

**COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING**

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**MARCH 11, & 12, 2025**

**ARKANSAS STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

9:00 a.m. meeting called to order.

Commissioners present:

Chairman Mr. Doc Holladay  
Major Stacie Rhoads  
Sheriff Layfayette Woods  
Sheriff Phillip Miller  
Mr. Thomas Marsh  
Mr. Richard Wingard  
Mr. James Montgomery

Commissioners absent:

Chief Heath Helton  
Chief Mike Reynolds  
Mr. Barry Phillips

Others Present:

Chris Chapmond, ADLEST Director  
Jason Lawrence, ADLEST Deputy Director  
Kelvin Sergeant, ADLEST Deputy Director  
Eric Wacaster, DPS Chief Legal Counsel  
Taylor Reavis, ADLEST Attorney  
Kreasha Williams, ADLEST Paralegal  
Molly Wrigley, ADLEST Paralegal  
Barbra Varnell, ADLEST Education Coordinator  
Sue Albritton, ADLEST Administrative Assistant  
Chris Madison, Hearing Officer  
Jonathan Kindrex, Hearing Officer  
Coby Copeland, Court Reporter  
Juan Reyes, ALETA  
Tia Marsh, Ft. Smith  
Darrian Trimble, Pine Bluff  
Ruth Quintana, Pleasant Plains  
John Dewy, Pleasant Plains  
Laura Robbins, DPS Communications  
Denise Richardson, Pine Bluff Police Department

Deshaun Bennett, Pine Bluff Police Department  
Aaron Moody, Independence County Sheriff Office  
Zach Rawlins, Independence County Sheriff Office  
Chasta Harrison, Van Buren County Sheriff Office  
Brandon McCaslin, Sebastian County Sheriff Office  
Christopher Gregory, Little Rock  
Hobe Runion, Sebastian County Sheriff  
Jeff Nichols, Palestine Police Department  
Tyler Steely, Van Buren County Sheriff's Office  
Lauren Montgomery, Mayflower Police Dept.  
Michael Bullock, ASU-Beebe Police Department  
Vincent Bell, Helena-West Helena Police Dept.  
Scott Miller, Siloam Springs Police Department  
Joseph Paterak, Dardanelle Police Department  
Robert Newcomb, Attorney  
Belinda Burns, Jonesboro, AR  
Rick Elliott, Jonesboro Police Department  
Stephen McDaniel, Jonesboro Police Department  
Mark Frost, Pope County Sheriff Office  
Kevin Molder, Poinsett County Sheriff  
Jay-Ryan Woods, Poinsett County Sheriff Office  
Zachary Nead, Jonesboro Police Department  
Kyle Pippin, Yell County Sheriff Office

Richard Powell Jr., Retired  
Austin Coleman, Senator Cotton's Office  
Grant Lancaster, Arkansas Democrat Gazette  
Percy Wilburn, Lake Village Police Department  
Ronnie Poole, CLEST  
Alexis Burns, Jonesboro, AR  
Clint Gattis  
Jamie Burris, Dardanelle School District  
Doug Hunter, Mayflower Police Department  
Jay Murdock, Clinton Police Department  
Raven McJoy, Lake Village Police Department  
Chase Fine, Siloam Springs Police Department  
Jessica Willis, Dardanelle Police Department  
Brian Blevins, Dardanelle Police Department  
Michael Anderson, Siloam Springs  
Gaylon Payton, Marked Tree, AR  
Caleb Morrie, Little Rock Police Department  
Noah Bradley, Dardanelle Police Department  
Ryan Price, Poinsett County Sheriff Office  
Brad Felkins, Poinsett County Sheriff Office  
Andre' Dyer, Little Rock Police Department  
Gregory Culler, Little Rock Police Department

A motion to accept the minutes of the January 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried.

Item I: Item one was the introduction and swearing in of new ADLEST Deputy Director Kelvin Sergeant.

Item II: Item two was a request from the Sebastian County Sheriff's Office for a waiver of CLEST Rule 1005 requirement to complete a full basic academy for Deputy Charles McCaslin. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item III: Item three was a request from the Palestine Police Department for authorization to employ additional part-time officers under ACA 12-9-124. A motion to grant a temporary waiver, until January 2026 at which time the department is to come back before the Commission to re-examine the need was made by Commissioner Rhoads made and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item IV: Item four was a request from the Lake Village Police Department for a waiver of the two-year period under CLEST Rule 1005 for Officer Raven McJoy. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

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Item V: Item five was a request from the Helena/West Helena Police Department for a waiver of the two-year period under CLEST Rule 1005 for Officer Curvess Williams. A motion was made to deny the request by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item VI: Item six was a request from Tyler Steely for a waiver of the two-year period under CLEST Rule 1005. A motion to grant the request contingent on employment with Van Buren County Sheriff's Office and attendance at the next available basic academy was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item VII: Item seven was a request from Arkansas State University-Beebe for an extension for Jeffery Gonyea under CLEST Rule 1002. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Montgomery and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Commissioner Miller recused. Motion carried.

