

POST MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2025

A regular meeting of the Louisiana POST Council was held Thursday, March 20, 2025, at the West Baton Rouge Convention Center in Port Allen, LA. Sheriff Ard called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present (or represented): Sheriff Jason Ard (Chairman), Major Ginny Higgins (proxy for Sheriff Becket Breaux), Lt. Col. Robert Burns (proxy for Col. Robert Hodges), Chief Keith Conley, Mr. Jim Craft (Vice-Chairman), Chief Randal Hermes, Mr. Larry Frieman (proxy for Attorney General Liz Murrill), and Mr. Chad Pitre.

Guests present: Sgt. Mark Iannazzo (Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office), Lt. Patsy Netherland (Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office), Lt. James Walker (Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office), Sgt. Joshua Peppers (Alexandria Police Dept.), Capt. Darren Gros (St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office), Capt. Kevin Johnson (Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office), Capt. John Champagne (Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office), Capt. Pauline Carter (East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office), Lt. Craig Aucoin (Slidell Police Dept.), Capt. Matt Gaydos (Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office), Chief Tod Ardoin (LA 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal), Sgt. Fredrica Palmer (New Orleans Police Dept.), Darla Green (LA Probation & Parole), Josh Smith (LA Probation & Parole), Tadd Stout (LA Probation & Parole), Lt. Joey Disler (Gretna Police Dept.), Capt. Avery Leary (Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office), Capt. William LeFevre (Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office), Allen Busby, Deputy Jeremy Haas (Webster Parish Sheriff's Office), Capt. Jeremy Church (St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office), Lt. Robert Wimberly (Kenner Police Dept.), and Capt. Troy Dickerson (Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office).

Staff members present: Rebekah Taylor Hill, Marshall Menou, Melissa James, and Shineisha Jackson.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sheriff Ard made a call for public comment, and none was heard.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Craft made a motion to approve the minutes of the 12/05/2024 meeting. After some discussion, Mr. Freiman seconded the motion and the motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

No items on the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

POST training for Military Police Officers – Col. Robert Hodges, LA State Police

Ms. Taylor Hill presented the recommendations of the subcommittee appointed by Sheriff Ard. The subcommittee recommended a 245-hour POST Military Police Officer course, consisting of Legal Aspects (60 hours), Firearms (80 hours), Orientation (4 hours), Officer Survival (40 hours), Use of Force (12 hours), Public Trust & Professionalism (30 hours), Domestic & Family Matters (2 hours), and Specialized Activities (17 hours). The subcommittee also recommended the following guidelines for approval: 1) must have successfully completed the "Military Police Law Enforcement Basic Training Course", 2) must have performed as a Military Police Officer for a minimum of 2 years, and no more than 5 years prior to the request, and 3) "Honorable Discharge" required. The subcommittee recommended the above course and eligibility guidelines be implemented for any eligible peace officer hired after 07/01/2025. Lt. Col. Burns made a motion to approve the recommendations of the subcommittee. After some discussion, Chief Conley seconded the motion and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

POST Basic Refresher/Out-of-State Transfer Course requirements

Ms. Taylor Hill and Capt. Church presented the recommendations of the Louisiana Academy Directors Association (LEAD). The LEAD recommended a 265-hour POST Basic Refresher/Out-of-State Transfer Course, consisting of Legal Aspects (60 hours), Firearms (80 hours), Orientation (4 hours), Active Shooter (16 hours), Officer Survival (40 hours), Use of Force (12 hours), Public Trust & Professionalism (30 hours), Domestic Violence (7 hours), First Aid & CPR (8 hours), and Crisis Intervention (8 hours). The LEAD recommended the above course be implemented for any eligible peace officer hired after 07/01/2025. Chief Hermes made a motion to approve the LEAD recommendations. After some discussion, Lt. Col. Burns seconded the motion and the motion passed.

POST Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) Investigator Certification Requests – Committee Recommended Approvals

Ms. Taylor Hill presented the POST OIS Certification Requests as recommended for approval by the POST OIS Investigator Committee. Lt. Col. Burns made a motion to approve the recommended certification requests. After some discussion, Chief Conley seconded the motion and the motion passed.

POST Certification Voluntary Surrender – Anthony Davis – Level 1

Ms. Taylor Hill presented Mr. Davis's voluntary surrender of his POST Basic Peace Officer certification to the Council members. Mr. Pitre made a motion to approve the voluntary surrender. After some discussion, Chief Hermes seconded the motion and the motion passed.

