported that the air conditioning is at a premium in some spaces, but again we're excited about it. We're doing a lot of training out there.

Chief Keel stated feel free if you or your agency has an opportunity to train your SWAT team or whatever you want to do, Active Shooter training. We're hosting that and having them come down and being able to work in a real school environment, everybody really like that. So, we're excited about getting an architect on board and getting it renovated and really get it up to standard that we want to and we're going to have a good meeting place out there that we'll be able to host a large training event as well. So again, we're excited about that.

Director Swindler spoke on the SRO class sizes, which were divided it into smaller groups. The training was completed on both levels with lots of opportunities to run different scenarios.

Chief Keel added that it's hard to read and it's hard to simulate that type of training unless you are in that environment. He stated that being in that environment with stairwells, long hallways and classrooms really makes it nice.

Director Swindler gave updates on the generator project. He reported that the generator is scheduled to be delivered this week from Florida on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Chief Keel stated that he appreciated everyone being in attendance today.



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

OLD BUSINESS

Agenda Item 5

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item 6

Traffic Safety Survey

Director Swindler reported that we received highway safety grants this year and were tasked by highway safety to create a survey and sent out to the agencies as to Traffic Safety Training. He stated that we sent out the survey and only received 72 responses. He believes what they were wanting to glean was what could be done to assist smaller agencies, but smaller agencies don't generally have designated Traffic Unit. He informed that another survey will be sent in February and then we'll have that data to help us in formulating, if there's any request for additional or change in our training. He reported that we'll have time to do that for our training calendar of July, when we apply for the highway safety grant next year. He advised the Council to send an email to Opel Bunn to confirm they have reviewed and approved or that they recognize the results from the survey. He added that we'll answer any questions if they have any.

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 Stirling made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Woods seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Opel C. Bunn