



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

## SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 30, 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, October 30, 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 10:01 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); Acting Director Jodi Gallman, S.C. Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services; Director Robert Boyles, S.C. Department of Natural Resources 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 and Sheriff Barry Faile, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office.

Attorney General Alan Wilson, S.C. Attorney General's Office was absent from this meeting but was represented by proxy, Chief Deputy Attorney General Jeff Young. Director Bryan Stirling, S.C. Department of Corrections; Chief Kevin Cornett, Isle of Palms Police Department and Captain Nick Gallam, Aiken County Detention Center were also absent from this meeting.

Guest attendees present in-person or via Webex were Jarrod Bruder, S.C. Sheriffs Association; Deputy Chief Jim Stewart, Richland County Sheriff's Department; Joanna McDuffie, Esquire, Richland County Sheriff's Department; Donald Gist, Esquire; Caroline Cleveland, Esquire, Charleston Police Department; Ryan Hicks, Esquire; Kenneth Davis, Esquire, Allendale Police Department; Chief Lawrence Wiggins, Allendale Police Department; and Carlton Bourne, Esquire, North Charleston Police Department.

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; Vincent Lee, IT; Major Florence McCants; and Christopher Brumlow, Investigator.



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## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Director Boyles. 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 September 18, 2023, meeting was made by Director Boyles and seconded by Director Woods. Council voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes as recorded.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### A. General Counsel Report

#### - Misconduct Cases

### George Brisbon 2020-CJA-02-08 (Charleston Police Department)

**Summary:** Allegation(s) of misrepresentation of employment related information. **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 an allegation of misconduct reported against George Brisbon by the Charleston 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. George Brisbon was present in this meeting.

Donald Gist, Esquire, was present to speak on behalf of Mr. Brisbon and answer questions from the Council if applicable.

Caroline Cleveland, Esquire, was present to speak on behalf of the Charleston Police Department and answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from all parties, Sheriff Faile made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Mr. Brisbon's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Director Thomas seconded the motion.



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With a vote of 5 (Yes) to 1 (No), the motion passed, and Council permanently denied Mr. Brisbon's eligibility for law enforcement certification. *Please note that Chief Keel recused himself from the voting process in this case.*

## **Rudolph Johnson 2023-CJA-04-03 (Allendale Police Department)**

**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 filed against Rudolph Johnson by the Allendale 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. Rudolph Johnson was present to speak on his behalf and answer questions from the Council if applicable.

Ryan Hicks, Esquire, was present to speak on behalf of Mr. Johnson and answer questions from the Council if applicable.

Kenneth Davis, Esquire, and Chief Lawrence Wiggins were present to speak on behalf of the Allendale Police Department and answer questions from the Council if applicable.

Council had a brief discussion after hearing statements from all parties. Upon completion of the discussion Sheriff Foster then made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer of the allegation of misconduct brought forth by the Allendale Police Department. Acting Director Gallman seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer of the allegation of misconduct brought forth by the Allendale Police Department.

Director Woods made an additional motion to permanently deny Mr. Johnson's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Sheriff Foster seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to permanently deny Mr. Johnson's eligibility for law enforcement certification. *Please note that Director Boyles and Chief Keel recused themselves from the voting process in this case.*



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## **Brandon Floyd (2021-CJA-09-02) (Lake City Police Department) (Prosecutorial Discretion)**

**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; 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.

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

Director Boyles made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer to expunge the record of misconduct within thirty (30) days, and grant Mr. Floyd continued eligibility for law enforcement certification. Director Woods seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer to expunge the record of misconduct within thirty (30) days, and grant Mr. Floyd continued eligibility for law enforcement certification.

## **Myles Thompson (2023-CJA-06-08) (Greenville Co. Sheriff’s Office) (Prosecutorial Discretion)**

**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. 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



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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.

Ryan Hicks, Esquire, was present to speak on behalf of Mr. Thompson and answer questions from the Council if applicable.

There was no representation for the Department in this meeting.

Director Boyles made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer to expunge the record of misconduct within thirty (30) days, and grant Mr. Thompson continued eligibility for law enforcement certification. Director Woods seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer to expunge the record of misconduct within thirty (30) days, and grant Mr. Thompson continued eligibility for law enforcement certification.

## **Thelma Lewis (2023-CJA-05-10) (North Charleston PD) (Prosecutorial Discretion)**

**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. 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.

There was no representation for the officer in this meeting.

Carlton Bourne, Esquire, was present to speak on behalf of the North Charleston Police Department and answer questions from the Council if applicable.



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Director Boyles made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer to expunge the record of misconduct within thirty (30) days, and grant Ms. Lewis continued eligibility for law enforcement certification. Director Woods seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer to expunge the record of misconduct within thirty (30) days, and grant Ms. Lewis continued eligibility for law enforcement certification.

## **B. Financial Updates**

Lauren Wright

As of the close of the first quarter of FY 2024 Court Fines and Fee revenues are up 16% over the same time last fiscal year. Expenditures are up 14% over the same period last year, largely due to the law enforcement pay plan and statewide increases that went into effect on July 1st. SCCJA revenue remains sufficient to cover agency expenses.

## **C. Capital Project Update**

John Yarborough

**Target Systems:** still waiting on parts, estimate six weeks as of 9-19-23.

**Generator:** bid awarded to Burriss Electrical.

**West annex dorm restrooms:** work complete and rooms being used.

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

Director Swindler

Director Swindler gave updates regarding vacant and filled Academy positions since the last quarter.

## **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 Boyles seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Opel C. Bunn*

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Opel C. Bunn