

COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 14-15, 2023

ARKANSAS STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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

Commission Members present:

Chairman Doc Holladay
Vice Chair Barry Phillips
Maj. Stacie Rhoads
Chief Heath Helton
Dr. James Golden
Sheriff Phillip Miller
Sheriff Lafayette Woods
Mr. Thomas Marsh
Mr. Richard Wingard

Commissioner Absent:

Chief Mike Reynolds

Others present:

Director Chris Chapmond
Atty. Eric Wacaster
Deputy Director Jason Lawrence
Kreasha Williams, Legal Services Specialist
Brian Johnson, CLEST Agent
Kelisha Wise, CLEST Agent
Barbara Varnell, Education and Instruction Coordinator
Sue Albritton, CLEST/Comm. Admin. Assistant
Tia Marsh, Ft. Smith
Chris Fisher, Des Arc
Russell Wood, Attorney
Rhett Ballard, Harrisburg
Eric Sims, Ward PD
Jeremiah Stephens, Arkadelphia
Brad Kent, Coal Hill PD
Steven Bobo, Dewitt PD
Clayton Evans, Dewitt PD
William Willard, Ft. Smith

Commission Meeting Minutes

November 14-15, 2023

Page 2

Caitlin Morter

Justin Jackson, Rector School District

Steven Hallmark Wynne PD

Justin Faraquhar, Union Christian Academy

Ryan A Rose, Union Christian Academy

Ricky Masengale, Union Christian Academy

David Miller, Benton

Chris Madison, Attorney

Jerry Keeter, AR Dept. Education

Kenneth Moore, Wynne Public School

Michael Hinton, Wynne Public School

Colonel Mike Hagar, ASP

David Casper, Hot Spring Co.SO

Shane Davis, Hot Spring Co. SO

Dewey Young, Ft. Smith PD

Nathan Marshall, Bryant PD

Bryan Fuller, Bryant PD

Chad Wrigley, Faulkner Co SO

Charles Hendricks, Pulaski Co. SO

Nikirah McKinney, Pulaski Co. SO

Kenneth Baker, LR PD

Todd Stovall, Paragould PD

Brent McCain, Paragould PD

Lacey Kanipe, DPS

Jesi Feld, DPS

Tess Bradford, DPS

Allen Fitzgerald, DPS

Michael Barton, Ward

Billy Hutto, Benton

Charles Moulton, Hearing Officer

Richard Harkness, Haskell PD

Carl Minden, Bryant PD

Joseph Plough, Bryant PD

Lucien Gilliam, Attorney

Chip Sexton, Attorney

Patrick Copeland, ADC, Bryant PD

Dalton Waggoner, Bryant PD

Jamar Cummings, Bryant PD

Tierra Cummings, Bryant

Taylor Pearson, CLEST Attorney

Keanna Hill, Maumelle

Trish Hendrix, Court Reporter

A motion to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2023, meeting, and the November 9, 2023, called meeting was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item I: Item one was to set the meeting dates for the year 2024. The dates for the upcoming year are January 18th-Camden, March 12th-Little Rock, May 9th-Camden, July 9th-Little Rock, September 12th—Camden, and November 13th- Little Rock. A motion to accept these dates was made by Commissioner Helton and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item II: Item two was a request from the Union Christian Academy to establish their own police department. Having met all requirements, a motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item III: Item three was a request from the Rector School District to establish their own police department. Having met all requirements, a motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Helton and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Commission Meeting Minutes

November 14-15, 2023

Page 3

Item IV: Item four was a request from the Wynne School District to establish their own police department. Having met all requirements, a motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item V: Item five was a request from the Hot Spring County Sheriff's Office for an extension for Deputy Jeff Finley under CLEST Rule 1002. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item VI: Item six was a request from the Dewitt Police Department for an extension for Officer Clayton Evans under CLEST Rule 1002. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item VII: Item seven was a request from the Wynne Police Department for an extension for Officer Ladarius Evans under CLEST Rule 1002. A motion to grant the request was made to grant the extension, but Officer Evans must pass a physical exam before he can complete his training by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item VIII: Item seven was a request from the Paragould Police Department for an extension for Officer Neely Crowder under CLEST Rule 1002. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item IX: Item nine was a request from the Coal Hill Police Department for an extension for Officer Jackson Pyron under CLEST Rule 1002. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item X: Item ten was a request from Christopher Fisher requesting recertification under rule 1034. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XI: Item eleven was a request from Rhett Ballard requesting recertification under Rule 1034. The request was denied for the lack of a motion.

