



# **South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy**

## **SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, September 10, 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, September 10, 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 10:00 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); Sheriff Lee Foster (Co-Chair), Newberry County Sheriff's Office; Director Jake Gadsden, S.C. Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services; Director Tom Mullikin, S.C. Department of Natural Resources; Director Robert Woods, S.C. Department of Public Safety; Sheriff Barry Faile, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office; Major Nick Gallam, Aiken County Detention Center; and Chief William Holbrook, Columbia Police Department.

Members present for this meeting via video/conference call was 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.

Interim Director Joel Anderson, S.C. Department of Corrections was absent from this meeting.

Guest attendees present in-person or via video/conference call were JJ Jones, S.C. Law Enforcement Officers Association/S.C. Police Chiefs Association; Sally Foster, S.C. Sheriffs Association; Mark Gosnell, S.C. Troopers Association; Colonel Chisolm Frampton, S.C. Department of Natural Resources; Lieutenant Jason Gilbert, S.C. Department of Public Safety; Regina Crolley, S.C. Department of Public Safety; Chief Kenneth D. Phelps, S.C. Department of Public Safety; James L. Evans, Jr., Richland County Sheriff's Department; Joanna McDuffie, Esquire, Richland County Sheriff's Department; Nico Babic; Lucas Ochs; Josh Newsom; Jack Cohoon, Esquire; and Marcus Gore, Esquire, S.C. Department of Public Safety.



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SC Criminal Justice Academy attendees were Director Jackie Swindler; Opel Bunn, Executive Assistant; Kayin Darby, Attorney/Instructor; James Fennell, General Counsel; Gracyn Malkiewicz, Standards; Madison Reynolds, Legal Unit; Justin Miller, IT Manager; Jared Lee, IT; Julian Scott, IT; Scott Deckard, Investigator; and Missy Collins, Certification Manager.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

### ***Agenda Item 2***

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Director Woods. Director Gadsden 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 18, 2025, meeting was made by Sheriff Faile and seconded by Sheriff Foster. Council voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes as recorded.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### ***Agenda Item 4***

#### **A. General Counsel Report**

##### **- Misconduct Cases**

#### **Nico Babic (2025-CJA-01-14) (Spartanburg Police Department)**

**Summary:** Allegation of engaging in the physical or psychological abuse of members of the public or prisoners and the wilful use of excessive force in an objectively unreasonable manner.

#### **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 Nico Babic by the Spartanburg Police Department has not been proven by preponderance of the evidence; and
- B. Approve, pursuant to the authority of the Law Enforcement Training Council set for at S.C. Code Ann. § 23-23-150 (G) (1), Nico Babic's eligibility for certification as a law enforcement officer in the State of South Carolina; and



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- C. 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 Nico Babic by the Spartanburg Police Department.

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

There was no representation for the Spartanburg Police Department present at this meeting.

After hearing statements from Mr. Babic, Major Gallam made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to the expunge records within thirty (30) days. Director Gadsden seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to expunge the records within thirty (30) days, granting Nico Babic's eligibility for law enforcement certification.

### **Lucas Ochs (2025-CJA-02-21) (South Carolina Department of Public Safety)**

**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:

- A. Issue its final agency decision, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-107 D., finding that the allegation of misconduct reported against Lucas Ochs by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety has not been proven by preponderance of the evidence; and
- B. Approve, pursuant to the authority of the Law Enforcement Training Council set for at S.C. Code Ann. § 23-23-150 (G) (1), Lucas Ochs's eligibility for certification as a law enforcement officer in the State of South Carolina; and
- C. 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 Lucas Ochs by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety.

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

Jack Cohoon, Esquire was present and spoke on behalf of Lucas Ochs and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.



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Marcus Gore, Esquire was present and spoke on behalf of the South Carolina Department of Public Safety and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from all parties, Sheriff Faile made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to the expunge records within thirty (30) days. Sheriff Foster seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to expunge the records within thirty (30) days, granting Lucas Ochs's eligibility for law enforcement certification. ***Please note Director Woods recused himself from voting process in this case.***

## **Casey Breedlove (2025-CJA-07-15) (Pickens County Emergency Services/911)**

**Summary:** Pickens County Emergency Services/911 submitted an allegation of misconduct on July 23, 2025, with a separation date of July 3, 2024. The agency indicated that there was extreme turnover over the past year and only one supervisor who was required to work in dispatch on rotation. The agency indicated that they are finally at a place to catch up on Academy documentation. **Acceptance Request.**

Kayin Darby, Esquire spoke on behalf of the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy and to answer questions from Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from Mr. Darby, Sheriff Faile made a motion to accept late allegation of misconduct by the Pickens County Emergency Services/911. Director Woods seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to accept late allegation of misconduct by the Pickens County Emergency Services/911.

## **D. Director's Comments**

### **Director Swindler**

Director Swindler gave updates on class sizes, training, and SWAT Summit.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### ***Agenda Item 5***

Director Swindler gave an update on the canine committee meeting and survey results. He reported that the committee members discussed having another meeting to finalize their recommendation.



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He asked if a motion can be made for the committee to meet again to review, discuss issues, and present back to the Council.

Chief Keel made a motion to approve the committee to meet again to finalized their recommendation for standards for the use of canines. Sheriff Foster seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to approve the committee to meet again.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Agenda Item 6***

The presentation about Flock Cameras was made by Lieutenant Jason Gilbert, S.C. Department of Public Safety and Regina Crolley, S.C. Department of Public Safety for the purpose using artificial intelligence component within the camera system to assist with crime prevention deterrence and investigations.

Lieutenant Gilbert stated that the S.C. Division of Technology (DTO) asked for approval from the Law Enforcement Training Council to use the AI component within Flock before finalizing the contract.

Sheriff Foster made a motion to approve the use of AI component in the Flock ALRP camera system. Sheriff Faile seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously approved the use of AI component in the Flock ALRP camera system.  
***Please note Director Woods recused himself from voting process in this case.***

## **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, Sheriff Foster made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Woods seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.  
Respectfully submitted by:

*Opel C. Bunn*

Opel C. Bunn