

COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 7th & 8th, 2025

ARKANSAS STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS

9:00 A. M. Meeting called to order.

Commissioners present (January 7, 2025):

Chairman Mr. Doc Holladay
Chief Heath Helton
Major Stacie Rhoads
Sheriff Lafayette Woods
Mr. Thomas Marsh
Mr. Richard Wingard
Mr. James Montgomery

Commissioners absent (January 7, 2025):

Mr. Barry Phillips
Chief Mike Reynolds
Sheriff Phillip Miller

Commissioners present (January 8, 2025):

Chairman Mr. Doc Holladay
Chief Heath Helton
Major Stacie Rhoads
Sheriff Lafayette Woods
Mr. Thomas Marsh
Mr. Richard Wingard
Mr. James Montgomery
Sheriff Phillip Miller

Commissioners absent (January 8, 2025):

Mr. Barry Phillips
Chief Mike Reynolds

Others present:

Chris Chapmond, ADLEST Director
Eric Wacaster, ADLEST Deputy Director
Jason Lawrence, ADLEST Deputy Director
Taylor Reavis, ADLEST Attorney

Commission Meeting Minutes
January 7, 8, 2025
Page 2

Kreasha Williams, ADLEST Paralegal
Molly Wrigley, ADLEST Paralegal
Barbara Varnell, ADLEST Education Coordinator
Sue Albritton, ADLEST Administrative Assistant
Charles Moulton, Hearing Officer
Austin Coleman, Senator Cotton's Office
David Rider, Senator Cotton's Office
Sheriff Eric Koonce, Van Buren County Sheriff's Office
Chasta Harrison, Van Buren County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Tom Hughes, Johnson County Sheriff's Office
Grant Nicely, Johnson County Sheriff's Office
Chief Gary Franks, Pleasant Plains Police Department
Bob Horton, Fairfield Bay Police Department
James Burroughs, Fairfield Bay Police Department
William Brown, Fairfield Bay Police Department
Joe Grooms, Maynard Police Department
Colton Mitchell, Van Buren County Sheriff's Office
Chief Jackie McCool, Fairfield Bay Police Department
Matthew Meinke, Russellville Police Department
David Perly, Van Buren County Sheriff's Office
Billy Thomas, Van Buren County Sheriff's Office
Kno Phonexayphova, Lowell Police Department
Jason Cole, Tontitown, Police Department
Josh Daniels, Dover School Superintendent
Dennis Kerly, Maynard Police Department
Rick Padgett, Danville Police Department
Taylor Bray, Rockport Police Department
Scotty Hodges, Benton Police Department
Ricky Roberts, Union County Sheriff's Office
Marvin Schoeneck, Williams Baptist University
Chris Nicholas, Williams Baptist University
Todd Grooms, Crittenden County Sheriff's Office
Chase Fine, Siloam Springs Police Department
Scott Miller, Siloam Springs Police Department
Bruce Halliburton, West Fork Police Department
Tyler Long, Rockport Police Department
Erick Meadows, Union County Sheriff's Office
Lance Ellis, Crittenden County Sheriff's Office
Justin Goggans, West Fork Police Department

Robert Newcomb, Attorney
Matthew Beeson, Clinton
Jennifer Beeson, Clinton
Nicole Neal, Court Reporter
Kerry Means, Court Reporter
Coy Arnold, Horatio Mayor
Justin Taylor, Dover Marshal's Office
Michael Huber, Johnson County
Tim Kuth, Lowell Police Department
Laura Robbins, DPS
Elizabeth Rogers, Attorney
A. J. Kelly, Fairfield Bay Attorney
Brett Rains, 40/29 News
Pat Walsh
Patrick Copeland, ADC
Dalton Brown, Scotland, AR
Glen Wilcox, Arkansas State Hospital
Russell Wood, Attorney
Chelsey Stafford, Crittenden County
Andre Harper, Crittenden County
Brook Cole, Tontitown
Terry Aiker, Crittenden County
Michael Anderson, Siloam Springs
Wes Tucker, Horatio Police Department
Michael Bulloch, ASU

A motion to accept the minutes of the November 13, 2024, meeting was made by Commissioner Marsh and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried.