Item VIII: Item eight was a request from the Mayflower Police Department for an extension officer Officer Lauren Montgomery under CLEST Rule 1002. A motion to grant a three-month extension was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item IX: Item nine was a request from the Dardanelle Public School District to establish its own police department under Act 629 of 2019. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item X: Item ten was a request from the Clinton Police Department to withdraw their request for decertification of former officer Joshua Patterson. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried.

Item XI: Item eleven was a request from Christopher Gregory for recertification under CLEST Rule 1034. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item XII: Item twelve was a discussion of changing the meeting dates for the upcoming two years. The meeting dates for 2026 are February 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, April 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, June 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, August 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, October 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, December 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. The meeting dates for 2027 are: February 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, April 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, June 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, August 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, October 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, December 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>. A motion to accept the meeting dates was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item XIII: Item thirteen was a request from the Johnson County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Jeremy Bennett. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Commissioner Woods recused. Motion carried.

Item XIV: Item fourteen was a request from the Benton County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Jovan Corraliza. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XV: Item fifteen was request from the West Memphis Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Myles Huff. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Montgomery and second by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item XVI: Item sixteen was a request from the Lonoke County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Officer Joshua Lavrinc. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XVII: Item seventeen was a request from the Little Rock Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Kennedy Fields. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Marsh and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried.

Item XVIII: Item eighteen was a request from the Little Rock Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Tyrus Harris. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

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

Item XX: Item twenty was a request from the Little Rock Police Department for the decertification of former Officer William Wilhite. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XXI: Item twenty-one was a request from the Sharp County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Tye Baxter. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XXII: Item twenty-two was a request from the Garland County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Amber Carter. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Item XXIII: Item twenty-three was a request from the Mayflower Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Daniel Clem. A motion to not proceed with a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Montgomery and seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item XXIV: Item twenty-four was a request from the Arkansas State Police for the decertification of former Trooper Michael Valentin. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Commissioner Rhoads recused. Motion carried.

Item XXV: Item twenty-five was a request from the Arkansas State Police for the decertification of former Trooper Christian Morphis. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Commissioner Rhoads recused. Motion carried.

Item XXVI: Item twenty-six was a request from the Arkansas State Police for the decertification of former Trooper Brandon Lofton. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Commissioner Rhoads recused. Motion carried.

Item XXVII: Item twenty-seven was a request from the Ft. Smith Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Rodrigo Roque. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item XXVIII: Item twenty-eight was a request from the Ft. Smith Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Michael D'Agostino. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Montgomery and seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item XXIX: Item twenty-nine was a request from the Ft. Smith Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Danny Nacalaban. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XXX: Item thirty was a request from the Ft. Smith Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Seth Dominic. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Wingard and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried.

Item XXXI: Item thirty-one was a request from the Ft. Smith Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Hillary Lawrence. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Item XXXII: Item thirty-two was a request from the Ft. Smith Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Johnne Le. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Montgomery and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XXXIII: Item thirty-three was a request from the Russellville Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Mario Lozano. A motion to not proceed with a decertification was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried.

Item XXXIV: Item thirty-four was a request from the Haskell Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Brandon Butler. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Montgomery and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Item XXXV: Item Thirty-five was a request from Southern Arkansas University Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Arvie Crudup. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XXXVI: Item thirty-six was a request from the Rogers Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Brandon Leavitt. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried.

Item XXXVII: Item thirty-seven was a request from the Sherwood Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Dequante Body. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried.

Item XXXVIII: Item thirty-eight was a request from the Jacksonville Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Colton Burton. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item XXXIX: Item thirty-nine was a request from the Little River County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Carol Crow. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Item XL: Item forty was a request from the Texarkana Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Joshua Jones. A motion not to proceed with a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried.

Item XLI: Item forty-one was a request from the Gentry Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Derrick Rios. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Montgomery and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item XLII: Item forty-two was a request from the El Dorado Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Tanawat Roberson. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XLIII: Item forty-three was a request from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Cortez Shaw. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Commissioner Woods recused. Motion carried.

Item XLIV: Item forty-four was a request from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Robin Woods. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Montgomery and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Commissioner Woods recused. Motion carried.

Item XLV: Item forty-five was a request from the Pine Bluff Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Octavian Sims. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried. Commissioner Woods recusing.

Item XLVI: Item forty-six was a request from the Arkansas Game and Fish Enforcement for the decertification of former Game Warden Brian Tatum. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried.

