

COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 13, 2016

ARKANSAS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A. M. Commissioners present:

Vice Chairman Percy Wilburn
Capt. Bobby Walraven
Sheriff Boyd Hicks
Mr. Barry Phillips
Sheriff Doc Holladay
Mr. Barney Reeves
Mr. Thomas Marsh

Commissioners Absent:

Chief Bob Harrison
Dr. James Golden
Lt. Staci Rhoads

Others present:

Director Jami Cook
Doug Smith, Governor's Office
Deputy Director, Fred Weatherspoon
Deputy Director, Brad King
Sara Farris, Asst. Attorney General
Sue Albritton, CLEST Admin. Assist.
Capt. J. Crouch, Earle Police Dept.
Jim Wilmeth, Siloam Springs PD
Derek Spicer, Siloam Springs PD
Jerry Bradshaw, ACC
Chad Brown, ACC
Chris Hill, Lonoke
Ronald Scott, Helena/West Helena PD
Lt. Michael Thomas, Helena/West Helena PD
Juanita Mills, Helena/West Helena
Mandy Hill, CLEST
Wade Hodge, Hearing Officer

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Marty Boyd, Craighead CO. SO

Justin Rolland, Craighead Co. SO

Ty'Junia Clark, ACC

William Lyn, Lonoke Co. SO

Michael Gebhardt, Lonoke Co. SO

Erin Smelser, ALETA

The minutes of the July 14, 2016 meeting was approved by a motion made by Commissioner Holladay and seconded by Commissioner Phillips.

ITEM I: Item one was to set the meeting dates for the year 2017. The dates of January 12th, April 13th, July 13th and October 12th were adopted with a motion by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Hicks.

ITEM II: Item two was a request from the Batesville Police Department for decertification of former Sgt. Phillip Pickett, II. A motion to go forward with decertification was made by Commissioner Reeves and seconded by Commissioner Holladay. Motion carried.

ITEM III: Item three was a request from the Carroll County Sheriff's Office for decertification of former Deputy Jonathan White. Commissioner Walraven moved to go forward with decertification and was seconded by Commissioner Hicks. The vote was unanimous.

ITEM IV: Item four was a request from the Sherwood Police Department for decertification of former Officer Dylan Hamby. Commissioner Phillips made a motion to go forward and was seconded by Commissioner Walraven. Motion passed with Commissioner Holladay recusing.

ITEM V: Item five was a request from the Washington County Sheriff's Office for decertification of former Deputy Preston Baker. The motion to go forward was made by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Reeves. Motion carried.

ITEM VI: Item six was a request from the Brinkley Police Department requesting decertification of former Officer James Burrow. A motion to go forward with decertification was made by Commissioner Holladay and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion was unanimous.

ITEM VII: Item seven was a request from the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office requesting decertification of former Deputy Michael Graff. A motion to go forward with decertification was made by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Reeves. Motion passed with Commissioner Holladay recusing.

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ITEM VIII: Item eight was a request from the Arkansas State Parks for decertification of former Park Ranger Schawntell Arberry-Austin. A motion to go forward was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Holladay. Motion was unanimous.

ITEM IX: Item nine was a request from the Arkansas Game and Fish for decertification of former Cpl. Michael Gray. A motion to go forward with decertification was made by Commissioner Holladay. Commissioner Marsh seconded with Commissioner Hicks recusing. Motion passed.

ITEM X: Item ten was a request from the Jonesboro Police Department requesting decertification of former Officer Joseph McDermott. A motion to go forward was made by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Walraven. Motion passed.

ITEM XI: Item eleven was a request from the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office requesting decertification of former Deputy Wesley Barnett. A motion by Commissioner Walraven to go forward was seconded by Commissioner Hicks. The motion passed with Commissioner Holladay recusing.

ITEM XII: Item twelve was a request from the Corning Police Department for decertification of former Officer James Martin, Jr. Commissioner Holladay made a motion to go forward with decertification and was seconded by Commissioner Hicks. Motion carried.

ITEM XIII: Item thirteen was a request from the Bull Shoals Police Department for decertification of former Officer Patrick Kelly. Commissioner Hicks made a motion to move forward and was seconded by Commissioner Holladay. Motion carried.

ITEM XIV: Item fourteen was a request from the from the Earle Police Department requesting an extension for James Wright who had gone beyond the time limit to receive his basic training. Commissioner Holladay made a motion to grant the request and was seconded by Commissioner Hicks. Motion carried.

ITEM XV: Item fifteen was an appeal from the Helena/West Helena Police Department regarding former Officer Juanita Mills' expulsion from the academy. After a discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Holladay to deny the request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Walraven. The motion passed with one in opposition.

ITEM XVI: Item sixteen was a request from the Siloam Springs Police Department requesting an extension for Triston Tafoya. A motion was made by Commissioner Holladay to grant the request and was seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

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ITEM XVII: Item seventeen was a request from the Bradley Police Department for decertification of Christopher Goss. A motion to go forward with decertification was made by Commissioner Holladay and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

ITEM XVIII: Item eighteen was a request from the Arkansas Community Correction for the Commission to consider ACC Specialized Field Training Officers to be certified. After a discussion on the matter, the matter was tabled until further consideration could be made.

ITEM XIX: Item nineteen was a request from the Craighead County Sheriff's Office requesting an extension for Deputy Mike Lawrence. A motion by Commissioner Walraven to grant the request was seconded by Commissioner Holladay. The vote was unanimous.

Director's Comments: Director Cook recognized Training Instructor Erin Smelser for being recognized by Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge as one of the outstanding officers in each of the 75 counties in the state. Smelser was recognized at the the 2016 Law Enforcement Summit hosted by General Rutledge. Ms. Cook introduced Mandy Hill as the new Curriculum Coordinator who will develop on-line training for dispatchers and officers. The on-line training module was purchased as an add-on to CLEST's current database allowing easy access for dispatchers and officers. The Director announced that the Legislative Auditor was in house conducting the annual audit of the Academy and Commission. Ms. Cook announced that the advertisement for a Training Supervisor for the Camp Robinson Academy has been posted and that the academy is slated for opening after the first of the year. A special meeting was set for December 1st specifically for decertification hearings. The Commission members requested that research be done to enable the Commission to have subpoena power. Ms. Cook stated she would have the matter researched.

At the end of the regular meeting decertification hearings were held. Hearing Officer Attorney Wade Hodge presided over the proceedings and was recorded by Court Reporter Patricia Hendrix. Consent Agreements were heard for Jassen Travis and Jack Fitzhugh. Uncontested Hearings were heard for: Michael Roberts, Kenneth Chase Robertson, Daniel Lester, Christopher Johnson, Lewis Irvin, Lloyd Chandler, and Christopher Harris. A Contested Hearing was conducted for Christopher Hill. The Commission by majority voted to decertify all those presented.