



## ACTION/MINUTES

LOUISIANA STATE POLICE COMMISSION  
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING  
THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2021  
9:00 A.M.

John Bel Edwards  
Governor

Jason Hannaman  
Executive Director

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

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I. Call to Order

The State Police Commission convened its monthly general business meeting at 9:08 A.M. on Thursday, July 8, 2021.

II. Roll Call

Present were Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr., and Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, Commissioners Leonard Knapp, Jr., Sabrina Richardson, Jared Caruso-Riecke, and Robert Mire. Absent was Commissioner Harold Pierite, Sr. There was a quorum. Additionally, Commission Referee Lenore Feeney and Executive Director Jason Hannaman were present.

III. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr. 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 Comments.

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VI. Business

1. Consideration of the meeting minutes from May 13, 2021.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to adopt the meeting minutes from May 13, 2021.

**In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None

**Abstained:** Robert Mire

2. Consideration of a Resolution to honor the accomplishments and legacy of former Commissioner Nelson J. Cantrelle, Jr.

Executive Director Jason Hannaman read into the record a Resolution to honor the accomplishments and legacy of former Commissioner Nelson J. Cantrelle, Jr. Chairman Simien added additional comments in memory of Commissioner Cantrelle and invited Nelson J. Cantrelle, III to speak.

3. Recognition of House Concurrent Resolution No. 84 of the 2021 Regular Session.

Chairman Simien acknowledged receipt of the resolution and commented on the need for additional funding previously sought by the Commission and not included in the budget for FY 21/22. Commissioner Riecke added that it would make the Commission's job easier if the legislature would appropriate funding to accomplish what the Commission is mandated to accomplish. Commissioner Knapp echoed the

sentiments of his fellow commissioners in noting that funding requests have gone unanswered and supported the need to continue to advocate in the legislature for the necessary funding to fulfill the mission of the agency. Additionally, Commissioner Knapp asked to see the full report from the De-escalation Task Force for consideration for amendments to the SPC Rules. Chairman Simien acknowledged that the resolution would be considered as part of the ongoing review and revision to the rules that were being drafted even before the receipt of this resolution.

4. Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Changes to State Police Commission Rules 11.13, 11.26, and 12.19. (Details contained in General Circular No. 220.)

The Commission conducted a public hearing to consider adopting proposed changes to State Police Commission Rules 11.13, 11.26, and 12.19.

- Public Comments

No Comments

- Consideration of Proposed Changes

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to adopt the proposed changes to State Police Commission Rules 11.13, 11.26, and 12.19 as published in General Circular No. 220.

**In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None

Chairman Simien asked for a 5-minute break at 9:21 A.M.

The meeting was called back into session at 9:26 A.M.

5. Consideration of a request from the Office of State Police to reauthorize two (2) part-time WAE positions previously approved by the Director under SPC Rule 4.1(d)1. (Representative of the agency to be available to answer any questions of the Commission.)

Colonel Lamar Davis, LSP Superintendent, appeared on behalf of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police, to answer questions from the commissioners. Commissioner Mire commented on the importance of staying within the parameters approved on each request for a part-time WAE position. He has a concern that part-time positions are working full-time schedules when they are only approved as part-time by the Commission.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to approve the request from the Office of State Police to reauthorize two (2) part-time WAE positions previously approved by the Director under SPC Rule 4.1(d) with an effective date of June 17, 2021.

**In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None



6. Consideration of a request from the Office of State Police to reinstate sick leave related to the COVID-19 Health Pandemic under the provisions of SPC Rule 21.2.1(d). (Representative of the agency to be available to answer any questions of the Commission.)

Colonel Lamar Davis, LSP Superintendent, appeared on behalf of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police, and advised the department's support for the request.

Commission Mire commented on the COVID-19 health-related issues throughout the department.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Richardson, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to approve the request from the Office of State Police to reinstate sick leave related to the COVID-19 Health Pandemic under provisions of SPC Rule 21.2.1(d).

**In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None

7. Consideration of a motion by Commissioner Riecke to grant a base pay adjustment in the amount of \$4.40 per hour, in accordance with SPC Rule 3.4(c), to the Executive Director, Jason Hannaman, for the performance of additional duties related to the research, implementation, and management of a system to receive and report on confidential complaints from employees within the Office of State Police.

Commissioner Riecke spoke in support of his motion. He desires to see a portal that is confidential and enables troopers to anonymously report information to the Commission. The Commission would then review and investigate items or refer them to other appropriate entities.

Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr. spoke in support of the motion. He highlighted the need for additional funding from the legislature for a position to assist with investigations and he advised that approval of this motion would not create a budgetary issue for the agency.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to approve a base pay adjustment in the amount of \$4.40 per hour, in accordance with SPC Rule 3.4(c), for the Executive Director, Jason Hannaman, for the performance of additional duties related to the research, implementation, and management of a system to receive and report on confidential complaints from employees within the Office of State Police.

**In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None

For the remaining items on the agenda, Chairman Simien advised that consideration of the motions for Executive Session on matters where Executive Session was to be considered would be deferred until public consideration of all of the items 8-12, as well the public discussion following those Executive Sessions unless there was an objection; there was no objection.

8. Consideration of a motion to clarify and augment the final decision of the Commission in the matter of Sheldon Perkins (Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police), Docket No. 19-244-T.

Attorney Michele Giroir and Colonel Lamar Davis appeared on behalf of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police. Ms. Giroir advised that the department had not yet received a written decision in the case; however, some verbal discussions made after the appeal hearing caused some concerns and confusion regarding what the Commission was ordering, particularly with the issue of backpay. The appellant filed a Motion to Stay on October 31, 2019, while there were pending criminal proceedings against him. The Stay Order was granted and this matter sat until the appellant's request to have the Stay Order was lifted on March 21, 2021. The department contends that the award of backpay would be significant and that it should not be awarded while the Stay Order was in place at the appellant's request.

Questions were asked by Commissioner Sabrina Richardson and Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford in clarifying the dates in question and the department's position.

Mr. Perkins, representing himself, provided his understanding that the Commission could not hear his appeal case while criminal charges were pending and although he completed the pre-trial intervention program in 6 months there was a 1-year process that was required before he could move forward; additionally, he believed that the Commission decided the case at the hearing in May, and he asserts that the discussion of denial of payment at this time goes against the decision on May 13, 2021.

- Executive Session to discuss investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct

On motion duly made by Commissioner Leonard Knapp, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to go into Executive Session. Executive Session for this item was deferred; it began at 10:35 A.M.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**In Favor:** Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, Leonard Knapp, Jr., Sabrina Richardson, Jared Caruso-Riecke, and Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr.

**Opposed:** None

**Recused:** Robert Mire



On motion duly made by Commissioner Richardson, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to end Executive Session on this item at 11:19 P.M.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**In Favor:** Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, Leonard Knapp, Jr., Sabrina Richardson, Jared Caruso-Riecke, and Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr.

**Opposed:** None

**Recused:** Robert Mire

- Public discussion of appeal and possible vote

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded, and passed; the Commission, in accordance with the LSPC rules, voted that Mr. Perkins' backpay and benefits be denied for the period beginning 10/31/2019 through 03/12/2021, and that the 720 hours of suspension without pay run concurrent with the time period beginning 10/31/2019, and any backpay to which he is otherwise entitled to be subject to an offset in favor of all wages earned during the period backpay is allowed under this opinion with legal interest on the difference, and that no attorney fees be awarded.

**In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None

**Abstained:** Robert Mire

9. Consideration of a Motion for Summary Disposition filed by the Office of State Police in the matter of William R. Woodward (Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police), Docket No. 21-251-RV.  
Attorney Jericha Remondet and LSP Superintendent Colonel Lamar Davis appeared on behalf of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police. Attorney Michael DuBos appeared on the behalf of the appellant, Trooper William R. Woodward.

- Oral argument by counsel

Ms. Remondet and Mr. DuBos argued the case on behalf of their respective clients.

- Executive Session to discuss investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct

On motion duly made by Commissioner Richardson, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to go into Executive Session. Executive Session for this item was deferred; it began at 10:35 A.M.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**In Favor:** Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, Leonord Knapp, Jr., Robert Mire, Sabrina Richardson, Jared Caruso-Riecke, and Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr.

**Opposed:** None

On motion duly made by Commissioner Richardson, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to end Executive Session on this item at 11:19 P.M.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**In Favor:** Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, Leonord Knapp, Jr., Sabrina Richardson, Jared Caruso-Riecke, and Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr.

