

COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AD TRAINING
TELECONFERENCE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 18, 2024
ARKANSAS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY

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

Commissioners answering roll call:

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

Commissioner not answering roll call:

Sheriff Lafayette Woods

Others answering roll call:

CLEST Director Chris Chapmond
CLEST Deputy Director Eric Wacaster
CLEST Deputy Director Jason Lawrence
Taylor Pearson, CLEST Attorney
Kreasha Williams, CLEST Legal Services Specialist
Shannon McCuin, CLEST 911 Coordinator
Clint Scrivner, NW ALETA Supervisor
Sue Albritton, CLEST Administrative Assistant
Chief Troy Burleson, Omaha Police Department
Chief Keith Finch, Dumas Police Department
Chief Mark Spain, Tyronza Police Department
Chief Elbert Bonner, Arkansas City Police Department
Charles Moulton, Hearing Officer
Colby Copeland, Court Reporter

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A motion to accept the minutes of the November 14-15, 2023, meeting, and special called meetings held on November 27, 2023, January 3, 2024, and January 5, 2024, was made by Commissioner Reynolds, and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Item I: Item one was to approve Board and Commission Expenses. A motion to accept and approve the expenses was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Marsh.

Item II: Item two was a request from the Omaha Police Department for authorization under A.C.A. 12-9-124(2)(A) for Chief Troy Bureson to continue to serve as Part-Time Chief. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.

Item III: Item three was a request from the Dumas Police Department for an extension under CLEST Rule 1002 for Officer Jermaine Cobbs to complete the 120 Hour Part-Time/Auxiliary Course. A motion to grant an extension of 90 days was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item IV: Item four was a request from the Tyronza Police Department for an extension under CLEST Rule 1002 for Officer Dylan Biddle to complete the 120 Hour Part-Time/Auxiliary Course. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.

Item V: Item five was a request from the Arkansas City Police Department for an extension under CLEST Rule 1002 for Chief Elbert Bonner to complete the 120 Hour Part-Time/Auxiliary Course. Commissioner Rhoads made the motion to grant the request and was seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Item VI: Item six was postponed until the March meeting.

Item VII: Item seven was a discussion of the proposed 911 Rules. A motion to accept the proposed 911 rules and to go forward with the recommendations was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item VIII: Item eight was a request from Standards for discretion to accept home school diplomas for purposes of CLEST Rule 1002(3)(f). A motion to grant Standards the discretion to accept home school diplomas from a home school program accredited or accepted by the Arkansas Department of Education or an out of state equivalent was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

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Item IX: Item nine was a request was from Standards for discretion to recognize out of state law enforcement training providers and instructors and preapprove their courses under CLEST Rules 1016 and 1017. A motion was made to grant the request by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item X: Item ten was a request from Standards for the authority to grant extensions for training up to one year from the date of hire under CLEST Rules 1002 and 1005. Chairman Holladay asked for a vote on the request and the vote was unanimous.

Item XI: Item eleven was a request from Standards for discretion to waive years of service requirements for FTO Certification and Specialized FTO certification under CLEST Rule 1014. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item XII: Item twelve was a request from Standards that the pending decertification of Michael Cain Maxheimer be dismissed due to the death of Officer Maxheimer. A motion to dismiss the pending decertification was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XIII: Item thirteen was a discussion of proposed CLEST Rule changes. After the discussion it was agreed to go forward with the changes and to vote for approval at the completion and finalization of the rules.

Item XIV: Item fourteen was a request from the Little Rock Police department for the decertification of former Officer Johvoni McClendon, Sr. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried. Commissioner Helton recused.

Item XV: Item fifteen was request from the Dardanelle Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Noah Bradley. After a discussion, a motion to defer any action until more information is available was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XVI: Item sixteen was a request from the Siloam Springs Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Michael Anderson. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item XVII: Item seventeen was a request from the Jonesboro Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Keshun Leon. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item XVII: Item eighteen was a request from the Camp Robinson Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Kenneth Broyles. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XIX: Item nineteen was a request from the Hot Springs Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Clifford Rushing. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion Carried.

Item XX: Item twenty was a request from the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Michelle Hampton. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Item XXI: Item twenty-one was a request from the Lonoke County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of Deputy Matthew Fitzhugh. A motion to not proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XXII: Item twenty-two was a request from the Lafayette County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Clayton Brookes. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XXIII: Item twenty-three was a request from the Austin Police Department for the decertification of former Deputy Jonathan Cornwell. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item XXIV: Item Twenty-four was a request from the Newton County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Bartholomew Heft. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XXV: Item twenty-five was a request from the Greenbrier Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Christopher Henderson. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item XXVI: Item twenty-six was a request from the Johnson County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Michael Johnson. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Item XXVII: Item twenty-seven was a request from the Lowell Police Department for decertification of former Officer Roy Mitchell. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

At the conclusion of the regular meeting, uncontested decertification hearings were held. Six (6) uncontested hearing were conducted for **John Gillen, Seth Ford, Telvin Wilson, Darrell Barber, Tonya Robinson, and Lisa Miller**. A motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify these individuals was made by Commissioner Rhoads. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried. Commissioner Miller recused on vote for Darrell Barber. The hearings were presided over by Hearing Officer Charles Moulton and recorded by Court Reporter Colby Copeland. A total of **six (6)** officers were decertified by the Commission.

Director's Report:

Director Chapmond announced Annette Cagle's retirement after 30 years of service, Rhonda Price's retirement at the end of January, and that those positions have been filled. Director Chapmond reported that the Camden and Northwest academies A Classes have begun with approximately 140 students between the two locations and that Central's Class A will begin February 4th. He also announced that the Leadership Training has been implemented at the academy level, graduating cadets will receive a Law Enforcement Leadership Certification, that the Camden cadets received the training on day zero and Northwest cadets will receive the training on January 21st. Director Chapmond issued special thanks to Dr. Chris Clem for the development of the Leadership Training Course. Divisional Leadership Training took place at the Central Academy on January 3rd with nearly all divisional staff attending, we believe this is the first time that division wide training had been provided in this type of setting. Director Chapmond also reported that the building projects have moved into design phase contract negotiations with the expectation to take a contract for legislative approval in February; other ARPA and AG funds that have been completed or being addressed includes the purchase of 275-300 new laptop devices for

the academy use, new medical training aids/devices, new vehicles, training equipment including patrol rifles and MILO shooting simulators. He also reported that the plan is to be capable of providing most training services on digital platform by mid-year; that data collection has started on all students entering and graduating from the academies with statewide cooperation with all law enforcement academies giving between 600-800 data points this year to evaluate staff, teaching methods and curriculum. That the Central academy will pilot our expanded academy hours to include the 40-hour mandatory CIT training with the expectation to roll out this training throughout all academies in the B Classes. Director Chapmond reported that fallen officers Kaylen Jacobs, Justin Smith and Michael Maxheimer received the fallen officer benefit funds; that Chairman Holladay, Deputy Director Lawrence and himself attended the funeral of Officer Smith and that Deputy Director Lawrence and himself attended the funeral of Officer Jacobs. Finally, he reported Commissioner Golden will be retiring from the Commission.