

MINUTES  
STATE POLICE COMMISSION

Date: November 10, 2016 Time: 9:15 a.m.

Location: State Police Commission  
Office of Management Finance & OMV Building  
7979 Independence Boulevard, Suite 208  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

Present: Donald Breaux Cathy Derbonne, Director  
Eulis Simien, Jr. M. Lenore Feeney, Referee  
Thomas "T.J." Doss T. Taylor Townsend, Referee  
W. Lloyd Grafton  
Jared Riecke Vacancies: 0  
Monica J. Manzella  
Calvin W. Braxton, Sr. Scribe: Cathy Derbonne, Director

---

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order: Trooper Thomas TJ Doss, Chairman
  - II. Roll Call of the Members - Cathy Derbonne, Director  
Pledge of Allegiance
  - III. Business
    1. Welcome New Board Member - Monica J. Manzella
    2. Consideration of October 13, 2016 Meeting Minutes
    3. General Circular No. 183 State Police Commission Meeting
    4. Damon Dyson v. Louisiana State Police Commission, et al Docket no. 651,338-Div. 25
  - IV. Opportunity to Address the Commission by Employees or Others
  - V. Adjournment
- 

I. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Trooper TJ Doss, Chairman

II. **Roll Call.** Ms. Derbonne called the roll. Seven members were present, which constituted a quorum.

**Pledge of Allegiance.** Chairman Doss led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. **Business**

**1. Welcome New Board Member - Monica J. Manzella**

Chairman Doss welcomed Ms. Manzella to the Commission and gave her the opportunity to address the board. Ms. Manzella thanked the board for the warm welcome and stated it was an honor to serve.

**2. Minutes from the October 13, 2016 Meeting**

Mr. Breaux moved to approve the minutes, which motion was seconded by Mr. Simien and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote of the Members present.

### **3. General Circular No. 183 State Police Commission Meeting**

Mr. Simien moved to approve General Circular No. 183, which motion was seconded by Mr. Riecke and passed without opposition.

### **4. Damon Dyson v. Louisiana State Police Commission, et al Docket no. 651,338-Div. 25 19th JDC, Parish of Each Baton Rouge**

Mr. Braxton moved to continue the matter of Damon Dyson v. Louisiana State Police Commission, et al., until the next meeting, which motion was seconded by Mr. Breaux and passed with no opposition.

## **IV. Opportunity to Address the Commission by Employees or Others**

Retired LSP Lt. Leon "Bucky" Millet welcomed new board member to the Commission and reminded her of the awesome responsibility under the constitution of state of Louisiana. He stated he would like to inform the Commission of serious violations, that may be serious violations of State law by the Louisiana State Police troopers and their Association, and voiced his opinions as follows:

- a) He states although the Commission attorney Taylor Townsend has informed this Commission it has no authority over the Louisiana State Troopers Association, it has come to his attention LSTA operated a bar at the JESTC (Joint Emergency Services Training Center), which is a state police run operation and he questions if this facility would be considered a penal institution because it housed approximately 135 inmates.
- b) He received information from a reliable source that alcohol was being served at recent events at the JESTC facility with the presence of Col. Edmonson.
- c) He stated under the name of "LSTA Enterprises LLC" with a liquor permit number AG170000012833; was issued to 8120 Jefferson Hwy which is in fact the privately owned Louisiana State Troopers Association (LSTA) building. The liquor permit was issued to that location, and not that of the JESTC facility located at 4100 West Irene Road, Zachary, LA. This bar is located in the hotel/motel facility where they house people who come stay for a period of time for training.
- d) He states the Louisiana Secretary of State website for the business filing shows the manager, and the only officer of LSTA Enterprises LLC corporation, as being David Young. Mr. Young is also the Director of Louisiana State Troopers Association.
- e) The LSTA Enterprises LLC corporation last filed a report with the Louisiana Secretary of State on June 06, 2016, which shows the business filing as good standing, although the liquor permit with Alcohol Tobacco Control shows it expired in 2011.
- f) It was brought to his attention that a prior Commission member may have been the distributor for the alcohol at this facility, although not confirmed, he states he intends to look into that matter further.
- g) He voiced his opinion that this Commission has allowed the State Police to get out of control. It is evident that many items that are being required by this Commission under the Constitution are not in compliance. He states the citizens of Louisiana deserve better and

he believes the agency he was so proud of once, has now deteriorated to a certain point and it is very disturbing.

- h) He states that one of the retirees received a letter from the Louisiana State Troopers Association (LSTA) board of directors regarding the removal of certain retirees from LSTA for wrong doing, and for causing embarrassment based on the complaint the retirees filed with the Commission. He states he did not receive his letter of removal yet.
- i) He asked T. Taylor Townsend if the Commission received the response from the Attorney General's office regarding the complaint alleging State Police Commission violated the Open Meetings Law. Mr. Townsend reported the Commission has not received a response from the Attorney General.
- j) He read the response letter he received from the Attorney General's office of the complaint he filed alleging that the Louisiana State Police Commission violated the Open Meetings Law, which reads: After considering the facts and circumstances included in both the original complaint and the information they received; the Attorney General office has determined that such facts are not sufficient cause for the Attorney General's Office to institute enforcement proceedings under the Open Meetings Law.
- k) He noticed the Opportunity to Address the Commission was moved from the second agenda item to the end, and doesn't recall the members discussing the agenda at the last meeting and asked why and how was it changed. Inquired shouldn't the board have input about this change.
- l) He closed his remarks by citing a Biblical verse, "He who kneels before God and stand before man" is the reason he is here today. He believes everything that has been addressed before this Commission is of concern, and if it doesn't alarm you as Commissioners, then I don't know what will.

Mr. Simien advised Mr. Millet that in the future he should prepare a document with his statement of the violations he is concerned with, so that the members can respond to the allegations properly. Furthermore, Mr. Riecke reassured Mr. Millet that the complaints he was bringing before this board were not falling on deaf ears, and that the Commission's main focus is to uphold the law and abide by the Constitution.

Mr. Grafton mentioned at the last meeting Mr. Millet had raised concern of the recent pay increase for Lt. Colonels; which was not done in accordance with applicable state constitutional provisions and SPC rules concerning pay for the State Police Service, and that the increase is in excess of the current pay grid. Mr. Grafton then asked the Director who authorizes the pay for the unclassified positions and how is the pay determined. Ms. Derbonne responded that Lt. Colonel positions are unclassified positions authorized by the Commission, and the pay was also determined by the Commission. Mr. Breaux asked if the Commission had authority over the unclassified positions. Ms. Derbonne responded an employee of the State Police Service, rather Classified or Unclassified are governed by the State Police Commission. Chairman Doss made a recommendation to Commission attorneys to research the matter before the next meeting so that this board would have a clear understanding.

V. **Adjournment**

At the conclusion of the Commission's agenda, Mr. Breaux moved to adjourn the meeting, which motion was seconded by Mr. Simien, and passed with no opposition. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Next meeting: The next regular business meeting of the State Police Commission will be held on December 8, 2016, at 9:00 a.m., at Office of Management Finance & OMV Building, 7979 Independence Blvd., Suite 208, Baton Rouge, La. 70806.

-END-

Respectfully Submitted by:

 # 2489  
Trooper Thomas "T. J." Doss, Chairman

  
Cathy Derbonne, Director