Item XII: Item twelve was a request from Jeremiah Stephens requesting recertification under CLEST Rule 1034. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Wingard and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Item XIII: Item thirteen was a request from William Willard requesting recertification under CLEST Rule 1034. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XIV: Item fourteen was a recommendation from the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office for decertification of former Deputy Brianna Cole. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Commission Meeting Minutes

November 14-15, 2023

Page 4

Item XV: Item fifteen was a recommendation from the Perry County Sheriff's Office for decertification of former Deputy Seth Ford. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Marsh and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item XVI: Item sixteen was a recommendation from the Harrisburg Police Department for decertification of former Officer Clint Gattis. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item XVII: Item seventeen was a recommendation from the Saline County Court Police for decertification of former Officer John Gillen. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XVIII: Item eighteen was a recommendation from the Bauxite Police Department for decertification of former Officer Tim Green. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XIX: Item nineteen was a recommendation from the Fordyce Police Department for decertification of former Officer Mark Heath. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item XX: Item twenty was a recommendation from the Ft. Smith Police Department for decertification of former Officer Ashton Ligon. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item XXI: Item twenty-one was a recommendation from the Paris Police Department for decertification of former Officer Brodie Lovelace. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XXII: Item twenty-two was a recommendation from the Union County Sheriff's Office for decertification of former Deputy Joshua Luman. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item XXIII: Item twenty-three was a recommendation from the Shannon Hills Police Department for decertification of former Officer Stephen Mabry. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item XXIV: Item twenty-four was a recommendation from the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport Police Department for decertification of former Officer Gerard Osborne. A motion to not proceed with decertification was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XXV: Item twenty-five was a recommendation from the Hot Springs Police Department for decertification of former Officer Randy Rodgers. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Helton and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Commission Meeting Minutes

November 14-15, 2023

Page 5

Item XXVI: Item twenty-six was a recommendation from the Bryant Police Department for decertification of former Officer Kristie Silor. A motion to not proceed with decertification was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XXVII: Item twenty-seven was a recommendation from the Arkansas Department of Community Correction for decertification of former Officer Nicholas Smith. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item XXVIII: Item twenty-eight was a recommendation from the Baxter County Sheriff's Office for decertification of former Deputy Samuel Sparks. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Item XXIX: Item twenty-nine was a recommendation from the Ft. Smith Police Department for decertification of former Officer Dale Stovall. A motion to not proceed with decertification was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Item XXX: Item thirty was a recommendation from the UA-Ft. Smith Police Department for decertification of former Officer Justin Szuba. A motion to not proceed with decertification was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item XXXI: Item thirty-one was a recommendation from the Sebastian County Sheriff's Office for decertification of former Deputy Mason Toon. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XXXII: Item thirty-two was a recommendation from the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office for decertification of former Deputy Bradley Tucker. A motion not to proceed with decertification was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried with Commissioner Miller recusing.

Item XXXIII: Item thirty-three was a recommendation from the ASU Police Department for decertification of former Officer Terry Wicker. A motion not to proceed with decertification was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Item XXXIV: Item thirty-four was a recommendation from the Harrisburg Police Department for decertification of former Officer Jesse Wiley. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item XXXV: Item thirty-five was a recommendation from the Little Rock Police Department for decertification of former Officer Erica Williams. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried with Commissioner Helton recusing.

Commission Meeting Minutes

November 14-15, 2023

Page 6

Item XXXVI: Item thirty-six was a recommendation from the Greene County Sheriff's Office for decertification of former Deputy Jeffery Wolfenbarger. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item XXXVII: Item thirty-seven was a recommendation from the Texarkana Police Department for decertification of former Officer Telvin Wilson. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XXXVIII: Item thirty-eight was a recommendation from the Arkansas State Police for decertification of former Trooper Jack Young. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried with Commissioner Rhoads recusing.

