



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

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## SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 24, 2024  
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 Wednesday, January 24, 2024. 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 10:05 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 Woods, S.C. Department of Public Safety; and Chief Kevin Cornett, Isle of Palms Police Department.

Members present via video/conference call were Sheriff Lee Foster (Co-Chair), Newberry County Sheriff's Office; Sheriff Barry Faile, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office; and Captain Nick Gallam, Aiken County Detention Center.

Attorney General Alan Wilson, S.C. Attorney General's Office was absent from this meeting but was represented by proxy, Deputy Attorney General Jeff Young. Director Bryan Stirling, S.C. Department of Corrections and Director Robert Boyles, S.C. Department of Natural Resources were also 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; 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; Adam Whitsett, Esquire, S.C. Law Enforcement Division (SLED); John O'Leary, Esquire; Dawn McGuire, Bart McGuire; Major Cody Bishop, Greenwood County Sheriff's Office; Brad Ware, Greenwood County Sheriff's Office; Sheriff Jay Koon, Lexington County Sheriff's Office; Joel Deason, Esquire, Lexington Sheriff's Office; Ryan Hicks, Esquire; Sydney Tyson; Chris Stevenson; M. Ryan Payne, Esquire; Douglas Barfield, Jr., Esquire, Lancaster County Detention Center; Jonathan Davis; Shirley Truesdale; and Yiesha Cobb.



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SC Criminal Justice Academy attendees were Director Jackie Swindler; Opel Bunn, Executive Assistant; James Fennell, General Counsel; Lauren Fennell, Accreditation and Standards Manager; Gracyn Malkiewicz, Standards; Madison Reynolds, Certification; John Yarborough, Facilities Operation Manager; Lauren Wright, Finance Manager; Justin Miller, IT Manager; Briana Jirowetz, IT; Major Florence McCants, Administrative Operations; and Scott Deckard, Investigator.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Director Woods. 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 December 11, 2023, meeting was made by Director Woods and seconded by Chief Cornett. Council voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes as recorded.

## **2024 ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR**

A motion was made by Sheriff Faile, nominating Chief Mark Keel as Chair. The motion was seconded by Acting Director Gallman. Council voted unanimously to receive Chief Keel as Chair of the SC Law Enforcement Training Council for calendar year 2024.

Director Woods made a motion nominating Sheriff Lee Foster as Co-Chair. The motion was seconded by Sheriff Faile. Council voted unanimously to receive Sheriff Foster as Co-Chair of the SC Law Enforcement Training Council for calendar year 2024.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **A. General Counsel Report**

#### **- Misconduct Cases**

### **Dawn McGuire (2023-CJA-03-08) (Greenwood County Sheriff's Office)**

**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:



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- A. Issue its final agency decision, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-107 D. finding that the allegation of misconduct filed against Dawn McGuire by the Greenwood County Sheriff's Office 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.

Ms. Dawn McGuire was present to speak on her behalf and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

John O'Leary, Esquire, was present and spoke on behalf of Ms. McGuire and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

Major Cody Bishop, was present and spoke on behalf of the Greenwood County Sheriff's Office and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from all parties, Sheriff Faile made a motion to reaffirm the December 11, 2023, decision for Dawn McGuire to continue eligibility for law enforcement certification. Captain Gallam seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to allow Dawn McGuire's eligibility for law enforcement certification.

## **Sydney Tyson (2023-CJA-02-16) (Greer Police Department)**

**Summary:** Allegation(s) misrepresentation of employment related information" while employed by the Department. **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 Sydney Tyson by the Greer 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.

Ms. Sydney Tyson was present and spoke on her behalf and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.



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Ryan Hicks, Esquire, was present and spoke on behalf of Ms. Tyson and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

There was no representation for the Department in this meeting.

After hearing statements from all parties, Director Woods made a motion for the purpose of discussion to deny the recommendation of the Hearing Officer's recommendation and to allow Ms. Tyson's eligibility of law enforcement certification. Chief Cornett seconded the motion.

After a brief discussion, Director Woods amended the motion to deny the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to allow Sydney Tyson's eligibility of law enforcement certification and to include a 2-year probationary period at the completion of certification. Ms. Tyson was in the pre-hire process with Greer Police Department and has not gone through the academy. Sheriff Faile seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to deny the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to allow Sydney Tyson's eligibility for law enforcement certification.

## **Christopher Stevenson (2023-CJA-06-10) (Lancaster County Detention Center)**

**Summary:** Allegation(s) of engaged in the physical or psychological abuses of members of the public or prisoners as well as the willful use of excessive force in an objectively unreasonable manner. **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 reported against Christopher Stevenson by the Lancaster County Detention Center 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. Christopher Stevenson was present to speak on his behalf and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

M. Ryan Payne, Esquire, was present and spoke on behalf of Mr. Stevenson and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

Douglas Barfield, Esquire, was present and spoke on behalf of the Lancaster County Detention Center and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.



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After hearing statements from all parties, Chief Cornett made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Christopher Stevenson's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Acting Director Gallman seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Christopher Stevenson's eligibility for law enforcement certification. *Please note that Sheriff Faile recused himself from the voting process in this case.*

## **Michael Lawson (2020-CJA-08-18) (Lexington County Sheriff's Department)**

**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. Issue its final agency decision, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-107 D. finding that the allegation of misconduct filed against Michael Lawson by the Lexington County Sheriff's 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.

