

**COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING**

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**MAY 13, 2025**

**ARKANSAS STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

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

Commissioners present:

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

Commissioner Absent:

Mr. Barry Phillips

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  
Sue Albritton, ADLEST Administrative Assistant  
Jonathan Kindrex, Hearing Officer  
Coby Copeland, Court Reporter  
Laura Robbins, DPS Communications  
Eric Wacaster, DPS Chief Legal Counsel  
Shaun Hildreth, Warren Police Department  
Andre B. Lovett, Huttig Police Department  
Lawrence Clay Lofton  
Tommy Sturgeon, Ashley County Sheriff  
Blake Hudson, Office of Arkansas Lottery  
Sharon Strong, Office of Arkansas Lottery

Commission Meeting Minutes  
May 13, 2025  
Page 2

Steven Pearson, Leachville Police Department  
James Hartness, BRTC Police Department  
Sheriff Michael Neal, Monroe County  
Brian Pickens, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office  
Gary Dorrough, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office  
Ryan Roach, DPS Legal  
David Richardson, Senator Cotton's Office  
Chief Shirley Warrior, Pine Bluff Police Department  
Dep. Chief Kelvin Hadley, Pine Bluff Police Department

Briana Clemons, Monroe County  
Michael Dukes, Monroe County  
Shaquita McFaden  
Marcus Daniels, ASP  
Jesi Feld, DPS Legal  
Brooke Jarrett, ASP  
Michelle Spencer, ASP  
Mayor Vivian Flowers, Pine Bluff

A motion to accept the minutes of the March 11 & 12, 2025 meeting was made by Commissioner Montgomery and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item I: Item one was a request from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office for an extension for Deputy Gary Dorrough under CLEST Rule 1002. A motion to grant the extension was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Item II: Item two was a request from the Leachville Police Department for an extension for Officer Jacob Ford under CLEST Rule 1002. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item III: Item three was withdrawn from agenda by requesting agency.

Item IV: Item four was a request from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office for a waiver of the two-year waiting period required by CLEST Rule 1005 for Deputy Brianna Clemons. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Marsh and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item V: Item five was a request from the Warren Police Department for a waiver of the two-year waiting period required by CLEST Rule 1005 for Officer DeAlex Henderson. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item VI: Item six was a request from James Hartness requesting a waiver of the English requirement for certain certifications under CLEST Rule 1009. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried.

Item VII: Item seven was a request from the Huttig Police Department for a waiver of the full-time officer requirement under ACA § 12-9-124. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.

Item VIII: Item eight was a request from the Arkansas Lottery Investigations and Enforcement Division requesting to establish its own police department under ACT 342 of 2025. Having met all requirements, a motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item IX: Item nine was a request from the Pine Bluff Police Department requesting to withdraw the decertification requests for Julia Hillard, John Woods and Octavian Sims. The agency removed John Woods and Octavian Sims from this request. A motion to grant the request for Julia Hillard was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried. Decertification requests for John Woods and Octavian Sims still stand.

Item X: Item ten was rescheduled for the July 2025 meeting.

Item XI: Item eleven was rescheduled for the July 2025 meeting.

Item XII: Item twelve 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 Reynolds. Motion carried.

Item XIII: Item thirteen was a request from Lawrence Clay Lofton for recertification under CLEST Rule 1034. A motion to grant the request requiring Mr. Loton attend the full basic academy was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XIV: Item fourteen was a request from Standards Division for clarification of the 10-year requirement under CLEST Rule 1005. After discussion the Commission advised that Rule 1005(1)(b)(iv) stands as written and the Commission will not hear any request for a waiver.

Item XV: Item fifteen was to allow Sheriff Tom Hughes to address the Commission.

Item XVI: Item sixteen was a request from the Bryant Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Christopher Bennett. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XVII: Item seventeen was a request from the Jackson County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Marcus Bettis. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried. Commissioner Miller recusing.

