

COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 10, 2013

ARKANSAS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY

The meeting of the Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training was called to order at 10:02 A. M. by Chairman Bob Harrison. Commissioners present:

Chairman Bob Harrison  
Sheriff Butch Morris  
Lt. Bobby Walraven  
Mr. Cecil Greene  
Sheriff Doc Holladay  
Chief Percy Wilburn  
Dr. James Golden  
Ms. Jami Cook  
Mr. Barney Reeves

Commissioner absent:  
Alonza Jiles

Others present:  
Director Ken Jones  
Deputy Director Brian Marshall  
Deputy Director Fred Weatherspoon  
J. P. French, Attorney General's Office  
Larry Robinson, Governor's Office  
Sheriff David Johnson, Ashley County, SO  
Phillip Roberts, Ashley County, SO  
Guy Hughes, Ashley County, SO  
Johnny Oliver, Ashley County, SO  
G. Todd Gray, Madison Co. SO.  
Terry Peckham, Jefferson Co. SO  
Steve Shultz, BRTC-LETA  
Jonathan Parrish, Jefferson Co. SO  
Jaki Parrish, Jefferson Co.  
Robert Newcomb, Attorney  
Wade Hodge, Hearing Officer  
Kathy Sparks, ASP-Retired  
Sue Albritton, Commission Secretary

The minutes of the July meeting were approved with a motion by Commissioner Greene and seconded by Commissioner Holladay.

ITEM I: Item one was a request from the Benton County Sheriff's Office in regard to Matthew West. The former sheriff had requested decertification of Mr. West. The new Sheriff now is asking that the request for decertification be dismissed and that Mr. West be allowed to remain employed by the Benton County Sheriff's Office. After much discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Morris to dismiss the decertification proceedings and seconded by Commissioner Reeves not to decertify Mr. West. The motion passed with two opposing.

ITEM II: Item two was a request from the Ashley County Sheriff's Department in regard to Phillip Lee Roberts. Mr. Roberts has previously worked for the Warren Police Department but did not receive his training to become a certified police officer. Mr. Roberts was hired by the Ashley County Sheriff's Office as a Jailer and Transport Officer. The Sheriff was asking for the reinstatement of Mr. Roberts and an extension in order that he could attend the academy and receive his basic training. A motion by Commissioner Wilburn to deny the request was seconded by Commissioner Walraven and passed with two opposing.

ITEM III: Item three was to establish the meeting dates for the year 2014. The dates for the meeting are: January 9<sup>th</sup>, April 10<sup>th</sup>, July 10<sup>th</sup> and October 9<sup>th</sup>. These dates were approved by a motion by Commissioner Holladay and seconded by Commissioner Wilburn.

ITEM IV: Item four was a request from the Little Rock Police Department requesting decertification of Walker E. Johnston. Mr. Johnston had taken medical retirement in June 2013. A motion made by Commissioner Holladay to go forward with decertification died from the lack of a second.

ITEM V: Item five was a request from the Little Rock Police Department requesting decertification of former Officer Tagos C. Robinson who had taken medical retirement in August of 2013. A motion made by Commissioner Holladay to go forward with decertification died from the lack of a second.

ITEM VI: Item five was a request from the El Dorado Police Department requesting decertification of former Officer Shanna Winthrop. Ms. Winthrop was found guilty of Domestic Battery on 08/07/13. A motion made by Commissioner Morris was seconded by Commissioner Walraven. The motion passed unanimously to go forward with decertification proceedings.

ITEM VII: Item seven was a request from the Bryant Police Department requesting decertification of former Officer Darren T. Williams who was terminated on August 23, 2013 from the Bryant Police Department after failing a Fitness-for-Duty assessment. A motion was

made by Commissioner Holladay to go forward with the decertification proceedings and was seconded by Commissioner Reeves. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM VIII: Item eight was a request from the Arkansas State Police for decertification of former Trooper Sedrick Reed. A motion was made by Commissioner Walraven and seconded by Commissioner Wilburn. Commissioner Cook recused from the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM IX: Item nine was a request from the Union County Sheriff's Department requesting decertification of former Deputy Donald L. Forbes after being terminated for several policy violations plus endangering the welfare of a minor. Commissioner Morris made a motion to go forward with decertification and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilburn. The vote was unanimous.

ITEM X: Item ten was a request from the Heber Springs Police Department for decertification of former Officer Gary E. Peeler who was terminated on July 5, 2013 for several policy violations. A motion was made by Commissioner Wilburn and seconded by Commissioner Golden. The vote was unanimous to go forward with decertification.

ITEM XI: Item eleven was a request from the Morrilton Police Department requesting decertification of Daniel Austin Blizzard. Blizzard was terminated for violation of department policies and the Code of Ethics. A motion was made by Commissioner Morris and seconded by Commissioner Golden to go forward with decertification. The vote was unanimous.

