



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

SOUTH CAROLINA
LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, June 19, 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, June 19, 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 10:02 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 Keel, (Chairman), State Law Enforcement Division (SLED); Interim Director Melvin Warren, S.C. Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services; Director Bryan Stirling, S.C. Department of Corrections; Director Robert Boyles, S.C. Department of Natural Resources; Chief Kevin Cornett, Isle of Palms Police Department and Director Robert Woods, S.C. Department of Public Safety.

Members present via video/conference call were Sheriff Lee Foster (Co-Chair), Newberry County Sheriff's Office; Director John Thomas, North August Department of Public Safety, Sheriff Barry Faile, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office; and Captain Nick Gallam, Aiken County Detention Center.

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; Deputy Attorney General Jeff Young, S.C. Attorney General's Office; Marcus Gore, Esquire, S.C. Department of Public Safety.

SC Criminal Justice Academy attendees were Director Jackie Swindler; Lauren Fennell, Standards & Accreditation Manager; James Fennell, General Counsel; Justin Miller, IT Manager; Christopher Brumlow, Investigator.



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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Director Boyles. Chief Cornett seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

APPROVAL FOR MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2023, meeting with one correction was made by Director Boyles and seconded by Chief Cornett. Council voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes as recorded.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. General Counsel Report

- Misconduct Cases

Avery Lucas (2022-CJA-10-16) (North Charleston PD)

Summary: Allegations of dangerous or unsafe practices involving firearms, weapons, or vehicles which indicate either a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property.

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 filed against Avery Lucas by the North Charleston Police Department has been proven by a 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. Huber, Attorney for Mr. Lucas was not present.

Carlton R. Bourne, Jr attended this meeting to represent North Charleston PD and answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from Mr. Bourne, Director Stirling made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. Director Woods seconded the motion.



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Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. A motion was made by Sheriff Faile for permanent denial of eligibility for certification as a law enforcement officer. A second was made by Captain Gallam. Council voted unanimously for permanent denial of eligibility for certification as a law enforcement officer.

Justin Dorman (2022-CJA-11-06) (Folly Beach PD)

Summary: 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.

Dangerous or unsafe practices involving firearms, weapons, or vehicles which indicate either a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property. **Request for Final Agency Decision.**

Hearing Officer Recommended that Council:

- A. Order that the contested case file in this matter be closed; and
- B. Order, pursuant to the requirements of S.C. Code Ann. § 23-23-150 (M), that the “Personnel Change in Status Report: Notification of Separation Due to Misconduct” filed by the Department in this matter be expunged, and that the certification file of the Officer be updated in the records of the Criminal Justice Academy to reflect no outstanding allegations of misconduct based on the allegations reported by the Department in this matter.

Mr. Huber, Attorney for Mr. Dorman did not attend the meeting.

Chief Andrew Gilgreath attended this meeting to represent Folly Beach PD and answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from Mr. Dorman and Chief Gilgreath, Director Boyles made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer to expunge the record within thirty (30) days. Director Woods seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer.

Wendy Glenn (2022-CJA-10-14) (Chester County SO)

Summary: Allegations 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.**



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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 Wendy Glenn by the Chester County Sheriff's Office has not been proven by the preponderance of evidence; and
- B. Expunge within (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 Wendy Glenn by the Chester County Sheriff's Office

Attorney Katherine M. Swancy attended this meeting to represent the Chester County Sheriff's Department and answer questions from Council, if applicable.

After hearing statements from Ms. Glenn and Ms. Swancey, Director Boyle made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. Captain Gallam seconded the motion. One council member voted no and eight council members voted to adopt the recommendation of the hearing officer to expunge the record within thirty (30) days. The motion passed.

Michael Raffield (2022-CJA-10-06) (Springfield PD)

Summary: Allegations 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 the state.

Willfully 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.**

Hearing Officer Recommended that Council:

- A. Order that the contested case file in this matter be closed; and
- B. Order, pursuant to the requirements of S.C. Code Ann. § 23-23-150 (M), that the "Personnel Change in Status Report: Notification of Separation Due to Misconduct" filed by the Department in this matter be expunged, and that the certification file of the Officer be updated in the records of the Criminal Justice Academy to reflect no outstanding allegations of misconduct based on the allegations reported by the Department in this matter.



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Mr. Raffield's attorney, Ryan K. Hicks was present and available to answer questions from Council, if applicable.

Andrea White, Attorney for the Department was not present.

After hearing statements from Attorney Hicks Director Boyles made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and Director Stirling seconded the motion. Director Woods recused himself. Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the hearing officer and expunge the records within thirty (30) days.

Michael Bryant (2022-CJA-06-03) (J. Reuben Long Detention Center)

Summary: Allegations 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 the state.

Request for Agency Final Decision.

The Hearing Officer Recommended that Council:

- A. Order that the contested case file in this matter be closed; and
- B. Order, pursuant to the requirements of S.C. Code Ann. § 23-23-150 (M), that the "Personnel Change in Status Report: Notification of Separation Due to Misconduct" filed by the Department in this matter be expunged, and that the certification file of the Officer be updated in the records of the Criminal Justice Academy to reflect no outstanding allegations of misconduct based on the allegations reported by the Department in this matter.

Mr. Hayes, Attorney for Mr. Bryant attended this meeting.
No one was present from the J. Reuben Long Detention Center.

After hearing statements from Mr. Hayes, Chief Cornett made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer to expunge the records within thirty (30) days. Director Woods seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the hearing officer.

Michelle Odell (2023-CJA-04-02) (Georgetown PD) (Consent Order Proposal)

Summary: Willful use of excessive force in an objectively unreasonable manner. **Request for Final Agency Decision.**



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The Hearing Officer Recommended that Council:

Officer consents to one year probation from the date of the order and 16 hours of use of force training as approved by the Law Enforcement Training Council.

Johnny J. Evans was present for this meeting to represent Ms. Odell and answer questions from Council, if applicable.

The Department did not have representation.

After hearing statements from Mr. Evans, Director Boyles made a motion to accept the consent order as submitted. Chief Cornett seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to accept the consent order as submitted.

Fantasia Major (2023-CJA-06-01) (Beaufort County Detention Center)

Summary: Suspension Request

Major was arrested by the South Carolina Highway Patrol and charged with DUI .16 or greater.

Director Boyles made a motion to temporarily suspend certification pending the outcome. Director Stirling seconded the motion. Director Woods recused himself from the vote. Council voted unanimously to temporarily suspend certification pending the outcome.

Failure to Reimburse Training Costs

Mr. Fennell informed the council that Aiken County Sheriff's Office reached out to inform us that they have been reimbursed for training costs by Blackville Police Department. It has been removed from the docket.

B. Director's Comments

Director Swindler

The first cohort leadership course (Training Council and USC School of Law) will be in August. We had 54 applicants. We have narrowed it down to 15. A web site will be up soon that will explain the program. One person has been hired. He will take over the research and technology portion. They are also in the process of hiring others to manage the program. They are also applying for Grants that will help the program.

We had five (5) individuals for the PAT course last Wednesday. Things have slowed up. We have been starting each class with 60 students in order to catch up.



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Director Stirling mentioned the Law Enforcement pay study that was done and most appreciated. They have been able to increase their hiring of officers.

246 out of state officers were hired last year and put through special basics. Chief Keel asked how we look at military experience as related to our law enforcement training. Director Swindler stated he looks at their duties and what was their job in the military.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

CLOSING REMARKS/AJOURNMENT

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. Chief Cornett seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie T. Bryant".

Debbie T. Bryant