An addendum to the agenda was the matter of approval of Board and Commission Expenses. A motion to approve the expenses was made by Commissioner Marsh and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item I: Item one was a request from the Dover School District requesting its own police department under Act 629 of 2019. Having met all requirements, a motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item II: Item two was a request from the Williams Baptist University for reactivation of its police department under ACA 12-9-118. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item III: Item three was a request from the Benton Police Department for an extension for Officer Zetori Long under CLEST Rule 1002. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item IV: Item four was a request from the Arkansas State Hospital for an extension for Officer Asia Rowe under CLEST Rule 1002. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item V: Item five was a request from the Lowell Police Department for an extension for Officer Aaron Thompson under CLEST Rule 1002. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried.

Item VI: Item six was a request from Leachville Police Department for an extension for Officer Jacob Ford under CLEST Rule 1002. The Department did not appear to present the request.

Item VII: Item seven was a request from Parkin Police Department for an extension for Officer Billy Harris under CLEST Rule 1002. The Department did not appear to present the request.

Item VIII: Item eight was a request from the Union County Sheriff's Office for a waiver of the two-year period for Deputy Dylan Bradley under CLEST Rule 1005. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Montgomery and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion Carried.

Item IX: Item nine was a request from the Arkansas State University-Beebe Police Department for a waiver of the two-year period for Officer David Griffin under CLEST Rule 1005. A motion to grant the request stipulating that Officer Griffin must complete the 120 Hour Part-Time/Refresher Course before he can act as a law enforcement officer was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item X: Item ten was a request from the Danville Police Department for a waiver of the two-year period for Officer Josh Bell under CLEST Rule 1005. A motion to grant the waiver was made by Commissioner Roads and was seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried.

Commission Meeting Minutes

January 7, 8, 2025

Page 4

Item XI: item eleven was a request from the Rockport Police Department for a waiver of the two-year period for Officer Tyler Long under CLEST Rule 1005. A motion to grant the request A motion to grant the request stipulating that Officer Long must complete the 120 Hour Part-Time/Refresher Course before he can act as a law enforcement officer was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried.

Item XII: Item twelve was a request from the Maynard Police Department for authorization to employ only a Part-Time Officer waiving the Full-time Officer requirement under ACA 12-9-124. A motion to grant a six- month temporary waiver and for the department to come before the Commission at their July 2025 meeting with a plan to employ a full-time officer was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item XIII: Item thirteen was a request from the Horatio Police Department for authorization to employ only a Part-Time Officer waiving the Full-time Officer requirement under ACA 12-9-124. A motion to grant a one year temporary waiver and for the department to come before the Commission at their January 2026 meeting with a plan to employ a full-time officer was made by Commissioner Montgomery and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XIV: Item fourteen was a request for recertification under CLEST Rule 1034 from Partick Copeland. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried.

Item XV: Item fifteen was a request from the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Eboney Austin. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item XVI: Item sixteen was a request from the Faulkner County Sheriff's office for the decertification of former Deputy Jonathan Barnat. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Montgomery and seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item XVII: Item Seventeen was a request from the Texarkana Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Danielle Burns. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item XVIII: Item eighteen was a request from the Madison County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Timothy Hassell. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried.

Item XIX: Item nineteen was a request from the Gosnell Police Department for the decertification of former Officer James Haynes. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Montgomery and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XX: Item twenty was a request from the Arkansas State Police for the decertification of former Trooper Trip Hensley. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried. Commissioner Rhoads recusing.

Item XXI: Item twenty-one was a request from the University of Arkansas at Pine Pluff for the decertification of former Officer Magain Hardy. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Helton and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried.

Item XXII: Item twenty-two was a request from the Johnson County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Joshua Heidelberg. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XXIII: Item twenty-three was a request from the Johnson County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Derek Rogers. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item XXIV: Item twenty-four was a request from the Drew County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Daniel Pace. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Montgomery and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item XXV: Item twenty-five was a request from the Johnson County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Ernest Hardgrave. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item XXVI: Item twenty-six was a request from the Judsonia Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Joseph Gossett. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Montgomery and seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item XXVII: Item twenty-seven was a request from the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration/Arkansas Tobacco Control for the decertification of former Officer Russell Gray. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item XXVIII: Item twenty-eight was a request from the Marion County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Zachery Martin. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Helton and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried.

