



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

## SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 21, 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 Monday, August 21, 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 Mark Keel, (Chairman), State Law Enforcement Division (SLED); Director Bryan Stirling, S.C. Department of Corrections; Interim Director Melvin Warren, S.C. Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services; and Director Robert Woods, S.C. Department of Public Safety.

Members present via video/conference call were Director Robert Boyles, S.C. Department of Natural Resources; Chief Kevin Cornett, Isle of Palms Police Department; Sheriff Lee Foster (Co-Chair), Newberry County Sheriff's Office; Director John Thomas, North August Department of Public Safety; Captain Nick Gallam, Aiken County Detention Center; and Attorney General Alan Wilson, S.C. Attorney General's Office.

Sheriff Barry Faile, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office, was absent from this meeting.

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; Marcus Gore, Esquire, S.C. Department of Public Safety; Deputy Chief Jim Stewart, Richland County Sheriff's Department; Joanna McDuffie, Esquire, Richland County Sheriff's Department; Director Clark Ard, Georgetown County Detention Center; and John Steadman, S.C. Department of Corrections.

SC Criminal Justice Academy attendees were Director Jackie Swindler; Opel Bunn, Executive Assistant; James Fennell, General Counsel; Lauren Fennell, Accreditation and Standards Manager; Debbie Bryant, Human Resources Director; Justin Miller, IT Manager; Mark Thomas, IT Manager; Major Florence McCants and Vincent Lee, IT.



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## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

## APPROVAL FOR MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2023, meeting was made by Director Boyles and seconded by Director Stirling. Council voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes as recorded.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### A. General Counsel Report

#### - Misconduct Cases

### Sean Terry (2023-CJA-01-14) (Richland County SD)

**Summary:** Allegation(s) 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.**

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 Sean Terry by the Richland County Sheriff's Department has been proven by a preponderance of the 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.

Mr. Sean Terry was present to speak on his behalf and answer questions from the Council if applicable.

Joanna McDuffie, Esquire spoke on behalf of the agency to represent Richland County Sheriff's Department and answer questions from the Council if applicable.



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After hearing statements from both parties, Director Boyles made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. Director Woods seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the decision of permanent denial of eligibility for certification.

## **Reard Patton (2022-CJA-12-11) (Greenville PD)**

**Summary:** Allegation(s) 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.**

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 Reard Patton by the Greenville Police Department has been proven by a preponderance of the 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.

Continued to next meeting.

## **Yasmine Marquez-Vargas (2022-CJA-11-08) (Georgetown Co. Det. Center) (Failure to Prosecute)**

**Summary:** Allegation(s) of willfully making 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. Order that the contested case file in this matter be closed.
- B. Order, pursuant to the requirements of S.C. Code Ann. § 23-23-150 (M), that all records maintained by South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy regarding the misconduct allegation reported against the Officer in the present matter be expunged within thirty (30) days of the date of the approval of this recommendation by the Council.



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- C. Approve, pursuant to its authority set forth at S.C. Code Ann. § 23-23-150 (G) (1), the Officer's eligibility for certification as a law enforcement officer in the State of South Carolina.

Ms. Marquez-Vargas was not present.

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

After hearing statements from Director Ard, Director Stirling made a motion to adopt the recommendation that the records be expunged within thirty (30) days of the date of the approval of this recommendation by the Council. Director Woods seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the decision of expungement within thirty (30) days.

## **Dalton Mosher (2023-CJA-02-22) (Fort Mill PD)**

**Summary:** Allegation(s) 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 an allegation of misconduct reported against Dalton Mosher by the Fort Mill 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. 37-108 A.

Mr. Dalton Mosher was present to speak on his behalf and answer questions from the Council if applicable.

There was no representation for the officer nor the Department in this meeting.

After hearing statements from Mr. Mosher, Director Woods made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. Director Thomas seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the decision of permanent denial of eligibility for certification.



