

COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

MAY 9, 2024

ARKANSAS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY

10:00 A. M. meeting called to order.

Commissioners present:

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

Commissioner Absent:

Major Stacie Rhoads

Others Present:

Chris Chapmond, CLEST Director
Eric Wacaster, CLEST Deputy Director
Taylor Pearson, CLEST Attorney
Kreasha Williams, CLEST Legal Services Specialist
Charles Moulton, Hearing Officer
Mollie Wrigley, ADLEST Administrative Assistant
Amie Martin, CLEST Agent
Sue Albritton, CLEST Administrative Assistant
Mark Heath, Hermitage Police Department
Ben Poole, Hermitage Police Department
Steve Chamness, North Little Rock Police Department
John Claunch, England Police Department
Nick Gregory, Public Safety Communications
Matt Huffman, Hector Police Department
Mark Taylor, Hector School District
Valorie McCleary, Searcy Co. School District
Clay Stewart, Gentry Police Department
Jorge Reyes, Gentry Police Department
Michael Tibben, Searcy County School District
J. W. Cruce, Crossett Police Department

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Michael Gebhardt, Lonoke County Sheriff's Office	Aleshia Ligon
Bill Duerson	William Ligon
Grant Lancaster, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette	Austin Ross
Lauren Twomey, England Police Department	Nacrisha Ligon
Lincoln Barnett, Hughes Police Department	Johnathan Taylor, Fordyce Police Department
Nealson Lowe, Lonoke County Sheriff's Office	Chad Hubanks, Fordyce Police Department
Corbin Dixon, Hughes Police Department	Reagan Pickartz
Jason Massey, Logan County Sheriff's Office	Frank Gamble, Springdale Police Department
Joshua Kirmer, Springdale Police Department	Chris Sanders, Springdale Police Department
Joshua Scott, Logan County Sheriff's Office	Chase Scallorn, Springdale Police Department
Eric Meadows, Union County Sheriff's Office	Charles Ellis, Warren Police Department
David Kide, Senator Tom Cotton's Office	
Coby Copeland, Conway Court Reporting	
Ashton Ligon, Logan County Sheriff's Office	

A motion to accept the minutes of the March 12, 2024, meeting was made by Commissioner Reynolds and was seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item I: Item one was a request from the England Police Department for a waiver of the two-year rule under CLEST Rule 1005 for Officer Nelson Lowe. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item II: Item two was a request from the England Police Department for a waiver of the two-year rule under CLEST Rule 1005 for Officer Lauren Twomey. 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 City of Hughes for reactivation of the Hughes Police Department. Having met all requirements, a motion was made to grant the request by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item IV: Item four was a request from the Union County Sheriff's Office for a waiver of the two-year for Deputy Jimmy Norris under CLEST Rule 1005. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item V: Item five was not presented due to the absence of a representative from the department.

Item VI: Item six was a request from the Gentry Police Department for an extension under CLEST Rule 1002, for Officer Jorge Espitia. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

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Item VII: Item seven was a request from the Crossett Police Department for an extension for Officer Charles Rice under CLEST Rule 1002. A motion to grant the waiver through December 2024 was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item VIII: Item eight was a request from the North Little Rock Police Department for acceptance of Officer Jacob Bridges' training from the State of Louisiana under CLEST Rule 1008. A motion to grant reciprocity was made by Commissioner Helton and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item IX: Item nine was a request from the Hector School District to establish its own police department under ACT 629 of 2019. Having met all requirements, a motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item X: Item ten was a request from the Searcy County School District to establish its own police department under ACT 629 of 2019. Having met all requirements, a motion was made to grant the request by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item XI: Item eleven was a request from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Matthew Beeson. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item XII: Item twelve was a request from the Monette Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Kevin Bond. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Item XIII: Item thirteen was a request from the Johnson County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Jason Cole. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

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

Item XV: Item fifteen was a request from the Hampton Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Dakota Davis. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item XVI: Item sixteen was a request from the Crittenden County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Andre Harper. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

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Item XVII: Item seventeen was a request from the Pine Bluff Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Julie Hilliard. Commissioner Phillips made a motion to proceed to a decertification hearing and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XVIII: Item eighteen was a request from the Searcy Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Daniel Johnson. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried. Commissioner Miller recusing.

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

Item XX: Item twenty was a request from the Eudora Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Michael Pitts. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

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

Item XXII: Item twenty-two was a request from the Sebastian County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Demarion Shepard. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item XXIII: Item twenty-three was a request from the Cherokee Village Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Seth Wilson. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item XXIV: Item twenty-four was a request from the Dardanelle Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Noah Bradley. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item XXV: Item twenty-five was a request from the Arkansas State Police for the decertification of former Trooper Jessica McCord. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.

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

Item XXVII: Item twenty-seven was a request from the Stuttgart Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Orlando Brewer. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item XXVIII: Item twenty-eight was a request from the Faulkner County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Hunter Gore. A motion to not proceed with a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XXIX: Item twenty-nine was a request from the Little Rock Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Desidario Pullie. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried. Commissioner Helton recusing.

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

After a discussion regarding CLEST Rule 1008 – Reciprocity, a motion was made by Commissioner Woods to grant the Standards Office the discretion to grant reciprocity and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

At the conclusion of the regular meeting, decertification hearings were held. Two (2) Consent Agreements were presented for **Eddie Seaton** and **Patrick Villines** for final vote. A motion to accept and decertify the individuals was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried. Three (3) uncontested hearings were conducted for **Stephen Mabry**, **Randy Rodgers** and **Christopher Henderson**. A motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify these individuals was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried. A contested hearing was held for **Austin Ross**. After hearing all evidence and testimony 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 **Ashton Ligon**. After hearing all evidence and testimony 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 Miller. Motion carried. A contested hearing was held for **Mark Heath**. After hearing all evidence and testimony presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had not been met and to not decertify was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried. All hearings were presided over by Hearing Officer Charles Moulton and recorded by Court Report Colby Copeland. A total of **seven** (7) officers were decertified and **one** (1) was not decertified.

Director's Report:

Director Chapmond reported that ALETA, NWALETA and CALETA 2024A classes graduated a total 156 new police officers from the state-run academies and attended the graduation at BRTC where an additional 35 recruits were recognized. That the ongoing 2024B classes at ALETA and NWALETA total 130 recruits that are completing the new 580-hour course with the 2024C classes expected to be over 600 training hours within the allowed 13 weeks. He also reported that construction projects are progressing. Designs have been developed, the budget agreed upon, and detailed plans are being drawn. Expect to be to bid within 60-90 days and groundbreaking expected in September/October 2024. That construction projects are currently \$2.8 million under budget. ADLEST has two new agents that have been offered positions, waiting on final drug screens. These were based on the recent resignations of Agent Gene Page and Kalishia Wise. We wish them luck in their future endeavors. Ms. Kristie Reynolds has tendered her resignation and we are currently seeking to fill the position. He also reported that employee evaluations are complete and we are expected to review with staff within the next few weeks. Director Chapmond finally reported that the fiscal session is wrapping up and we believe we will have a modest increase in our budget. We received the final approval on the \$500k from Senator Boozman's office and we have requested an additional \$500k in FY25.