



MINUTES/ACTIONS

LOUISIANA STATE POLICE COMMISSION
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023
10:00 A.M.

John Bel Edwards
Governor

Jason Hannaman
Executive Director

*STATE POLICE COMMISSION, VETERANS MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM, SUITE 1247,
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY BLDG., 5825 FLORIDA BLVD., BATON ROUGE, LA 70806*

Chairman Simien welcomed Mr. Mark “Aubrey” Cole, the new commissioner representing the 3rd Congressional District.

I. Call to Order

The State Police Commission convened its monthly general business meeting at 10:04 A.M. on Thursday, April 13, 2023.

II. Roll Call

Present were Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr., Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, Commissioners Monty Montelongo, Jared Caruso-Riecke, Bernell Nevil, Jr., and Mark “Aubrey” Cole. Absent was Harold Pierite, Sr. There was a quorum. Additionally, Commission Referee Lenore Feeney, Deputy Director Aarika Dorsey, and Executive Director Jason Hannaman were present.

III. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Eulis Simien led the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. Opportunity to Address the Commission by employees or others concerning items on the agenda. (Please submit a speaker request form prior to the meeting being called to order.)
No requests were received.

VI. Business

On motion duly made by Chairman Simien, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to move business item #5 up to the second item considered on the business agenda due to legal representation having a prior engagement.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

1. Consideration of the meeting minutes from March 9, 2023

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to approve the meeting minutes from March 9, 2023.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

5. Oral arguments on pre-hearing motions filed in the matter of Mathew Clair (Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police), Docket No. 22-267-S. Floyd Falcon representing Mr. Clair. Tunde Animashaun and Jason Hessick representing the Office of State Police.

Attorney Jason Hessick appeared on behalf of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police. Attorney Floyd Falcon appeared on behalf of the appellant, Mathew Clair.

- Executive Session regarding allegations of misconduct
On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to go into Executive Session to discuss issues regarding allegations of misconduct at 10:22 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Vice-Chairman Crawford, Commissioners Montelongo, Nevil, Riecke, Cole, and Chairman Simien

Opposed: None

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to end Executive Session at 10:45 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Vice-Chairman Crawford, Commissioners Montelongo, Nevil, Riecke, Cole, and Chairman Simien

Opposed: None

- Public discussion and possible vote
Chairman Simien made a motion to deny the request for summary disposition.

Chairman Simien advised his belief that the motion should be denied based on Rule 12.20; even if there was a violation of Rule 12.18, the Commission may reduce, modify, or reverse any disciplinary action taken against a Trooper. Not speaking to the merits of the case but to the request for summary disposition; it should be denied.

Chairman Simien advised his belief that the motion should be denied based on Rule 12.20; even if there was a violation of Rule 12.18, the Commission may reduce, modify, or reverse any disciplinary action taken against a Trooper. Not speaking to the merits of the case but to the request for summary disposition; it should be denied because there are facts to be determined so that the Commission could consider the correct action under Rule 12.20.

Vice-Chairman Crawford seconded the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to deny the request for summary disposition.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

2. Consideration of a motion by Commissioner Riecke to authorize an exception to the existing job duties of WAEs approved by the State Police Commission that would permit performing public safety tasks throughout the state as determined by the Appointing Authority.

Commissioner Riecke advised that in addition to the exception granted for Mardi Gras, WAEs should be permitted to work within any public safety realm as determined by the Appointing Authority due to the agency not having enough active duty Troopers. Lt. Colonel Cammon, LSP Chief of Staff, agreed with Commissioner Riecke; he advised that it would help the department in public safety responses.

Commission Montelongo seconded the motion offered by Commissioner Riecke.

Chairman Simien stated that the agency needs to get the funding to get enough qualified individuals applying with the proper disposition to do the job so that the department can hold two cadet classes per year. He noted that the WAE program is a temporary fix; Commissioner Riecke concurred.