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

Item XIX: Item nineteen was a request from the North Little Rock Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Jon Crowder. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XX: Item twenty was a request from the Arkansas Tech University requesting decertification of former Officer Aaron Duvall. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

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

XXII: Item twenty-two was a request from the Benton Police Department for decertification of former Officer Mark Hendrickson. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.

XXIII: Item twenty-three was a request from the Mountain Home Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Emil Iverson. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried.

XXIV: Item twenty-four was a request from the Little Rock Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Breonna Johnson. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried. Commissioner Helton recusing.

XXV: Item twenty-five was a request from the Texarkana Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Anthony Jones. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

XXVI: Item twenty-six was a request from the Cross County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Dillon Kemp. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

XXVII: Item twenty-seven was a request from the Tontitown Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Keith Lindley. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Marsh and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

XXVIII: Item twenty-eight was a request from the Cross County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Christopher Miller. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.

XXIX: Item twenty-nine was a request from the Trumann Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Gavin Richardson. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

XXX: Item thirty was a request from the Springdale Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Andres Rivera. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.

XXXI: Item thirty-one was a request from the Springdale Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Chris Schmeckenbecher. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

XXXII: Item Thirty-two was a request from the Jackson County Sheriff's Office for decertification of former Deputy Billy Vulner. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.

XXXIII: Item thirty-three was a request from the Benton County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Michael White. The Commission tabled this request pending receipt of additional information.

Four (4) Consent Agreements were presented for final vote on behalf of **Wayne Sandusky, Joshua Barber, Arvie Crudup** and **Jessie Gossage**. A motion to accept and to decertify these four individuals was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion Carried. The presentation of the Consent Agreements was presided over by Hearing Officer Jonathan Kendrix and recorded by Court Reporter Coby Copeland. A total of four (4) individuals were decertified.

### **Director's Report**

Director Chapmond provided a construction update for each location. East Camden campus is progressing ahead of schedule. Training Center has an exterior steel frame completed, and metal studs will be installed this week. Wall panels and roof panels are set to be delivered within the week. The range building is on the ground, and prep work has been completed, waiting for the ground to dry out before erection. The barracks remodel is also ahead of schedule. Demo completed, plumbing, electrical, and HVAC have been installed. We have added approximately \$1.5 million in additional work from savings we have amassed 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. The expected completion date will be December this year. At the Springdale campus the range is framed and awaiting roof panels. The main training building has had the slab poured, and exterior steel is being erected this week. The curb, gutter, sidewalks, and storm drainage are nearing completion. We have been able to save nearly \$750,000 on this project, and will be utilizing the savings 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. Director Chapmond also reported that currently we have two agent openings, and we have conducted a series of interviews for potential candidates. The search for a replacement attorney is still ongoing and being conducted by the DPS Chief Legal Eric Wacaster. Three attorneys were interviewed two weeks ago; additional applicants will be screened and interviewed in the near future. We will be told this week if we will receive up to six additional staff positions, five agents, and one civilian. Our DHS agreement that pays Agent Chaney's salary was renewed for another year, which helps us continue the Crisis Intervention Training across the state. We are working with Dr. Chris Clem on a new grant that could pay for our leadership, wellness, and resiliency training for up to two years. A new appropriation request for funding for several projects not supported in the budget will be sent to Senator Boozman within the next two weeks. In the training update, Director Chapmond that 59 students graduated from the A class in Camden with Sheriff Phillip Miller as the guest speaker and another 63 students are set to graduate in the B class on August 1<sup>st</sup>. That 30 students graduated from the A class at Central with Attorney General Leslie Rutledge as guest speaker and another 20 students are set to graduate in the B class on July 25<sup>th</sup>. That 47 students graduated from the A class at Northwest with U of A Chief Frank Gammons as guest speaker and another 36 students are set to graduate in the B class on July 24<sup>th</sup>. The academies have trained 255 students. Since January 1<sup>st</sup> approximately 300 students have received advanced training. Shannon McQuin has nearly completed a 40-hour online telecommunication course that will be a template for all future online training. Staff has begun updating online training, and the new technology will provide a better platform and higher level of training. All rule changes have been sent to the Governor's office for review.