

MINUTES  
STATE POLICE COMMISSION

Date: January 12, 2017 Time: 9:00 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 M.  
Eulis Simien, Jr. Lenore Feeney, Referee T.  
Thomas "T.J." Doss Taylor Townsend, Referee  
Jared Riecke  
Monica J. Manzella Vacancies: 1 (W. Lloyd Grafton)  
Calvin W. Braxton, Sr.

Scribe:

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AGENDA

- I. Call to Order: Trooper Thomas TJ Doss, Chairman
- II. Roll Call of the Members  
Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Business
  1. Consideration of December 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes
  2. Opportunity to Address the Commission by Employees or Others
  3. In the Matter of Ritchie E. Stanley (Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police), Docket No. 16-227-S; Settlement Proposal
  4. In the matter of William R. Woodward, III, Docket No. 16-229; Notice of Possible Defect in Appeal
  5. Executive session for discussion of professional competence of Director of State Police Commission.
  6. Consideration of whether employment of the Director of State Police Commission should be continued or terminated.
  7. Other Commission Business
- V. Adjournment

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- I. **Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 9:16 a.m. by Taylor Townsend, Referee**
  - II. **Roll Call.** Mr. Townsend called the roll. Six members were present, which constituted a quorum. Mr. Grafton was absent due to a death in the family.
  - III. **Pledge of Allegiance.** Chairman Doss led the Pledge of Allegiance.
  - IV. **Business**
    1. **Consideration of December 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Riecke moved to defer consideration of the December 8, 2016 minutes until the February Commission meeting due to the detailed nature of the minutes and the fact that Members were not provided with a copy of same until the morning of January 12, 2017. Mr. Riecke's motion was seconded by Ms. Manzella and the motion was approved by unanimous vote of the Members present.

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

Bucky Millet addressed the Commission with regard to the following matters:

- Mr. Riecke's request that an audio be provided with regard to Col. Edmonson's previous representations to the Commission regarding the approval of a new colonel position and the salary for that position, and that the matter be placed on the February 9, 2017 agenda. Mr. Riecke assured Mr. Millet that the issue was not falling on deaf ears, but the time sensitive nature of the budget issue requiring the Commission's attention prevented that matter from being considered today. Mr. Riecke further assured Mr. Millet that the issue would be placed on next month's agenda. Mr. Simien voiced support from Mr. Riecke's assurances and further stated it would be placed on next month's agenda.
- Chairman Doss' statements purportedly made during the LSTA Convention with regard to the Chairman position and the employment of the Director. Chairman Doss denied recollection of any such statements. Mr. Millet requested Mr. Townsend to provide documentary proof of such statements; Mr. Townsend stated that any such documentation would be confidential and privileged, and that any production of same would be inappropriate.
- Voiced concern as to the Commission's politics, voiced support for the Director, and stated that it has come to his attention that Ms. Manzella is the attorney for the City of New Orleans and that she negotiates and signs contracts with the Louisiana State Police, and asked whether that would be a violation of Louisiana Ethics Laws and should she resign. Ms. Feeney stated her understanding that Ms. Manzella does not negotiate such contracts and has not negotiated such contracts since becoming a member of the Commission. Ms. Manzella agreed and stated that her job duties are to approve the contracts for form and legality at the initial level, and the attorneys who have final approval authority are above her. She denied being responsible for negotiation of the pay rates in those contracts.
- Mr. Riecke stated for the record that he does not take per diem or mileage for attendance at the Commission's meetings.

## **3. In the Matter of Ritchie E. Stanley (Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police), Docket No. 16-227-S; Settlement Proposal**

Mr. Braxton voiced concern as to the fact that he was unaware of what was contained in the Settlement Proposal, and how it was different from the prior original proposal. Ms. Feeney advised that the revised Settlement Proposal for consideration was forwarded to all Commission Members for review a couple of weeks ago. Mr. Braxton requested that he hear from all parties to inform him of the background of the matter and the contents of the settlement and Mr. Simien requested that the Commission be provided with the underlying facts so as to be able to make a decision. Michelle Giroir, attorney for LSP, represented that the original Proposal and the revised Proposal before the Commission were exactly the same. Mr. Braxton voiced support for the Colonel's position in the Settlement Proposal, and stated that he would support it as well. Chairman Doss asked if the employee and the Colonel were both in support of the Settlement Proposal, and Floyd Falcon, attorney for Mr. Stanley, represented that both were in support of same. Mr. Falcon and Ms. Giroir addressed the Commission and explained the background and procedural history to the Commission. The Members were provided with a copy of the proposed Settlement Proposal. Mr. Riecke moved to approve the Settlement Proposal, Mr. Simien seconded the motion, and it was approved by unanimous vote of the Members present.

