

COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 12, 2024

ARKANSAS STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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

Commissioners present:

Chairman Doc Holladay
Vice Chair Barry Phillips
Sheriff Phillip Miller
Dr. James Golden
Chief Heath Helton
Chief Mike Reynolds
Mr. Thomas Marsh
Mr. Richard Wingard
Sheriff Lafayette Woods
Major Stacie Rhoads

Others present:

Chris Chapmond, CLEST Director
Eric Wacaster, CLEST Deputy Director
Jason Lawrence, CLEST Deputy Director
Taylor Pearson, CLEST Attorney
Kreasha Williams, CLEST Legal Services Specialist
Barbara Varnell, CLEST Education Coordinator
Sue Albritton, CLEST Administrative Assistant
Brandon Chancey, Crawford County Sheriff's Office
Tim Carey, Portia Police Department
Randy Jackson, Little Rock
Justin Richardson, Horatio
Christopher Bruno, Bryant
Erica Williams, Alexander Police Department
Robert Newcomb, Attorney
Kevin Patterson, Pine Bluff
Doug Small, Mountain Home
Jami Small, Mountain Home
Robert Jackson, Attorney
Jay Hagans, Arkansas Game & Fish, Retired
Mike Blair, Pulaski County Sheriff's Office
Eric Higgins, Pulaski County Sheriff's Office

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Jacob Dunn, Arkansas Game & Fish	Earnest Whitten, Pulaski County Sheriff's Office
Marcus Daniels, Arkansas State Police	Pamela Smith, Pulaski County Sheriff's Office
Ashley Harris, Little Rock Police Dept.	Jimmy Lyons, Pulaski County Sheriff's Office
Aaron McDermont, Sherwood Police Dept.	William West, Monticello Police Dept.
Jesi Feld, Arkansas State Police	Tia Marsh, Ft. Smith
Ryan Roach, Arkansas State Police	Lance Logan, Little Rock Fire Dept.
Josh Kear, Conway Police Dept.	John Courtway, Conway
Bryan Duke, Maumelle	Carlos Garcia, Monticello Police Dept.
Charles Moulton, Hearings Officer	Colby Copeland, Conway Court Reporting
Denise Richardson, Pine Bluff Police Dept.	Nakia Crims, Arkansas Game & Fish
Desiree Shy, Pine Bluff Police Dept.	Amber Parker, Little Rock

A motion to accept the minutes of the January 18, 2024, meeting was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item I: Item one was a request from the Portia Police Department requesting authorization under A.C.A. 12-9-124 for Chief Tim Carey's continued employment as Part-Time Chief of the Portia Police Department. A motion to grant the request and allow the city one year to obtain a full-time chief was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item II: Item two was a request from the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office for a waiver of the two-year period for Officer Ben Garrison under CLEST Rule 1005. A motion to allow Officer Garrison to remain as a Specialized Officer but remain ineligible to pursue Full-Time Certification for the two-year period was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item III: Item three was a request from the Monticello Police Department for an extension for Officer Blake Middlebrooks under CLEST Rule 1002. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Item IV: Item four was a request from the Crawford County Sheriff's Office for an extension for Deputy Matthew Nowicki under CLET Rule 1002. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item V: Item five was rescheduled until the May meeting.

Item VI: Item six was a request from Bryan Duke requesting recertification under CLEST Rule 1034. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion Carried.

Item VII: Item seven was a request from Christopher Bruno requesting recertification under CLEST Rule 1034. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item VIII: Item eight was a request from Randy Jackson requesting recertification under CLEST Rule 1034. A motion was made to deny the request by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item IX: Item nine was a request from Justin Richardson requesting recertification under CLEST Rule 1034. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Miller and was seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item X: Item ten was a request from the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Darlisha Batchelor. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XI: Item eleven was a request from the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Matthew Cobb. A motion to not proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XII: Item twelve was a request from the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Shaquita McFadden. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

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

Item XIV: Item fourteen was a request from the Rogers Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Jordan DeWitt. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item XV: Item fifteen was a request from the Helena-West Helena Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Charles Byrd. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Item XVI: Item sixteen was a request from the Helena-West Helena Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Roosevelt Eaton. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item XVII: Item seventeen was a request from the Helena-West Helena Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Elmer Gant, Jr. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Helton and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item XVIII: Item eighteen was a request from the Helena-West Helena Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Kuylar Thornton. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.

Item XIX: Item nineteen was a request from the Crittenden County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Jamin Crawford. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Marsh and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item XX: Item twenty was a request from the Marianna Police Department for the decertification of former Officer James Reese. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

At the conclusion of the regular meeting, uncontested decertification hearings were held. One (1) Consent Agreement was presented for **Michael Davis** for a final vote. A motion to accept and to decertify the individual was made by Commissioner Helton and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried. Three (3) uncontested hearings were conducted for **Dustin Peterson, Abi Resendiz and Mason Toon**. A motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify these individuals was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried. A contested hearing was held for **Douglas Small**. 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 Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried. A contested hearing was held for **Jonathan Moores**. 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 Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried. A contested hearing was held for **Erica Williams**. After hearing all evidence presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met but do not rise to the level of decertification and to not decertify was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried. A contested hearing was held for **Kevin Patterson**. 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 Miller. Motion carried. All hearings were presided over by Hearing Officer Charles Moulton and recorded by Court Reporter Colby Copeland. A total of **seven (7)** officers were decertified and **one (1)** was not decertified.

Director's Report:

Director Chapmond reported that he will be attending ALETA, NWALETA and CALETA graduations in April and May. He also reported that he will attend the April Black River Training Academy as the keynote speaker. He also reported that our new Law Enforcement Leadership training was introduced at all three academies, purchased the leadership book "Extreme Ownership" which will be mandatory reading and provide an additional four hours of training. Each academy is scheduled for the final eight-hour block of leadership training prior to graduation. He reported that we have been asked to teach the leadership training at the Fort Smith Training Academy in May. That our Deputy Directors and himself attended the board meeting of the BRTC advisor council and continue to build upon on new relationship with BRTC. That the design phase on ARPA projects going well, ahead of schedule, with the East Camden site visit complete, and NW scheduled for March 13th with Cromwell and Associates. He reported that 325 laptops have been ordered and will allow for computers in each student's hands at each of the academy locations. There are enough laptops that advanced classes as well as 911 training will have access. Jail standards and Jail Administrative class completely renewed and ready for rollout. That he conducted staff one on one meetings with all staff members and great information was received. That employee evaluations will start in April with a new format and that all supervisors are attending training this week. Director Chapmond has attended initial budget meetings with fiscal and joint committee on budget. That a letter to the Governor for additional budget funding and positions is being prepared.