

**COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING**

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**JULY 8 & 9, 2025**

**ARKANSAS STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

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

Commissioners present:

Chairman Doc Holladay

Vice Chair Barry Phillips

Major Stacie Rhoads

Sheriff Lafayette Woods

Sheriff Phillip Miller

Mr. Thomas Marsh

Mr. Richard Wingard

Mr. James Montgomery

Chief Mike Reynolds

Chief Heath Helton

Others present:

Chris Chapmond, ADLEST Director

Jason Lawrence, ADLEST Deputy Director

Kelvin Sergeant, ADLEST Deputy Director

Kreasha Williams, ADLEST Paralegal

Molly Wrigley, ADLEST Paralegal

Barbara Varnell, ADLEST Education Coordinator

Jesi Feld, DPS Attorney

Sue Albritton, ADLEST Administrative Assistant

Charles Moulton, Hearing Officer

Coby Copeland, Court Reporter

Laura Robbins, DPS Communications

Eric Wacaster, DPS Chief Legal Counsel

Brian Johnson, ADLEST Sr. Officer

Ami Martin, ADLEST Sr. Officer

Lt. Steve Eldridge, Monroe County Sheriff's Office

Debra Smith, Monroe County Sheriff's Office

Michael Dukes, Monroe County Sheriff's Office

Commission Meeting Minutes

July 8, & 9, 2025

Page 2

Tia Marsh, Ft. Smith  
Vincent Bell, Helena/West Helena PD  
Sandra Gant, Helena/West Helena  
John Albertson, Attorney  
Quanderius Sanders, Helena/West Helena PD  
Ashton Ligon, Logan Co.  
Tom Rose, Pulaski Co. Sheriff's Office  
Kuylar Holmes, Helena/West Helena  
Chris Kirkendall, Cedarville Police Department  
Joe Grooms, Maynard Police Department  
William Ligon, Logan Co.  
Jonathan Castaneda, Rogers Police Department  
Evan Ligon, Magazine  
Chip Sexton, Attorney  
Shaquita McFadden  
Eric Meadows, Union County Sheriff's Office  
Jessica Willis, Dardanelle Police Department  
Sammy Green, Marked Tree Police Dept.  
Joshua Patterson, Clinton Police Department  
Chris Madden, ASUN  
Lillah Dupree

Robert Newcomb, Attorney  
Elmer Gant, Jr. Helena/West Helena PD  
Charles Byrd, Helena/West Helena  
Austin Coleman, Senator Cotton's Office  
Grant Lancaster, AR Democrat Gazette  
Wesley Smith, Helena/West Helena PD  
Ryan Roach, DPS  
Ken Howard, Cedarville Police Department  
Richardson C. Madison, Saline Co. Sheriff  
Brady Powell, Alexander  
Steve Linton, Rogers Police Department  
Aleshia Ligon, Magazine  
Ashton Ligon, Magazine  
Keith Finch, Dumas Police Department  
Jayson Peppas, Mountainburg School District  
Joseph Paterak, Dardanelle Police Dept.  
Brian Blevins, Dardanelle Police Department  
Tray Murdock, Clinton Police Department  
Phillip Vanwinkle, Craighead Co. Sheriff's Off.  
Sparkle Bailey  
Brian Carmichael, Monette Police Dept.

A motion to accept the minutes of the May 13, 2025, meeting was made by Commissioner Montgomery and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item I: Item one was a request from Chris Madison requesting a waiver of the General Certificate requirement for Field Training Officer Certification under CLEST Rule 1014. A motion to table the matter was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item II: Item two was a request from the Maynard Police Department to extend the temporary waiver under ACA 12-9-124, that had been granted by the Commission at its January 2025 meeting. A motion to grant the extension for seven (7) months was made by Commissioner Wingard and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried.