Vice-Chairman Crawford inquired about the recruitment efforts. Lt. Colonel Cammon described different onboarding and recruiting strategies.

The Commission voted to approve Commissioner Riecke's motion.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

3. Discussion of WAE demographic information requested by Chairman Simien.
Chairman Simien discussed the WAE demographic data. He requested additional demographic information on active Troopers and DPS Personnel that worked Mardi Gras assignments. Additionally, he requested the hourly rate of pay for employees working on those assignments.

Vice-Chairman Crawford requested data for female applicants and where they succeeded in becoming part of a cadet class or where they fell out of the process.

4. In the matter of Russell Graham (Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police), Docket No. 22-264-S. Mary Ann White representing Mr. Graham. Tunde Animashaun and Jason Hessick representing the Office of State Police.

Chairman Simien was advised by the Commission Referee that the parties solved their subpoena-related issues and would not be presenting arguments. The parties confirmed their resolution of the issues with the Commission Referee after the agenda was posted.

- Oral arguments concerning unresolved issues related to the subpoena request for emails and text messages
- Executive Session regarding allegations of misconduct
- Public discussion and possible vote

6. In the matter of Michael Reichardt (Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police), Docket No. 22-265-S.

Attorney Jason Hessick appeared on behalf of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police.

- Discussion of a proposed settlement agreement and presentation by the parties.
Attorney Jason Hessick presented the proposed settlement agreement.

- Executive Session regarding allegations of misconduct.
On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to go into Executive Session to discuss issues regarding allegations of misconduct at 11:12 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Vice-Chairman Crawford, Commissioners Montelongo, Nevil, Riecke, Cole, and Chairman Simien

Opposed: None

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to end Executive Session at 11:19 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Vice-Chairman Crawford, Commissioners Montelongo, Nevil, Riecke, Cole, and Chairman Simien

Opposed: None

- Consideration and vote on whether to accept the proposed settlement agreement.
On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to approve the proposed settlement agreement presented by the parties.
In Favor: All
Opposed: None
7. Consideration of General Circular 230 to amend State Police Commission Rule 7.22
On motion duly made by Commissioner Montelongo, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to adopt the proposed amendment to State Police Commission Rule 7.22 as promulgated in General Circular 230.
In Favor: All
Opposed: None

VII. Director's Report

Commission Expenditures:

The attention of the Commission was directed to the Commission's Monthly Expenditure Report that had been provided for its review. There were no questions regarding the report.

FY 23/24 Executive Budget

The commissioners were updated about the status of the FY 23/24 budget request. Executive Director Hannaman and Deputy Director Dorsey attended the House Appropriations meeting on March 28th and the Senate Finance meeting on March 29th; there were no questions regarding the Commission's budget request.

House Bill No. 563

The attention of the Commission was directed to House Bill No. 563. Representatives Schexnayder and Hilferty sponsored the creation of a law enforcement recruiting incentive fund for new officers. If approved, the bill would create a \$5,000 payment incentive for officers within the state which would include State Police Cadets. The bill is being monitored by Commission staff.

Promotional Exam

The commissioners were advised that the deadline to apply for the May promotional test is Monday, April 24th, 2023. There will be an email correspondence that will be sent out to all classified members to remind them of the approaching deadline.

Financial Disclosure Statements

The commissioners were advised that their annual Personal Financial Disclosure Statements are due to the Board of Ethics by May 15, 2023.

Next Meeting:

The next regular business meeting is set for May 11th, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.

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- VIII. Opportunity to Address the Commission by employees or others on matters not on the agenda. (Please submit a speaker request form prior to the meeting being called to order.)

There was no request by employees or others to address the Commission on matters not on the agenda.

- IX. Adjourn

There being no further business on a motion duly made by Chairman Simien seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to adjourn at 11:29 A.M. on Thursday, April 13, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jason Hannaman, Executive Director



Eulis Simien, Jr. Chairman