**Opposed:** None

- Public discussion of motion filed and possible vote

Chairman Simien noted that this matter is currently pending before the Commission on a Motion for Summary Disposition. If it is denied, that does not speak to the merits of the issue, it is simply that at this point it is not appropriate for a summary disposition under the rules and the appeal will be set for a hearing.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to deny the motion for Summary Disposition filed by the Office of State Police in the matter of William R. Woodward, Docket No. 21-251-RV.

**In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None

10. Consideration of pending litigation in the matter of LSTA, et al v. State Police Commission, et al, 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, Docket No.: C-672676.

- Executive Session regarding discussion of pending litigation

On motion duly made by Commissioner Richardson, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to go into Executive Session. Executive Session for this item was deferred; it began at 10:35 A.M.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**In Favor:** Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, Leonard Knapp, Jr., Sabrina Richardson, Jared Caruso-Riecke, and Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr.

**Opposed:** None

**Recused:** Robert Mire

On motion duly made by Commissioner Richardson, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to end Executive Session on this item at 11:19 P.M.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**In Favor:** Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, Leonard Knapp, Jr., Sabrina Richardson, Jared Caruso-Riecke, and Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr.

**Opposed:** None

- Public discussion and possible vote  
None



11. Consideration of a Motion for Summary Disposition filed by William R. Woodward in the matter of William R. Woodward (Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police), Docket No. 21-248-S.

Attorney Jericha Remondet and LSP Superintendent Colonel Lamar Davis appeared on behalf of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police. Mr. William R. Woodward represented himself.

- Oral argument

Ms. Remondet and Mr. Woodward presented their arguments.

- Executive Session to discuss investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct

On motion duly made by Commissioner Richardson, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to go into Executive Session. Executive Session for this item was deferred; it began at 10:35 A.M.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**In Favor:** Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, Robert Mire, Sabrina Richardson, Jared Caruso-Riecke, and Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr.

**Opposed:** Leonard Knapp, Jr.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Richardson, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to end Executive Session on this item at 11:19 P.M..

**Roll Call Vote:**

**In Favor:** Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, Leonard Knapp, Jr., Jared Caruso-Riecke, Sabrina Richardson, and Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr.

**Opposed:** None

- Public discussion of motion filed and possible vote

Chairman Simien noted that a denial for a Motion for Summary Disposition does not speak to the merits of the issue, and if the Commission votes to deny the request, it is simply that the Commission does not feel that we are in an appropriate position at this time and the appeal will move forward and be set for a hearing.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Richardson, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to deny the motion for Summary Disposition filed by William R. Woodward in the matter of William R. Woodward, Docket No. 21-248-S.

**In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None

## APPEAL HEARING

12. In the matter of William R. Woodward (Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police), Docket No. 21-248-S. Mr. Woodward is a pro se litigant. Michele Giroir and Jericha Remondet represent the Office of State Police.

- Public hearing

Attorney Jericha Remondet and LSP Superintendent Colonel Lamar Davis appeared on behalf of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police. Mr. William R. Woodward represented himself.

Recess at 12:04 P.M.; Chairman Simien called the meeting back to order at 12:08 P.M.

- Executive Session to discuss investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to enter Executive Session at 12:53 P.M.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**In Favor:** Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, Leonard Knapp, Jr., Robert Mire, Sabrina Richardson, Jared Caruso-Riecke, and Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr.

**Opposed:** None

On motion duly made by Commissioner Richardson, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to end Executive Session at 1:01 P.M.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**In Favor:** Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, Leonard Knapp, Jr., Sabrina Richardson, Jared Caruso-Riecke, and Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr.

**Opposed:** None

- Public discussion of appeal and possible vote

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to sustain and confirm the disciplinary action imposed by Colonel Davis as it is reflected in the letter of January 6, 2021, and deny the appeal, specifically finding violations of LSP Order No. 212 and Order No. 901.

**In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None

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## 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.



Fiscal Year Closure:

The commissioners were advised that the final close-out numbers for FY21 were not yet available; however, those budget numbers would be supplied for the next meeting.

Promotional Exam:

The commissioners were updated about the completion of the promotional exam that was given in May 2021. Additionally, it was announced that a second promotional exam would be given in November 2021. There were no questions.

Updates:

The next regular meeting will be on August 12, 2021, is set to begin at 10 A.M., and will be an appeal hearing.

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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.)  
No Comments.
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IX. Adjourn

There being no further business on a motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to adjourn at 1:06 P.M. on Thursday, July 8, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Jason Hannaman, Executive Director

  
Eulis Simien, Jr. Chairman