POST Certification Voluntary Surrender – Timothy Gerald Drevecky – Level 2

Ms. Taylor Hill presented Mr. Drevecky's voluntary surrender of his POST Basic Correctional Peace Officer certification to the Council members. Chief Conley made a motion to approve the voluntary surrender. After some discussion, Mr. Freiman seconded the motion and the motion passed.

POST Certification Voluntary Surrender – Michael Dess Fontenot – Level 1

Ms. Taylor Hill presented Mr. Fontenot's voluntary surrender of his POST Basic Peace Officer certification to the Council members. Mr. Pitre made a motion to approve the voluntary surrender. After some discussion, Lt. Col. Burns seconded the motion and the motion passed.

POST Certification Voluntary Surrender – Jeffory Wayne Helmke – Level 1

Ms. Taylor Hill presented Mr. Helmke's voluntary surrender of his POST Basic Peace Officer certification to the Council members. Mr. Freiman made a motion to approve the voluntary surrender. After some discussion, Lt. Col. Burns seconded the motion and the motion passed.

POST Certification Voluntary Surrender – Ronald Duane Huddleston – Grandfathered

Ms. Taylor Hill presented Mr. Huddleston's voluntary surrender of his POST Grandfatherhood to the Council members. Chief Conley made a motion to approve the voluntary surrender. After some discussion, Mr. Freiman seconded the motion and the motion passed.

POST Certification Voluntary Surrender – Richard Paul Neal – Level 1

Ms. Taylor Hill presented Mr. Neal's voluntary surrender of his POST Basic Peace Officer certification to the Council members. Mr. Pitre made a motion to approve the voluntary surrender. After some discussion, Chief Conley seconded the motion and the motion passed.

POST Certification Voluntary Surrender – David Joseph Noland – Level 2

Ms. Taylor Hill presented Mr. Noland's voluntary surrender of his POST Basic Correctional Peace Officer certification to the Council members. Mr. Freiman made a motion to approve the voluntary surrender. After some discussion, Mr. Pitre seconded the motion and the motion passed.

POST Certification Voluntary Surrender – Rachel Holbrook Picou – Level 2

Ms. Taylor Hill presented Ms. Picou's voluntary surrender of her POST Basic Correctional Peace Officer certification to the Council members. Lt. Col. Burns made a motion to approve the voluntary surrender. After some discussion, Mr. Freiman seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Minutes
03/20/2025 Meeting
Page 4

POST Certification Voluntary Surrender – Michael Gerald Primeaux – Level 1

Ms. Taylor Hill presented Mr. Primeaux's voluntary surrender of his POST Basic Peace Officer certification to the Council members. Chief Hermes made a motion to approve the voluntary surrender. After some discussion, Mr. Pitre seconded the motion and the motion passed.

POST Certification Revocation Hearing – Jason K. Acree – Level 1

Ms. Taylor Hill informed the Council members of Mr. Acree's criminal conviction. Ms. Taylor Hill asked if Mr. Acree, or a representative, was present and no answer was heard. Chief Conley made a motion to revoke Mr. Acree's POST Basic Peace Officer certification. After some discussion, Mr. Pitre seconded the motion and the motion passed.

POST Certification Revocation Hearing – Allen Frank Busby – Level 1

Ms. Taylor Hill informed the Council members of the request for revocation from Chief Bry Layrisson (Ponchatoula Police Dept.) based on Mr. Busby's positive drug test for methamphetamine. Ms. Taylor Hill asked if Mr. Busby, or a representative, was present. Mr. Busby was present, but declined to address the Council. Mr. Freiman made a motion to revoke Mr. Busby's POST Basic Peace Officer certification. After some discussion, Chief Conley seconded the motion and the motion passed.

POST Certification Revocation Hearing – Michael George Hicks – Level 1

Ms. Taylor Hill informed the Council members of Mr. Hicks' criminal conviction. Ms. Taylor Hill asked if Mr. Hicks, or a representative, was present and no answer was heard. Mr. Pitre made a motion to revoke Mr. Hicks' POST Basic Peace Officer certification. After some discussion, Lt. Col. Burns seconded the motion and the motion passed.

POST Certification Revocation Hearing – Donald R. Johnson – Level 1

Ms. Taylor Hill informed the Council members of Mr. Johnson's criminal conviction. Ms. Taylor Hill asked if Mr. Johnson, or a representative, was present and no answer was heard. Mr. Pitre made a motion to revoke Mr. Johnson's POST Basic Peace Officer certification. After some discussion, Major Higgins seconded the motion and the motion passed.