Item XLVII: Item forty-seven was a request from the Pike County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Brandon Vines. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Montgomery and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XLVIII: Item forty-eight was a request from the White County Sheriff's Department for the decertification of former Deputy Jory Warden. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Commissioner Miller recused. Motion carried.

Item XLIX: Item forty-nine was a request from the Sebastian County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Kevin Bunn. A motion to not proceed with a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Montgomery and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item L: Item fifty was a request from the Sebastian County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Terryce Hewing. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item LI: Item fifty-one was a request from the Sebastian County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Hollie Whitlock. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Montgomery and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Item LII: Item fifty-two was a request from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Austin Wolfe. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Montgomery and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

On March 11, 2025, decertification hearings were held. Eight (8) Consent Agreements were presented for final vote on behalf of **Eric Caffey, Lynn Goza, David Cross, Joshua Stringer, Joseph Gossett, Traylin Hall, Eboney Austin, and Christopher Cordeiro**. A motion to accept and to decertify these eight individuals was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried. A hearing was held for **Darrian Trimble**. After hearing all the evidence presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried. A hearing was held for **Aaron Wilson**. After hearing all the evidence presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law had been met and to decertify was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

On March 12, 2025, additional decertification hearings were held. A hearing was held for **Michael Anderson**. After hearing all evidence presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met, and to decertify was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion Carried. A hearing was held for **Alexis Burns**. After hearing all the evidence presented, a motion was made that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried. A hearing was held for **Jakari Lott-Henderson**. After hearing all the evidence presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried. A hearing was held for **Gaylon Payton**. After hearing all the evidence given, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify Gaylon Payton was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried. A total of **fourteen (14)** officers were decertified. The hearings were presided over by Hearing Officers Chris Maddison and Jonathan Kendrix and recorded by Court Reporter Coby Copeland.

### **Director's Report**

Director Chapmond provided a construction update for each location. East Camden- Progressive ahead of schedule. Training Center has the footer poured, steel expected to arrive March 19, and the concrete slab to be poured March 20 and 21<sup>st</sup>. Steel erection will start 4-5 days after concrete cures. The barracks remodel is also ahead of schedule. Demo completed, plumbers, electricians, and HVAC being installed. Range will start mid-summer. Expected completion date will be December this year. Springdale- primary building pad completed, electrical and plumbing being laid, footers being prepared, storm drainage complete and demo at range started. About one to two weeks behind the other project but most of that is due to weather conditions. Continue to be under budget and on schedule. He advised that he will be attending graduations on April 4<sup>th</sup> Central graduation and will have Lt. Governor Rutledge as guest speaker; April 10<sup>th</sup> Northwest graduation guest speaker will be U of A Chief; April 17<sup>th</sup> East Camden Graduation guest speaker will be Sheriff Phillip Miller. The CLEST Annual Report is being completed and a copy will be sent to the commission as soon as possible. Legislative session is moving forward. We will have news on budget increases and new staff positions within a few days. I will report these to the Commission once confirmed. Advanced training continues to grow, and we have twelve scheduled classes across the state in the next 60 days. Director Chapmond acknowledged that Mrs. Sue Albritton celebrated 32 years of service, and Diane Smith in NW celebrated her 20<sup>th</sup> year of service.



Promotions include Deputy Director Eric Wacaster to Chief Legal Counsel for DPS, Supervisor Kelvin Sergeant to Deputy Director of Standards, and Chief Scott Williams, McGehee will be rejoining our CLEST team as East Camden Supervisor. Supervisor Juan Reyes has announced his retirement. He will start burning his accrued leave on April 9th and officially retire on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The podcast series continues to be worthwhile. Since we last met, episodes with Major Rhoads, Clint Bruce, Chiefs Richardson, Waterworth, and Bennet, as well as a leadership and wellness episode, have run. We continue to receive very positive feedback for our efforts. Future episodes include Sheriff Holiday and Chief Gary Sipes, known as the legends in law enforcement...pure entertainment!! On January 30<sup>th</sup> we hosted a Leadership, Wellness, and Resiliency Conference in Siloam Springs discussing our leadership program and wellness resources from across the state. What a humbling experience to be in a room full of men and women passionate about the leadership, wellness, and resiliency of our profession. Great success with over 100 senior officers from across the state joining us. We have another scheduled for Central Arkansas in June at the Central Academy. We announced our partnership 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 I look forward to working with High Ground. Sheriff Huges from Johnson County has requested to be on the agenda to address the Commission regarding his concerns of personnel issues and the way handled by staff. I want to close out our report and speak to what I believe is a huge success for our division. Since the Vincent's Law went into effect after the death of Jonesboro Police Officer Vincent Parks, our staff has identified and potentially saved nine officers from tragic events. These include identifying serious issues such as heart-related issues that led to these young men and women receiving medical attention.