**COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING**

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**MAY 12, 2022**

**ARKANSAS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY**

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

Commissioners present:

Chairman Percy Wilburn

Vice Chair Doc Holladay

Mr. Thomas Marsh

Dr. James Golden

Sheriff Lafayette Woods

Chief Mike Reynolds

Mr. Barry Phillips

Major Stacie Rhoads

Sheriff Phillip Miller

Mr. Richard Wingard

Others present:

Director Jami Cook

Deputy Director Fred Weatherspoon

Deputy Director Brad King

Amanda Yarbrough, CLEST Attorney

Kreasha Williams, CLEST Legal Services Specialist

Sue Albritton, CLEST Admin. Asst.

Bruce Guthrie, Barton School District

Scott Carpino, Barton School District

Martin Cass, Retired, JPD

Sean Cass

Scott Gann, SEARK

Robert Garrett, Pulaski Co. SO

Charles Herron, Cotton Plant PD

Kyata Mayo, Cotton Plant PD

Lacey Roughton, UALR

Earnest Whitten, Pulaski Co. SO

John Howard, Attorney General’s Office

Jerry Keefer, Attorney General’s Office

Brian Bowen, Attorney General’s Office

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Mark Mosier, BRTC, LETA

Chris Hankins, BRTC, LETA

Hugh Finkelstein, DPS Attorney

Brenden May, Augusta PD

A motion to accept the minutes of the March 9, 2022, meeting was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion Carried.

Item I: Item one was a request from the Arkansas State Police to conduct a second psychological exam for former Trooper Misael Ramos. Commissioner Rhoads recused. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Holladay and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item II: Item two was a request from the Attorney General General’s office for a waiver for John Howard under Rule 1005. A motion to grant the waiver contingent on John Howard’s successful completion of the CLEST Refresher Course was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item III: Item three was a request from the Barton School District to establish its own police department under Act 629 of 2019. Commissioner Rhoads made a motion to grant the request and was seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Item IV: Item four was a request from the Augusta Police Department requesting an extension for Officer Jerome Hills under CLEST Rule 1002. A motion to grant the request with the stipulation that Officer Hills complete required training before performing law enforcement action was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item V: Item five was a request from Southeast Arkansas College requesting an extension for Chief Scott Gann. Commissioner Woods made the motion to grant the extension and was seconded by Commissioner Holladay. Motion carried.

Item VI: Item six was a request from the West Memphis Police Department for the decertification of former officer Steven Fleming. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item VII: Item seven was a request from the Phillips County Sheriff’s Office for the decertification of former deputy Michael Lawson. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

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Item VIII: Item eight was a request from the Lowell Police Department for the decertification of former officer Jonathan Taylor. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item IX: Item nine was a request from the Division of Community Correction for the decertification of former officer TeShara Crumpton. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item X: Item ten was a request from the Fayetteville Police Department for the decertification of former officer Maliik Reid. Commissioner Reynolds recused. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XI: Item eleven was a request from the Sebastian County Sheriff’s Office for the decertification of former deputy Zena Chinos. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item XII: Item twelve was a request from the Pulaski County Sheriff’s Office for the decertification of former officer Edna Winston. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.

Item XIII: Item thirteen was a request from the Wynne Police Department for the decertification of former officer Candace Cole. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Item XIV: Item fourteen was a Discussion of CLEST Rule 1003 – Marijuana Leaf Field Test Technician.

At the conclusion of the regular meeting decertification hearings were held. Six (6) Uncontested Hearings were conducted for **David Larson, Michael Malone, Wyatt Varner, Shawn Smith, Russell Jackson, and Joseph Samuels.** Commissioner Rhoads made a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify the individuals. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried. Four (4) Consent Agreements were presented for **Eric Fleming, Brian Cooper, Jr., Ashley Crawford,** and **Robert Ward** for final vote. Commissioner Holladay made the motion to accept the Consent Agreements and to decertify these individuals. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried. A contested hearing was held for **Charles Herron, Sr**. After hearing all evidence presented, a motion that the

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Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met but did not rise to the level of decertification was made by Commissioner Holladay and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried. Mr. Herron was not decertified. A contested hearing was held for **Sean Cass**. 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 Miller and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried. Sean Cass was decertified. The hearings were presided over by Hearing Officer Charles Moulton and Recorded by Court Reported Patricia Hendrix. A total of **eleven (11)** officers were decertified, and **one (1)** was not decertified.

**Director’s Report:**

Director Cook announced that DPS-CLEST is working toward entering into an MOU with DHS for a pilot program on mental health and critical incident training for officers and that DPS has been given approval to hire a psychologist for the DPS wellness team. She announced that the Law Enforcement Stipend Program rules are currently awaiting legislative approval and that DPS has initiated working groups on fentanyl and updates to the Arkansas traffic code. She announced that the raises for CLEST’s law enforcement officers have been approved and will go into effect July 1, 2022. She attended the NW ALETA and ALETA graduations and will be attending the IADLEST conference in Fort Worth.