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## **Daniel Baird (2023-CJA-02-13) (Florence PD)**

**Summary:** Allegation(s) 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 Daniel Baird by the Florence 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 its authority set forth at S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-108 A.

Mr. Daniel Baird was present to speak on his behalf and answer questions from the Council if applicable.

There was no representation for the officer nor the Department in this meeting.

After hearing statements from Mr. Baird, Director Stirling made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. Interim Director Warren seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the decision of permanent denial of eligibility for certification.

## **Jonathan Davis: 2023-CJA-08-01 (Dorchester County SD)**

**Summary:** Jonathan Davis was arrested by SLED and charged with Assault and Battery 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree. Mr. Davis has been placed on administrative leave pending the disposition of the criminal charge. **Request for Suspension.**

Director Boyles made a motion to temporarily suspend Jonathan Davis's law enforcement certification pending disposition of the criminal charge. Captain Gallam seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to temporarily suspend Jonathan Davis's law enforcement certification pending the outcome of the criminal charge. *Please note that Chief Keel recused himself from the voting process in this case.*



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## **Shaun Weatherford: 2023-CJA-08-07 (N. Charleston PD)**

**Summary:** Shaun Weatherford was arrested by the Mt. Pleasant Police Department and charged with Driving Under the Influence. Mr. Weatherford has been placed on administrative leave pending the disposition of the criminal charge. **Request for Suspension.**

Sheriff Foster made a motion to temporarily suspend Shaun Weatherford's law enforcement certification pending disposition of the criminal charge. Director Woods seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to temporarily suspend Shaun Weatherford's law enforcement certification pending the outcome of the criminal charge.

## **Scott Yurchuck: 2023-CJA-02-07 (Lander University Public Safety)**

**Summary:** Scott Yurchuck was previously arrested by South Carolina Highway Patrol. He provided an expungement order regarding the disposition of the charge. A check of Yurchuck's South Carolina Driver's Record shows his license is valid and was not previously suspended for driving under the influence of alcoholic beverages or dangerous drugs, driving while impaired (or the equivalent), reckless homicide, involuntary manslaughter, or leaving the scene of an accident. **Request for Re-Instatement.**

Director Boyles made a motion to reinstate Scott Yurchuck's law enforcement certification. Director Stirling seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to reinstate Scott Yurchuck's law enforcement certification. *Please note that Director Woods recused himself from the voting process in this case.*

## **Michele Gould: 2023-CJA-07-04 (South Carolina Department of Corrections)**

**Summary:** The South Carolina Department of Corrections filed a misconduct allegation regarding Michele Gould alleging Ms. Gould willfully made 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. The allegation states Ms. Gould was terminated for admittance to bringing contraband in the correctional institution and was found to have made false statements to representatives of the agency. The submission of the allegation exceeded the time allowed by statute. SCDC advised the reason for the delay in submission is additional information was obtained through further investigation. **Request for Acceptance.**



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Ms. Gould was not present.

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

After hearing statements from John Steadman, Director Woods made a motion to accept late paperwork regarding Michele Gould's misconduct allegation(s). Captain Gallam seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to accept late paperwork regarding Michele Gould's misconduct allegation(s). *Please note that Director Stirling recused himself from the voting process in this case.*

A motion to go into Executive Session was made by Director Woods and seconded by Director Stirling. Chief Keel called the Executive Session to order at 10:47 a.m. and adjourned at 10:58 am. There were no votes, no motions, and no 2nds made during the Executive Session.

## **B. Director's Comments**

### Director Swindler

The first cohort leadership course (EPPS) started in August. We have 16 individuals, 15 command staff and 1 line officer, who can put into action what they learned. Director Swindler attended a dinner and received favorable comments regarding the course. The course consists of 35% lecture and 65% of class participation. Next cohort will start December 4 – 8, with another cohort starting in January. The advisory committee will meet again in a month.

The Criminal Justice Academy Onboarding video was sent out to all Council members and new hires.

SWAT Summit will be held here later this year.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to discuss.



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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Opel C. Bunn*

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Opel C. Bunn