ITEM XII: Item twelve was a request from the Arkansas State Police for decertification of former Trooper James McCoskey. A motion was made by Commissioner Wilburn not to go forward with decertification and was seconded by Commissioner Walraven. The motion passed with Commissioner Cook recusing from the vote.

ITEM XIII: Item thirteen was a request from the Little Rock Police Department for decertification of former Officer Cory Griesemer who accepted medical retirement through the LOPFI from the department. A motion was made by Commissioner Holladay to go forward but died for the lack of a second.

ITEM XIV: Item fourteen was a request from the Arkansas State Police for decertification of former Trooper Raymond Siggers. Siggers was terminated after a confrontation with his superiors. A motion was made by Commissioner Wilburn and seconded by Commissioner Walraven not to go forward with decertification. The motion passed with Commissioner Cook recusing from the vote.

ITEM XV: Item fifteen was a request from the Arkansas State Police for decertification of former Trooper Matthew Talley who resigned from the ASP while under an investigation of the mishandling of evidence and failing to submit DWI citations to the courts. A motion was made by Commissioner Holladay and seconded by Commissioner Wilburn to go forward with decertification. The motion passed with a unanimous vote with Commissioner Cook recusing.

ITEM XVI: Item sixteen was a request for decertification of former Officer Billy Rowe from the Ft. Smith Police Department. Rowe was arrested on five counts of Sexual Assault in the First Degree, a Class A Felony. Commissioner Morris moved to go forward with decertification and there was a second by Commissioner Walraven. The vote was unanimous.

ITEM XVII: Item seventeen was a request from the Clarksville Police Department for decertification of former Officer Larry Sanders. Sanders whose work performance had declined and attitude toward co-workers concerned his supervisors, was required to take a psychological exam, which he failed, and he was terminated on June 15, 2013. A motion made by Commissioner Holladay to go forward with decertification was seconded by Commissioner Reeves. Motion passed with one opposing.

In other matters, the Attorney General's Representative brought before the Commission an appeal by Deandre Brown who was decertified in 2010. Mr. Brown appealed the decision in the Circuit Court of Miller County. The Judge ruled that the previous conclusion did not state properly the Findings of Facts and Conclusions of Order. The Commission was asked to accept the Findings of Facts and Conclusions that were presented at this time. The findings were read to the Commission and accepted by a motion by Commissioner Morris and a second by Commissioner Reeves. Ms. Rebsamen presented three proposed decertification dismissals.

Robert Baucom of the Hot Springs Sheriff's Office had been voted on to go forward with decertification in February 2013. The current new sheriff, Sheriff Hollingsworth requested the decertification be dismissed as there were no witnesses available to testify or any information to present in a decertification case. Commissioner Morris made a motion to dismiss the decertification and to "Red Flag" the file of Mr. Baucom. Commissioner Reeves seconded and the motion passed for dismissal.

John Landry of the El Dorado Police department had been voted on to go forward with decertification in February 2013. Ms. Rebsamen stated that there had been no cooperation in the gathering of evidence to go forward with decertification and recommended dismissal of the decertification based on the lack of evidence and dismissal of charges. A motion made by Commissioner Morris and a second by Commissioner Reeves to dismiss the decertification and to "Red Flag" his file was passed unanimously.

Alvin Miller of the Madison Police Department was voted on to go forward with decertification in April 2012. Ms. Rebsamen requested dismissal of decertification based on the fact that there had been no co-operation from the Chief of Police. A date had been set for a hearing more than once and she had not gotten any cooperation from the Chief. Commissioner Morris made a motion for the dismissal and to "Red Flag" his file. Commissioner Walraven seconded and the vote was unanimous to dismiss decertification.

In the Director's Report, Director Jones announced some new training opportunities at ALETA. A Standardized Field Sobriety Testing class was to be held at ALETA the next week. Starting October 27, 2013 Basic Training for Parole and Probation Officers will begin. This will be a six-week course with a 30 officer limit. This class will be held periodically as deemed necessary by the Parole and Probation Department. In April 2014 a "Women Behind the Badge" class will be conducted with ALETA instructors and distinguished outside instructors contributing their expertise. Director Jones reported that an agreement had been signed with Envisage for the purchase and contract of the ACADIS software package for tracking, training and certification of Arkansas law enforcement officers and agencies. He stated that some of the equipment had been received and is being installed and training would soon begin. The subject of holding ALETA Graduations at the State Capitol was discussed and it was decided to table and to make a decision at a later time. Director Jones announced that the Veterans to Law Enforcement program would now be available at Black River Technical College LETA. The question of allowing Chiropractic Physicians to conduct the physical exams for the basic training students was discussed. A motion was made and seconded to allow only licensed Medical Doctors to preform Physical Examinations for incoming students for basic training. Mr. Jones announced that the Certification of Law Enforcement Canines and Canine Certifying Officials and the Minimum Standards for Employment or Appointment Regulations and changes were accepted by the Arkansas Legislative Council and Joint Interim Committee. Mr. Jones also stated that a Coroners and Crime Lab Death Investigation Class was being organized and will be held in the future.