Item XXIX: Item twenty-nine was a request from the White County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Chancey Warden. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XXX: Item thirty was a request from the West Memphis Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Anquion Williams. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

On January 7, 2025, Decertification Hearings were held. Eight (8) Consent Agreements were presented for final vote on behalf of **Jacob Gammel, Michael Pitts, Dale Stovall, Brant Haight, Jeffery Wheeler, Steve Antoine, Gary Jones and Michelle Hampton**. A motion to accept and to decertify these eight individuals was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried. A hearing was held for **Matthew Beeson**. After hearing all the evidence and testimony presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met but did not rise to the level of decertification, and not to decertify Matthew Beeson, was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion Carried. A hearing was held for **Jason Cole**. After hearing all evidence and testimony presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had not been met, and not to decertify Jason Cole, was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

On January 8, 2025, additional Decertification Hearings were held. A hearing was held for **Andre Harper**. After hearing all the evidence and testimony presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had not been met and not to decertify Andre Harper was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion Carried. A hearing was held for **Jeff Parsons**. After hearing all the evidence presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met, and to decertify Jeff Parsons, was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried. A total of **nine (9) officers** were decertified. A total of **three (3) officers** were not decertified. All hearings were presided over by Hearing Officer Charles Moulton and recorded by Court Reporters Nicole Neal and Kerry Means.

Directors Report

Director Chapmond reported that construction crews have broken ground at both NW and East Camden. The estimated completion date is November 2025. Currently, we are close to \$3 million under budget not including our contingency fund. The combined total of the two is \$4.25 million. We are currently pricing additional projects that we can get done with the additional funds. Pictures will be posted on the CLEST and DPS websites. He also reported that 165 students graduated from our academies in November and December having completed the new 649-hour class schedule. The graduation key note speakers were Springdale Chief Frank Gambel, Hot Springs Village Chief Kristi Bennett and Jefferson County Sheriff Lafayette Woods. Our advanced training section completed 30 classes across the state. It has been well received and scheduling for 2025 is underway. There are 32 classes that have been designed to take on the road and teach at the regional level to save agencies time and money. Supervisor Joe Duboise has been assigned to the advanced training section as the supervisor. Supervisor Scott Rosson is now the training supervisor for the Central Academy. Senior agent Brian Billings has been reassigned to Central as class coordinator. Supervisor Juan Reyes has announced his retirement, and we have selected his replacement. Senior Agent Kelvin Sergeant was selected as the next supervisor for the East Camden training academy and will be shadowing Reyes throughout this next class.

The podcast series has been released and has received very positive feedback. Episode 4 has just been released this past Monday. Overall, we have approximately 3000 views which I believe is amazing. Great platform to reach our law enforcement community. Future episodes will feature several Commissioners including Chairman Holliday and Major Rhoads. The legislative session starts next Monday, and we are expected to provide expert testimony throughout the session. The Standards Audit team has been busy and is expected to conduct in excess of 300 audits this year. This team is comprised of three staff members and that is a heavy load. In the past audits were done on a complaint basis and now will be done in accordance with our mandate. Deputy Director Wacaster has been asked to speak at the IACP conference in June as a panel member for IDALEST. This is a huge honor and shows the great work that is being done by our staff. On January 30th we will be hosting a Leadership, Wellness, and Resiliency Conference in Siloam Springs discussing our leadership program and wellness resources from across the state. If this is successful, we will follow up with a conference in Central Arkansas. We have signed an MOU with the High Ground Foundation to help provide resources to our law enforcement community across the state. We will announce additional initiatives within the next few weeks. This is a great opportunity and look forward to working with High Ground. For Arkansas LEOs through this MOU, we aim to provide leadership development opportunities for officers, spearhead mental/physical/spiritual wellness initiatives for Officers and their families, and provide support in the process of transitioning from the Law Enforcement profession to whatever comes next in life through networking opportunities, transition seminars, hiring events, and alliances with partner organizations that can help provide a solid foundation for those serving (and their families) at all stages of their personal and professional journey.