Joel Deason, Esquire, was present and spoke on behalf of the Lexington County Sheriff's Department and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from Mr. Deason, Esquire, Sheriff Foster made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Michael Lawson's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Acting Director Gallman seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Michael Lawson's eligibility for law enforcement certification.

## **Rayonna Johnson (2021-CJA-08-05) (Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center) (Prosecutorial Discretion)**

**Summary:** The Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center (Department) wished to exercise prosecutorial discretion pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 23-23-150 (B) (2) and declining to prosecute the misconduct allegation. **Request for Final Agency Decision.**



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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.

This case has been moved to the next meeting in February.

## **Bradley Hudson (2023-CJA-03-13) (Edisto Beach Police Department) (Prosecutorial Discretion)**

**Summary:** The Edisto Beach Police Department wished to exercise prosecutorial discretion pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 23-23-150 (B) (2) and declining to prosecute the misconduct allegation. **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.

Mr. Bradley Hudson was not present.

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

Director Woods made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer that the records be expunged within thirty (30) days of the date of the approval of this recommendation by the Council. Chief Cornett seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer that the records be expunged within thirty (30) days of the date of the approval of this recommendation by the Council.





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## **Cheryl McCall (2023-CJA-01-05) (South Carolina Law Enforcement Division)**

**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 the 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 Cheryl B. McCall by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division 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.

Ms. Cheryl McCall was not present.

Adam Whitsett, Esquire, was present and spoke on behalf of the S.C. Law Enforcement Division (SLED) and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from Mr. Whitsett, Esquire, Director Woods made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Cheryl McCall's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Sheriff Foster seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Cheryl McCall's eligibility for law enforcement certification. ***Please note that Chief Keel recused himself from the voting process in this case.***

## **Jonathan Davis (2023-CJA-08-01) Dorchester County Sheriff's Office**

**Summary:** The Dorchester County Sheriff's Office provided documentation showing that Mr. Davis successfully completed Pre-Trial Intervention (PTI) and the charges were dismissed and are eligible for expungement. **Request for Re-Instatement.**

Mr. Jonathan Davis was present and spoke on his behalf and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

After hearing statements from Mr. Davis, Chief Cornett made a motion to reinstate Jonathan Davis's law enforcement certification. Captain Gallam seconded the motion.



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Council voted unanimously to reinstate Jonathan Davis's law enforcement certification. *Please note that Chief Keel and Director Woods recused themselves from the voting process in this case.*

## Jordan Caldwell (Bamberg County Detention Center)

**Summary:** Bamberg County Detention Center has requested that Jordan Caldwell be evaluated for eligibility, following a Certificate of Pardon. In 2008 and 2010, Mr. Caldwell was convicted of Fraudulent Check, and 2013, Mr. Caldwell was convicted of Breach of Trust with Fraudulent Intent, of which both crimes are defined as crimes of moral turpitude. **Request for Eligibility.**

Mr. Jordan Caldwell was not present.

Acting Director Gallman made a motion to deny Jordan Caldwell's request for eligibility for law enforcement certification. Director Woods seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to deny Jordan Caldwell's request for eligibility for law enforcement certification.

## B. Financial Update

### Lauren Wright

As of the close of the second quarter of FY 2024 Court Fines and Fee revenues are up marginally over the same time last fiscal year. Expenditures are up 11% 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:** Range 3 complete, received the wrong mounts for range 1, waiting for the engineer to come.
- **Generator:** Pre-construction meeting held last November.
- **West dorm rest rooms:** Bid documents being prepared.
- We had a boiler that failed, and it was retubed, the work was completed yesterday. Now we are waiting for the inspection to bring it back online.





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## D. Director's Comments

### Director Swindler

Director Swindler reported that last year 232 agencies were evaluated for the statute that passed of having the 9 model policies. Mike O'Connell and Bob Bianco saw 116 agencies each. He stated that 31 agencies signed an MOU with SCLEA, leaving 201 agencies in compliance with the 9 model policies after evaluation. We have received many compliments on how Mike and Bob made the process seamless and helpful.

Director Swindler reported that Scott Deckard started auditing and sent 70 agencies requests to confirm if their rosters match what the Academy has as their roster. We have added to our website, in forms, for agencies to put in writing who their command staff is, not by name but by position and title. For the purpose of knowing who to contact on background checks.

Director Swindler reported that after the Academy's budget meeting, we requested to upgrade our security system by adding over 100 cameras. If approved, this will help us with security.

Director Swindler gave updates on Cohort 1 and Cohort 2 at the EPPS University of South Carolina Law School. He met with the students involved, they are very pleased with the program.

Director Swindler stated that the Academy finished up last year with 24 Basic Law Enforcement graduations, with 1,100 graduates. He stated that more people are staying in Law Enforcement than left.

## OLD BUSINESS

There was 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.



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When there were no more remarks or comments, Director Woods made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chief Cornett seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Opel C. Bunn

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Opel C. Bunn