Item III: Item three was a request from the Rogers Police Department for an extension for Officer Jonathan Castaneda under CLEST Rule 1002. A motion to grant the extension was made by Commissioner Helton and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Commission Meeting Minutes

July 8 & 9, 2025

Page 3

Item IV: Item four was a request from the Mountainburg School District for an extension for Officer Todd Cowett under CLEST Rule 1002. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and was seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item V: Item five was a request from the Marked Tree Police Department for an extension for Officer Gavin Richardson under CLEST Rule 1002. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Marsh and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item VI: Item six was a request from the Cedarville Police Department for an extension for Officer Chris Kirkendall under CLEST Rule 1002. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item VII: Item seven was a request from the Union County Sheriff's Office for an extension for Deputy Anthony Patrick under CLEST Rule 1002. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item VIII: Item eight was a request from the Dumas Police Department for an extension for Officer Xianna Graham. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Montgomery and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item IX: Item nine was a request from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office for an extension for Deputy Michael Dukes under CLEST Rule 1002. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item X: Item ten was a request from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office for a waiver of the two-year period under CLEST Rule 1005 for Deputy Debbie Smith. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Helton and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XI. Item eleven withdrawn.

Item XII: Item twelve was withdrawn.

Item XIII: Item thirteen was a request from John Couch for recertification under CLEST Rule 1034. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Commission Meeting Minutes

July 8 & 9, 2025

Page 4

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

Item XV: Item fifteen was a request from Dakota Davis for recertification under CLEST Rule 1034. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XVI: Item sixteen was a request from Shaquita McFadden for recertification under CLEST Rule 1034. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item XVII: Item seventeen was a request from Seth Wilson for recertification under CLEST Rule 1034. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Montgonery and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item XVIII: Item eighteen was a request from Ashton Ligon for recertification under CLEST Rule 1034. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XIX: Item nineteen was a request from the Arkansas Department of Corrections for the decertification of former officer Barry Bealer. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and was seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item XX: Item twenty was a request from the Pottsville Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Adam Bryant. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item XXI: Item twenty-one was a request from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission for the decertification of former Officer Audrey Bush. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and was seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item XXII: Item twenty-two was a request from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission for the decertification of former Officer Kelli Sanders. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried.

Commission Meeting Minutes

July 8 & 9, 2025

Page 5

Item XXIII: Item twenty-three was a request from the Dardanelle Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Josh Kelly. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Helton and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item XXIV: Item twenty-four was a request from the Rogers Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Guadalupe Rodriguez. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and was seconded by Commissioner Montgonery. Motion Carried.

Iten XXV: Item twenty-five was a request from the Conway County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Joseph Dube. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XXVI: Item twenty-six was a request from the Russellville Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Mario Lozano. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearings was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XXVII: Item twenty-seven was a request from the Arkansas Tobacco Control for the decertification of former Officer Victoria Robinett. A motion was made by Commissioner Montgomery to not proceed to a decertification hearing. Commissioner Reynolds seconded. Motion carried.

Item XXVIII: Item twenty-eight was a request from the Centerton Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Timothy Gilbert. A motion was made by Commissioner Rhoads to not proceed to a decertification hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

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

Item XXX: Item thirty was a request from the Little Rock Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Kristen Watson. A motion was made by Commissioner Reynolds to proceed to a decertification hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried. Commissioner Helton recusing.

Item XXXI: Item thirty-one was a request from the Saline Count Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Brian Weaks. A motion was made by Commissioner Rhoads to proceed to a decertification hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

On July 8, 2025, decertification hearings were held. Two (2) Consent Orders were presented for a final vote on behalf of **Sonny Word** and **Clayton Brookes**. A motion to accept and decertify these two individuals was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried. A hearing was held for **Kuylar Holmes-Thornton**. After hearing all evidence presented, a motion that the Findings of Facts and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify Kuylar Holmes-Thornton was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried. A hearing was held for **Charles Byrd**. After hearing all evidence presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify Charles Byrd was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried. Commissioner Rhoads recusing. A hearing was held for **Elmer Gant**. After hearing all evidence presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify Elmer Gant, was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried. A hearing was held for **Brady Powell**. After hearing all evidence presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had not been met and to not decertify Brady Powell was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried. Commissioner Holladay recusing. Brady Powell was not decertified.