#### **4. In the matter of William R. Woodward, III, Docket No. 16-229; Notice of Possible Defect in Appeal**

Ms. Feeney explained that her review revealed that Mr. Woodward risked dismissal of his appeal because it did not appear that his claims were timely or were sufficiently stated causes of action under the Commission's Rules. She suggested that she issue an interim order allowing Mr. Woodward 15 days to amend his claim to allege proper and/or timely causes of action. The Commission voiced no objection; no motion was needed because it was an interim order.

At this time, Chairman Doss requested a motion to take a 30-minute break. The motion was made and seconded, and was approved by unanimous vote of all Members present.

Meeting called back to order at 10:16 a.m.

Mr. Townsend addressed the Commission and presented a letter of resignation from Cathy Derbonne effective today, January 12, 2017, along with her badges. Mr. Townsend expressed gratitude and appreciation for Ms. Derbonne's contribution to the Commission during her employment. Chairman Doss read Ms. Derbonne's resignation letter into the minutes:

January 12, 2017. Dear Mr. Doss, I have enjoyed working with the State Police Commission as Director; however, the time has come for me to move on and pursue career and educational goals. I am therefore resigning from my post as Director effective January 12, 2017. This letter serves as my notice that my last working day being January 12, 2017. It has been a pleasure working for the State Police Commission, and I will miss my associations there. I wish you and the State Police Commission continued success in all future endeavors. Thank you for this great learning opportunity. Sincerely, Cathy Derbonne.

Motion to accept was made by Mr. Breaux and seconded by Ms. Manzella. A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Feeney to accept Ms. Derbonne's resignation. Ms. Manzella, Mr. Simien, Mr. Doss and Mr. Breaux voted to accept Ms. Derbonne's resignation. Mr. Braxton and Mr. Riecke voted "no" to such acceptance. The motion carried, and Ms. Derbonne's resignation was accepted. The vote concluded numbers "5" and "6" on the Commission's agenda as per Chairman Doss.

#### **5. Other Commission Business.**

Mr. Simien reiterated that the item that Mr. Millet raised regarding Col. Edmonson's previous representations to the Commission regarding the approval of a new colonel position and the salary for that position be put on the February agenda; Chairman Doss agreed and asked that it be added to that agenda.

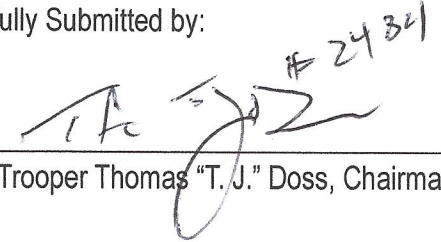
#### **V. Adjournment**

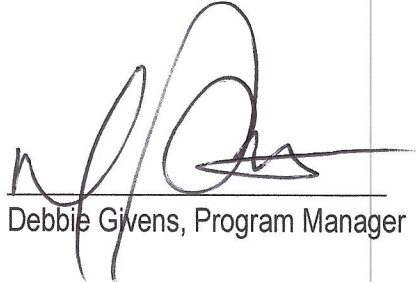
At the conclusion of the Commission's agenda, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded and passed with no opposition. The meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Next meeting: The next regular business meeting of the State Police Commission will be held on February 9, 2017 at 9:00 a.m., at Office of Management Finance & OMV Building, 7979 Independence Blvd., Suite 208, Baton Rouge, La. 70806.

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Respectfully Submitted by:

 # 24321  
Trooper Thomas "T. J." Doss, Chairman

  
Debbie Givens, Program Manager