



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

SOUTH CAROLINA  
LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 14, 2020  
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, December 14, 2020. This meeting was advertised in accordance to 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 Francois.

Chief Mark Keel, State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) and Sheriff Lee Foster, Newberry County Sheriff's Office (Co-Chair) attended the meeting in person.

Members who attended the meeting via Webex Video/Teleconference were Attorney General Alan Wilson, SC Attorney General's Office; Director Jerry Adger, SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services; Director Bryan Stirling, SC Department of Corrections; Director Robert Boyles, SC Department of Natural Resources; Director Robert Woods, SC Department of Public Safety; Sheriff Barry Faile, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office; Director John Thomas, North Augusta Department of Public Safety; Chief Tony Taylor, Williamston Police Department; and Captain Nick Gallam, Aiken County Detention Center.

Guest attendees who attended the meeting via Webex Video/Teleconference Call and in person were Executive Director Jarrod Bruder, SC Sheriffs Association; Executive Director Ryan Alphin, SC Police Chiefs Association/SC Law Enforcement Officers Association; Mark Gosnell, SC Troopers Association; Barry Bernstein, SC Attorney General's Office; Marcus Gore, SC Department of Public Safety; Joanna McDuffie, Richland County Sheriff's Department; Jim Stewart, Richland County Sheriff's Department; and Lee Ellis, SC Department of Natural Resources.

***A full list of guest attendees may be obtained upon request.***

SC Criminal Justice Academy attendees were Director Jackie Swindler; Scheri Francois, James Fennell, Justin Miller, Lauren Fennell, and Christopher Brumlow.



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## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

### *Agenda Item 2*

Upon a motion made by Director Boyles and seconded by Attorney General Wilson, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

## **APPROVAL FOR MEETING MINUTES**

### *Agenda Item 3*

1. A motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2020, meeting was made by Director Boyles and seconded by Attorney General Wilson. Council voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes as recorded.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### *Agenda Item 4A*

#### 2. **General Counsel**

- Misconduct Cases

#### **Malik McCown: 2019-CJA-07-05 (SC Department of Public Safety)**

**Summary:** Allegation of physical or psychological abuses of members of the public and/or prisoners. **Request for Reinstatement.**

The SC Criminal Justice Academy was notified that the criminal charges against Mr. McCown were dismissed, nolle prossed, or he was found not guilty.

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

#### **Carla Grier: 2020-CJA-05-14 (Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center)**

**Summary:** On December 7, 2020, the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center submitted a Personnel Change in Status (PCS) form of Separation Due to Misconduct for Carla Grier alleging physical or psychological abuses of members of the public and/or prisoners. The date of separation reflected on the form is listed as May 19, 2020, which exceeds the time allowed by statute by approximately 172 days.

The Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center advised that they filed an Excessive Force Notification on June 18, 2020, and were under the assumption the Excessive Force Notification would also serve as the Separation Due to Misconduct. After discovering that Ms. Grier was still listed as 'active' on the agency's ACADIS roster, they contacted the SC Criminal Justice Academy, and they were



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advised that a PCS of Separation was required to separate the officer from the agency. **Request for Acceptance of PCS of Separation Due to Misconduct.**

Director Boyles made a motion to accept the late PCS of Separation Due to Misconduct. Director Adger seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to accept the late PCS of Separation Due to Misconduct.

## **Matthew Fields: No assigned case number (Lexington County Sheriff's Office)**

**Summary:** On December 10, 2020, the Lexington County Sheriff's Office submitted a Personnel Change in Status (PCS) form for Matthew Fields alleging physical or psychological abuses of members of the public and/or prisoners. The Lexington County Sheriff's Office advised that at the date of separation, July 13, 2020, information was submitted to SLED. An investigation was conducted and completed by SLED. As a result of the investigation, SLED filed criminal charges against Mr. Fields on December 9, 2020. A Routine Separation was submitted to the SC Criminal Justice Academy on July 21, 2020, this submission is to amend the original separation from Routine to Misconduct.

Director Boyles made a motion to accept the amended PCS of Separation Due to Misconduct from its original submission of a Routine Separation. Director Adger seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to accept the amended PCS form. ***Please note that Chief Keel recused himself from the voting process in this case.***

## **Director's Comments/Business**

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

Director Swindler re-presented 2020-LETC-001, the order regarding Class 3 Officers, to Council due to the amount of questions and concerns the Academy received from law enforcement agency heads. Director Swindler proposed that Council amend the order to make clear the duties Class 3 Officers cannot perform.

Sheriff Foster presented questions and concern he had heard from sheriffs regarding the order, which was sent to law enforcement agency heads on November 10, 2020. Council also heard from Joanna McDuffie of the Richland County Sheriff's Department with concerns from their agency regarding Class 3 Officers.

Director Boyles made a motion to reopen discuss on the order that Council approved in the November 9, 2020, meeting. Director Adger seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to reopen discussion of 20-LETC-00, the order regarding duties of Class 3 Officers.



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Council had an in depth discussion regarding duties of Class 3 Officers. During this discussion, Council had questions answered by Director Swindler and James Fennell relating to what duties Class 3 Officers can perform.

Because of the high volume of questions and concerns from law enforcement agency heads, Chief Keel suggested that this topic be revisited in the next meeting, which will be held on January 20, 2021, to give the Academy time to amend the order and give Council time to review the amendments.

Director Boyles made a new motion for the previous version of the order for Class 3 Officers be rescinded and returned to the Academy for further development. In Director Boyles' motion, he also suggested that the effective date of January 1, 2021 (the previously agreed upon effective date of the order), be suspended until further review by Council. Director Stirling seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to rescind the previous version of the order for further development by the Academy and to suspend the January 1, 2021, effective date until further review and discussion by Council.

## **CLOSING REMARKS/ADJOURNMENT**

### *Agenda Item V*

Sheriff Faile made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Scheri E. Francois  
Executive Assistant