



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

SOUTH CAROLINA  
LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, June 20, 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 Monday, June 20, 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 10:06 a.m. Chief Keel called for a roll call of the Council members. The roll was called by Scheri Francois.

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 Director Jerry Adger, S.C. Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services.

Members present via video/conference call were Sheriff Lee Foster (Co-Chair), Newberry County Sheriff's Office; Attorney General Alan Wilson, S.C. Attorney General's Office; Director Bryan Stirling, S.C. Department of Corrections; Director Robert Boyles, S.C. Department of Natural Resources; Chief John Thomas, North Augusta Department of Public Safety; and Chief Tony Taylor, Williamston Police Department.

Sheriff Barry Faile, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office; and Captain Nick Gallam, Aiken County Detention Center were absent from this meeting.

Guest attendees were Jarrod Bruder, S.C. Sheriffs Association; Mark Gosnell, S.C. Troopers Association; Deputy Chief Jim Stewart, Richland County Sheriff's Department; Joanna McDuffie, Esquire, Richland County Sheriff's Department; Marcus Gore, Esquire, S.C. Department of Public Safety; Joel M. Deason, Sr., Esquire; R. Nichols Riley, Esquire, Alexis K. Lindsay, Esquire; and Heather Kanipe.

SC Criminal Justice Academy attendees were Director Jackie Swindler; Scheri Francois, Executive Assistant; James Fennell, General Counsel; 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 Director Adger. Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

## APPROVAL FOR MEETING MINUTES

### *Agenda Item 3*

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2022, meeting was made by Director Woods and seconded by Director Adger. Council voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes as recorded.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### *Agenda Item 4*

#### A. General Counsel Report

- Misconduct Cases

#### Heather Kanipe: 2019-CJA-06-16 (Lexington 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.**

Hearing Officer recommended that Council:

- Issue its final agency decision, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-107 D., finding that the allegation of misconduct filed against Kanipe/Oswald by the Lexington County Sheriff's Office has been proven by substantial evidence; and
- 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.

Heather Kanipe attended this meeting to speak on her own behalf and to answer questions from Council, if applicable.

Joel E. Deason, Sr., Esquire, attended this meeting to represent Lexington County Sheriff's Office and to answer questions from Council, if applicable.



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

Upon hearing statements from both parties, Director Adger made a motion accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer to permanently deny Ms. Kanipe eligibility for law enforcement certification. Director Stirling seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and permanently denied Ms. Kanipe eligibility for law enforcement certification.

## **Timothy Gaston: 2021-CJA-09-10 (Union Public Safety 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.**

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 reported against Timothy Gaston by the Union Public Safety Department has been proven by substantial evidence; and
- B. Determine a fitting and appropriate sanction regarding Timothy Gaston's continuing eligibility for certification as a law enforcement officer in the State of South Carolina, pursuant to the authority set forth at S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-108 A.

R. Nichols Riley, Esquire, attended this meeting to represent Timothy Gaston and to answer any questions from Council, if applicable.

Alexis K. Lindsay attended this meeting to represent the S.C. Department of Natural Resources and to answer questions from Council, if applicable.

Upon hearing statements from both parties, Sheriff Foster made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer for the purpose of discussion. Director Woods seconded the motion.

Council had additional questions answered by both parties. Upon the conclusion of receiving further information, Director Adger made a motion to permanently deny Mr. Gaston eligibility for law enforcement certification. Director Thomas seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and permanently denied Mr. Gaston eligibility for law enforcement certification. ***Please note that Director Boyles recused himself from the voting process in this case.***

## **Lonnie Godsey: 2022-CJA-06-05 (Aynor Police Department) –**

**Summary:** The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) notified the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy that on May 7, 2022, the South Carolina Highway Patrol arrested



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

Lonnie Godsey of Aynor Police Department and charged him with Driving Under the Influence less .10 1<sup>st</sup> Offense. **Suspension Request.**

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

## D. Director's Comments

Director Swindler

Director Swindler informed Council that American Legion students had been on campus attending the Nathan Wolfe Law Cadet Academy.

Director Swindler also informed Council of a meeting that was held with various law enforcement associations to work on model policies in reference to House Bill 3050. The minimum standard of policies will be presented to Council at the July meeting. More advanced policies will be available for agencies that would like to have more comprehensive additions to the minimum standard of policies.

Director Swindler answered questions from Council regarding these policies.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

*Agenda Item 5*

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

## NEW BUSINESS

*Agenda Item 6*

There was no new business to discuss.

## CLOSING REMARKS/AJOURNMENT

*Agenda Item 7*

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 am.



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

Respectfully submitted by:

Scheri E. Francois

Scheri E. Francois  
Executive Assistant