POST Certification Revocation Hearing – Rodney J. Madere – Level 1, POST Firearms Instructor, & POST Homicide Investigator

Ms. Taylor Hill informed the Council members of Mr. Madere's criminal conviction. Ms. Taylor Hill asked if Mr. Madere, or a representative, was present and no answer was heard. Chief Conley made a motion to revoke Mr. Madere's POST Basic Peace Officer, POST Firearms Instructor, and POST Homicide Investigator certifications. After some discussion, Major Higgins seconded the motion and the motion passed.

POST Certification Revocation Hearing – Ronald Monroe – Level 1 & Level 3

Ms. Taylor Hill informed the Council members of Mr. Monroe's criminal conviction. Ms. Taylor Hill asked if Mr. Monroe, or a representative, was present and no answer was heard. Mr. Freiman made a motion to revoke Mr. Monroe's POST Basic Peace Officer and POST Correctional Officer certifications. After some discussion, Chief Hermes seconded the motion and the motion passed.

POST Certification Revocation Hearing – Derek Pertuis – Level 1 & POST Homicide Investigator

Ms. Taylor Hill informed the Council members of Mr. Pertuis' criminal conviction. Ms. Taylor Hill asked if Mr. Pertuis, or a representative, was present and no answer was heard. Lt. Col. Burns made a motion to revoke Mr. Pertuis' POST Basic Peace Officer and POST Homicide Investigator certifications. After some discussion, Chief Conley seconded the motion and the motion passed.

POST Certification Revocation Hearing – David Thomas Silvers – Level 1

Ms. Taylor Hill informed the Council members of Mr. Silvers' criminal conviction. Ms. Taylor Hill asked if Mr. Silvers, or a representative, was present and no answer was heard. Mr. Pitre made a motion to revoke Mr. Silvers' POST Basic Peace Officer certification. After some discussion, Mr. Freiman seconded the motion and the motion passed.

POST Certification Revocation Hearing – Zain Paul Stillinger – Level 1, Level 3, & POST Range Safety Officer

Ms. Taylor Hill informed the Council members of Mr. Stillinger's criminal conviction. Ms. Taylor Hill asked if Mr. Stillinger, or a representative, was present and no answer was heard. Mr. Freiman made a motion to revoke Mr. Stillinger's POST Basic Peace Officer, POST Correctional Officer, and POST Range Safety Officer certifications. After some discussion, Mr. Pitre seconded the motion and the motion passed.

POST Certification Revocation Hearing – Christopher Marquette Thomas – Level 1, Level 2, & Level 3

Ms. Taylor Hill informed the Council members of Mr. Thomas' criminal conviction. Ms. Taylor Hill asked if Mr. Thomas, or a representative, was present and no answer was heard. Chief Hermes made a motion to revoke Mr. Thomas' POST Basic Peace Officer, POST Basic Correctional Officer, and POST Correctional Officer certifications. After some discussion, Major Higgins seconded the motion and the motion passed.

POST Certification Revocation Hearing Request – Noah Hewitt Foreman – Level 1, Level 2, & Level 3

Ms. Taylor Hill informed the Council members of the request from Sheriff David Hedrick (Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office) to consider revocation of Mr. Foreman's POST certifications based on violations of professional standards. Chief Conley made a motion to consider revocation of Mr. Foreman's POST certifications by revocation hearing at a future POST Council meeting. After some discussion, Lt. Col. Burns seconded the motion and the motion passed.

POST Academy Evaluation – Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office Training Academy

Ms. Taylor Hill presented the completed POST Academy Evaluation of the Bossier Parish Sheriff's Training Academy, conducted by POST Staff on 01/28/2025. The POST Staff recommended approval of the evaluation. Chief Conley made a motion to approve the evaluation. After some discussion, Major Higgins seconded the motion and the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Taylor Hill presented a recommendation from the LEAD concerning the POST Exam Retest policy. The LEAD and the POST Staff recommended that Refresher and Out-of-State Transfers be allowed a retest on the POST Exam, and the policy change would be implemented for any Refresher/Out-of-State Transfers hired after 07/01/2025. Mr. Freiman made a motion to approve the recommended POST Exam Retest policy change. After some discussion, Chief Conley seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Sheriff Ard made a call for other business, and none was heard.

Mr. Pitre made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chief Conley seconded the motion and the motion passed.