



# South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

SOUTH CAROLINA  
LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, December 11, 2023  
10:00 a.m.

A meeting of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Training Council (LETC) was held at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy on Monday, December 11, 2023. This meeting was advertised in accordance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

### ***Agenda Item 1***

Sheriff Lee Foster, Co-Chair of the Law Enforcement Training Council, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Sheriff Lee Foster called for a roll call of the Council members. The roll was called by Opel Bunn.

Members present for this meeting in-person were Sheriff Lee Foster (Co-Chair), Newberry County Sheriff's Office; Director Bryan Stirling, S.C. Department of Corrections; Acting Director Jodi Gallman, S.C. Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services; Director Robert Woods, S.C. Department of Public Safety and Chief Kevin Cornett, Isle of Palms Police Department.

Members present via video/conference call were Director John Thomas, North August Department of Public Safety; Sheriff Barry Faile, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office and Captain Nick Gallam, Aiken County Detention Center.

Attorney General Alan Wilson, S.C. Attorney General's Office and Director Robert Boyles, S.C. Department of Natural Resources were absent from this meeting but represented by proxy, Deputy Attorney General Jeff Young and Colonel Chisolm Frampton. Chief Mark Keel, (Chairman), State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) was also absent from this meeting.

Guest attendees present in-person or via Webex were Jarrod Bruder, S.C. Sheriffs Association; JJ Jones, S.C. Law Enforcement Officers Association/S.C. Police Chiefs Association; Deputy Chief Jim Stewart, Richland County Sheriff's Department; Joanna McDuffie, Esquire, Richland County Sheriff's Department; Marcus Gore, Esquire, S.C. Department of Public Safety; John O'Leary, Esquire; Dawn McGuire and Dan Cooper.

SC Criminal Justice Academy attendees were Director Jackie Swindler; Opel Bunn, Executive Assistant; James Fennell, General Counsel; Lauren Fennell, Accreditation and Standards Manager; Justin Miller, IT Manager; Briana Jirowetz, IT; Major Florence McCants and Scott Deckard, Investigator.



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## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Director Stirling. Chief Cornett seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

## APPROVAL FOR MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2023, meeting was made by Director Stirling and seconded by Chief Cornett. Council voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes as recorded.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### A. General Counsel Report

- Misconduct Cases

#### Sydney Tyson (2023-CJA-02-16) (Greer Police Department)

**Summary:** Allegation(s) misrepresentation of employment related information" while employed by the Department. **Request for Final Agency Decision.**

The Hearing Officer Recommended that Council:

- A. Issue its final agency decision, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-107 D. finding that an allegation of misconduct reported against Sydney Tyson by the Greer Police Department has been proven by the preponderance of evidence; and
- B. Impose such sanction as the Council in its discretion deems appropriate pursuant to the authority set forth at S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-108 A.

There was no representation for the officer nor the Department in this meeting.

Director Woods made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and to permanently deny Ms. Tyson's eligibility for law enforcement certification. Director Stirling seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to permanently deny Ms. Tyson's eligibility for law enforcement certification.



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### Matthew Sewell (2022-CJA-12-09) (Travelers Rest Police Department)

**Summary:** Allegation(s) of willfully making false, misleading, incomplete, deceitful, or incorrect statements to a law enforcement officer, a law enforcement agency, or a representative of the agency, except when required by departmental policy, or by the laws of this State.

#### **Request for Final Agency Decision.**

The Hearing Officer Recommended that Council:

- A. Issue its final agency decision, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-107 D. finding that the allegation of misconduct filed against Matthew Sewell by the Travelers Rest Police Department has been proven by the preponderance of evidence; and
- B. Impose such sanction as the Council in its discretion deems appropriate pursuant to its authority set forth at S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-108 A.

This case has been moved to the next meeting in January.

### Dawn McGuire (2023-CJA-03-08) (Greenwood County Sheriff's Office)

**Summary:** Allegation(s) of willfully making false, misleading, incomplete, deceitful, or incorrect information on a document, record, report, or form, except when required by departmental policy, or by the laws of this State. **Request for Final Agency Decision.**

The Hearing Officer Recommended that Council:

- A. Issue its final agency decision, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-107 D. finding that the allegation of misconduct filed against Dawn McGuire by the Greenwood County Sheriff's Office has been proven by a preponderance of evidence; and
- B. Impose such sanction as the Council in its discretion deems appropriate pursuant to its authority set forth at S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 37-108 A.

Ms. Dawn McGuire was present to speak on her behalf and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

John O'Leary, Esquire, was present and spoke on behalf of Ms. McGuire and to answer questions from the Council if applicable.

There was no representation for the Department in this meeting.



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After hearing statements from Mr. O'Leary, Sheriff Faile made a motion to deny the recommendation of the Hearing Officer with a finding of 'No Misconduct'. Chief Cornett seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously to deny the recommendation of the Hearing Officer with a finding of 'No Misconduct'.

## **B. Director's Comments**

### Director Swindler

Director Swindler gave updates on the final basic training classes graduating to finish out the year on December 22, 2023. He stated that we will end the year with a graduation, then two weeks without students. Classes will start back on January 8, 2024.

Director Swindler stated that the Academy had 24 – 25 graduations, graduating a little over 1,100 students. He stated that the higher success rate is due to 4 weeks at home agencies prior to attending the Academy with an average class size of 50.

Director Swindler reported that we are in the black this year retaining more students than we lost. About 150 – 190 from this year from other states. A little over 400 within the last 2 years have transferred from other states for Special Basic, which is a good trend.

Director Swindler introduced Scott Deckard, Investigator informing the Council that he will be handling misconduct scheduling, auditing agencies, and investigations.

Lastly, Director Swindler thanked Director Thomas for attending the meeting and congratulated him on his retirement.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Director Swindler stated that last month we were still waiting for the Target System to arrive. The Target System came in last week and installation has started. We now have a new moving Target System on Range 1 and Range 3, with installations to be finished this week. We are still moving on to other projects.

Sheriff Foster mentioned that we need to continue to get the word out to the agencies to come to the hearing and to prosecute misconduct cases.



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## NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

## CLOSING REMARKS/AJOURNMENT

Sherrif Foster inquired whether there were any more questions or comments from Council.

When there were no more remarks or comments, Chief Cornett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Woods seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Opel C. Bunn*

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Opel C. Bunn