**COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING**

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**MARCH 9, 2022**

**ARKANSAS STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Meeting called to order at 10:00 A. M.

Commissioners Present:

Vice Chairman Doc Holladay

Mr. Thomas Marsh

Chief Mike Reynolds

Mr. Barry Phillips

Capt. Stacie Rhoads

Mr. Richard Wingard

Sheriff Phillip Miller

Commissioners absent:

Chairman Percy Wilburn

Sheriff Lafayette Woods

Dr. James Golden

Others present:

Director Jami Cook

Deputy Director Fred Weatherspoon

Deputy Director Brad King

Amanda Yarbrough, CLEST Attorney

Sue Albritton, CLEST Admin. Asst.

Kreasha Williams, CLEST Legal Services Specialist

Lacey Roughton, UALR

Wes Bell

Buddy Northcutt

William Bell

Erin Bell

Tim Warhurst, DOC

Jim Check, DOC

Kris Honey, DOC

Todd Grooms, Crittenden County SO

Kalan Davis

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Mark Mosier, BRTC-LETA

Scott Bradley, Arkansas Sheriff’s Association

A motion to accept the minutes of the January 13, 2022, meeting and the March 2, 2022, special meeting was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item I: Item one was a request from Michael Curtis to be recertified as a law enforcement officer under CLEST Rule 1034. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item II: Item two was a request from Kalan Davis requesting a waiver of the two-year period required by CLEST Rules. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Item III: Item three was a request from Arkansas Community Corrections requesting a waiver of the two-year period required by CLEST Rules for D’Angelo Adams. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads with the exception that Adams be allowed to continue his employment as a Specialized officer during the two-year waiting period. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item IV: Item four was a request from the Hot Springs Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Joseph Samuels. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item V: Item five was a request from the Pea Ridge Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Wyatt Varner. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Marsh and seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item VI: Item six was a request from the Fort Smith Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Michael Malone. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item VII: Item seven was a request from the Fordyce Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Michael Rhodes. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.

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Item VIII: Item eight was a request from the Turrell Police Department for the decertification of former Chief Perry Jennings. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item IX: Item nine was a request from the Pine Bluff Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Lakendra Williams. A motion to deny the request for decertification was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.

Item X: Item ten was a request from the Russellville Police Department for the decertification of former Officer David Larson. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XI: Item eleven was a request from the Eudora Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Ricardo Cleveland. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XII: Item twelve was a request from the Boone County Sheriff’s Office for the decertification of former Deputy Coroner Shawn Smith. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item XIII: Item thirteen was a request from the Pulaski County Sheriff’s Office for the decertification of former Deputy Russell Jackson. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XIV: Item fourteen was a request from the Marshall Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Samuel Holliman. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XV: Item fifteen was a request from the Arkansas State Police for the decertification of former Trooper Jason Murphy. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Wingard and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Item XVI: Item sixteen was a discussion of CLEST Rule 1002. Arkansas Sheriffs’ Association Executive Director Scott Bradley presented testimony. Vice Chairman Holladay requested that commission members review the research included in the packet and provide comments at the commission’s meeting in May.

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At the conclusion of the regular meeting decertification hearings were held. One (1) signed Consent Agreement was presented for: **Donald Rowe** for a final vote. Commissioner Miller made a motion to accept the Consent Agreement and decertify the individual. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried. Four (4) Uncontested hearings were conducted for: **Carrie Wells, Anthony Boen, Marcus Getter, and Antwan Jones**. Commissioner Rhoads made a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried. A contested hearing was held for **William Bell.** After hearing all evidence presented, a motion was made by Commissioner Phillips that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify. The motion was seconded

by Commissioner Reynolds. The motion carried. The hearings were presided over by Hearing Officer Charles Moulton and recorded by Court Reporter Bonnie Parker. A total of **six (6)** officers were decertified by the Commission.

Directors’ Report:

Director Cook announced that she attended the funeral of fallen officer Joshua Caudell with Sheriff Lafayette Woods and Commissioner Richard Wingard to present the family $5,000 from the Fallen Officer Memorial Fund. She also attended the Sheriff’s Association meeting in January. She reported on legislation from the Fiscal Session, including stipend payments to eligible full-time law enforcement officers across the state, an allocation of ten (10) million dollars to the Public Safety Equipment, and pay raises for all CLEST and ASP officers. She announced that the Attorney General’s Office allocated $500,000 to the Law Enforcement Family Relief Trust Fund. She also announced the creation of a working group on combating fentanyl deaths and a partnership with DHS on behavioral health. Finally, she reminded the Commission to begin considering legislative needs for the General Session beginning in January 2023.