Item XXXIX: Item thirty-nine was a recommendation from the Pine Bluff Police Department for decertification of former Officer Darrian Trimble. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

On November 14, 2023, at the conclusion of the regular business meeting, decertification hearings were held. Three (3) Consent Agreements were presented for **Michelle Hood, James Stephens, and Micah Fleming**. A motion to accept the Consent Agreements and decertify the officers was made by Commissioner Rhoads. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried. Five (5) Uncontested Hearings were held for **Maria Figueora, Christopher Yetmar, Tony Madlock, Carlos Hussian, and Christian Lamborn**. Commissioner Rhoads made a motion that the Findings of Facts and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify the individuals. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried. Three (3) Contested Hearings were held for **Michael Barton, Billy Hutto and David Miller**. After hearing all testimony given and reviewing evidence presented, a motion was made by Commissioner Helton that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify Michael Barton. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried. **Michael Barton** was decertified. After hearing all testimony given and reviewing evidence presented, a motion was made by Commissioner Rhoads that the Findings of Fact had not been met and not to decertify Billy Hutto. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried. **Billy Hutto** was not decertified. After hearing all testimony given and reviewing evidence presented, a motion was made by Commissioner Phillips that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met but did not rise to the level of decertification. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried. **David Miller** was not decertified.

On November 15, 2023, five (5) contested hearings were held for **Keanna Hill, Alexander Sanders, Jamar Cummings, Nikirah McKinney and Patrick Copeland**. After hearing all testimony and reviewing evidence presented, a motion was made by Commissioner Rhoads that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met but did not rise to the level of decertification. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried. **Nikirah McKinney** was not decertified. After hearing all testimony and reviewing the evidence presented, a motion was made by Commissioner Rhoads that the Findings of Fact had not been met and not to decertify Kenna Hill. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried. **Keanna Hill** was not decertified. After hearing all testimony and reviewing evidence presented, a motion was made by Commissioner Woods that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify Alexander Sanders. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marsh with Commissioner Helton recusing. Motion carried. **Alexander Sanders** was decertified. After hearing all testimony and reviewing evidence presented, a motion was made by Commissioner Rhoads that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify Patrick Copeland. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried. **Patrick Copeland** was decertified. After hearing all testimony and reviewing evidence presented, a motion was made by Commissioner Miller that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify Jamar Cummings. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried. During the two-day meeting three (3) consent agreements were accepted, and total of thirteen (13) hearings were held with nine (9) being decertified and four (4) not being decertified. The hearings were presided over by Hearing Officer Charles Moulton and recorded by Court Reporter Patricia Hendrix.

Director's Report

Director Chapmond reported that he attended graduations at Northwest ALETA with keynote speaker Hugh Finkelstein. He also reported that this graduating class was the first to complete the newly implemented exit survey. He also attended the Black River graduation and presented the Jami Cook Award of Excellence to Officer Fahey of the Marianna Police Department. Director Chapmond announced that new employees Michael Galbraith, Stephanie Quiroz, Detrie Wilkins, Taylor Pearson, Barbara Varnell, Eric Wacaster and Jason Lawrence have now joined the CLEST team and that Calvin Bishop will join us within two weeks. He also announced that Fred Weatherspoon and Brad King retired on October 31, 2023 and that Annett Cagle will be retiring on December 31, 2023 and thanked them each for their service. The Director reported that CALETA held its open house at the new location with approximately 15 agencies attending. The North Central Arkansas Chiefs and Sheriffs meeting had 20-25 attendees for a roundtable discussion of CLEST services. CLEST has received \$21.8 million in ARPA funds and an additional \$440k from the Attorney General's Office. The design phase advertisement has closed and we are awaiting the presentation phase for two new 30,000 square foot training facilities, remodel of dorms at Camden facility, covered firing ranges and technology updates. Finally, Director Chapmond reported that that he will attend ALETA graduation on December 8th with keynote speaker Chief William Hrvatin.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Commission went into executive session for a personnel matter. No action was taken.