On July 9, 2025, a hearing was held for **Deontrae Moore**. After hearing all evidence presented a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify Deontrae Moore was made by Commissioner Marsh and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried. A hearing was held for **Kevin Bond**. After hearing all the evidence presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify Kevin Bond was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried. A hearing was held for **Joshua Patterson**. After hearing all evidence presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had not been met and to not decertify Joshua Patterson. Motion carried. A hearing was held for **Noah Bradley**. After hearing all the evidence presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify Noah Bradley was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried. A total of eight (8) individuals we decertified and two (2) were not decertified. The hearings were presided over by Hearing Officer Charles Moulton and recorded by Court Reporter Coby Copeland.

### **Director's Report**

Director Chapmond provided a construction update for each location. East Camden campus is progressing ahead of schedule. The Training Center has exterior siding completed and roof panels started. Once the roof panels are installed, interior framing will begin. The range building started this week and is on schedule to be completed on time. The barracks remodel continues to be ahead of

schedule. Plumbers, electricians, and HVAC have completed rough in work, and have started detailed items. Painting and some finish work are beginning. The new roof on the North dorm was torn off last week and should be completed this week. We have added approximately \$1.5 million in additional work, leveraging savings realized throughout the project. This will include a new roof for the south end dormitory, a remodel of the employee locker room, and some other minor projects. These projects have started, and we are still expecting a completion date by December this year. At the Springdale campus, the range covering is completed, and the firing lanes and landscaping will begin within days. This portion of the project will be completed ahead of schedule. The main training building has moved faster than anticipated. The roof has been completed, allowing the side panels to start, and all interior subcontractors have started. HVAC, fire suppression system, interior framing, and Sheetrock have all hit 75% complete. Exterior siding, hardy board, and canopies are being installed. The curb, gutter, sidewalks, and storm drainage are complete. We have been able to save nearly \$750,000 on this project, has allowed us to add restrooms at the range and other smaller projects that have been long overdue. The project is on schedule to be completed by the end of the year. Senator Boozman's appropriation was approved for use yesterday, and we will be purchasing \$500k in new gym equipment, security equipment, furniture, driving simulators, and EVOC training materials, allowing us to teach EVOC in Fayetteville starting in the fall. Director Chapmond also reported that we have interviewed 15 applicants since we last met and have hired a total of five new agents. Agent Dan Bradley was sworn in yesterday. Dan Bradley is an Air Force Academy graduate and special forces veteran who has taught leadership and various other areas of instruction on a national level. He will be assigned to the advanced training section. Agents Jason McClawn, Anthony Gallegos, and Justin Oliver will start on July 14<sup>th</sup>. McClawn will be assigned to the standards division, Gallegos, Oliver, and Robbins will be assigned to the East Camden Academy. We are currently hiring a maintenance supervisor for NW Springdale and should have that completed in the next two weeks. We have the possibility to hire one more agent in August, who would be a standards agent assigned to NW Springdale to cover the NW corner of the state. The attorney position for CLEST has been reposted, and we are hopeful that with the new salary, it will draw quality applicants. The new pay plan has gone into effect. It helped a number of our employees, but did not consider seniority and length of service. There were several mistakes made in specific positions that we hope will be corrected during the fiscal session. Jail Standards continues to conduct inspections and address holding facility issues—special appreciation to Sterling and Deidre for their hard work.

The Standards Division has stepped up compliance checks, holding our agencies accountable. I feel comfortable in stating that we will hit our goal of nearly 400 inspections per year. Between Shannon McQuin and Barbara Varnell, they have created approximately a dozen new online classes that are high quality and will continue to redo all online material. We know this is an issue and an area where we receive a large number of complaints. The new training is state-of-the-art. Proud of them for leveraging technology and best practices. Director Chapmond reported that the Camden Academy will graduate on August 1<sup>st</sup> at 10am, Central will graduate July 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am, and Northwest will graduate July 24<sup>th</sup> at 10am. All rule changes have been sent to the Governor's office for review. No updates on reappointments.