



ACTIONS/MINUTES

LOUISIANA STATE POLICE COMMISSION
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021
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*

I. Call to Order

The State Police Commission convened its monthly general business meeting at 10:01 A.M. on Thursday, September 30, 2021.

II. Roll Call

Present were Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr., and Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, Commissioners Leonard Knapp, Jr., Robert Mire, Harold Pierite, Sr., Sabrina Richardson, and Jared Caruso-Riecke. 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.)

There were no requests by employees or others to address the Commission on matters on the agenda.

VI. Business

1. Consideration of the meeting minutes from July 8, 2021.

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to adopt the meeting minutes from July 8, 2021, with an amendment from Chairman Simien to correct a typographical error in the date listed for the minutes considered and approved at the July meeting.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

2. Status update from the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police, regarding the department's response to House Concurrent Resolution No. 84 of the 2021 Regular Legislative Session.

State Police Lt. Colonel Doug Cain appeared on the behalf of the Department of Public Safety, Office of State Police, and provided a status update regarding the department's response to House Concurrent Resolution No. 84. Lt. Colonel Cain reviewed HCR No. 84 and went item by item outlining the steps taken by the department to date in areas of policy and training, including working on Active Bystandardship for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Program Standards.

Commissioner Mire requested that questions on the upcoming May 2022 promotional exam be updated to ensure that they reflect these policies and their practical application.

3. Consideration of a request from the Office of State Police for reinstatement of 2,304.19 hours of sick leave for State Police Master Trooper Harold Williams per SPC Rule 11.21.1. (Representative of the agency to be available to answer any questions of the Commission.)

Susan Hudson, DPS Human Resources Specialist, and Lt. Colonel Doug Cain appeared on the behalf of the Department of Public Safety, Office of State Police, and advised the department's support for the request. The commissioners were briefed on the severity of Master Trooper Williams' injury and were advised of his intention to retire from state police service following approval of this request.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to approve the request for reinstatement of 2,304.19 hours of sick leave for State Police Master Trooper Harold Williams.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

4. In the matter of William R. Woodward (Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police), Docket No. 21-251-RV. Michael DuBos representing Mr. Woodward. Michele Giroir representing the Office of State Police.

• **Public hearing**

Adam Karamanis, legal counsel representing the appellant, and Michele Giroir, legal counsel representing the Department of Public Safety (DPS), appeared before the Commission and presented the case on behalf of their respective clients.

• **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 go into Executive Session at 10:42 A.M. to discuss investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, Commissioners Leonard Knapp, Jr., Robert Mire, Harold Pierite, Sr., 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 11:05 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Opposed: None

- Public discussion of appeal and possible vote

On motion duly made by Chairman Simien, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to deny the request to declare that the notice contained in this particular case was deficient for lack of substance and the factual allegations being made.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

5. Consideration of a Motion to Consolidate the rule violation appeals of petitioners, Dakota Demoss and George Harper (21-249-RV) with the appeals of their termination (21-253-T, and 21-252-T).

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to deny the request to consolidate the appeals without prejudice and to allow it to be brought up at a later date.

In Favor: All

Opposed: Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr.

Chairman Simien spoke in favor of denying the request due to the varying timelines that could occur with the different appeals.

6. Consideration of a Motion to Stay the appeals of Dakota DeMoss (Docket No. 21-253-T) and George Harper (Docket No. 21-252-T).

On motion duly made Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to deny the request to stay the appeals of DeMoss and Harper.

In Favor: Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, Commissioners Leonard Knapp, Jr., Robert Mire, Harold Pierite, Sr., Sabrina Richardson, and Jared Caruso-Riecke.

Opposed: Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr.

In discussion, Chairman Simien stated that he is opposed to the motion put forth by Commissioner Riecke to deny the stay because there are ongoing criminal investigations and the Commission's previous actions in similar cases were to grant a stay request. Commissioner Knapp spoke in support of the motion made by Commissioner Riecke and his belief that the Commission should be able to move forward with these appeals.

7. Consideration of a motion to ratify the actions of the Executive Director, pursuant to SPC rule 3.1(k), in extending the authority of Chapter 21 – Emergency Rules until 11:59 P.M. on September 30, 2021.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to ratify the actions of the Executive Director, pursuant to SPC rule 3.1(k), in extending the authority of Chapter 21- Emergency Rules until 11:59 P.M. on September 30, 2021.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

8. Consideration of a motion to extend the authority for Chapter 21 - Emergency Rules until December 15, 2021, or upon Order of the Commission, whichever comes first with the exception of SPC rules 21.2.1(b) and (d) which will expire as scheduled on September 30th.

Executive Director Hannaman provided an update on the upcoming expiration of the Chapter 21 rules; he advised his recommendation that the Commission allow the Covid-leave rules to realign with State Civil Service approved Covid-leave rules so that DPS/HR can apply similar Covid-leave policies across the agency.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to extend the authority of Chapter 21 – Emergency Rules until December 15, 2021, or upon Order of the Commission, whichever comes first with the exception of SPC rules 21.2.1(b) and (d) which will expire as scheduled on September 30th.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

9. Consideration of a motion to go into Executive Session to conduct the annual Performance Review of the Executive Director.

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to go into Executive Session to conduct the annual Performance Review of the Executive Director at 11:17 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Opposed: None

On motion duly made by Chairman Simien, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to end the Executive Session to discuss the annual Performance Review of the Executive Director at 11:26 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Opposed: None

10. Consideration of a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Performance Evaluation of the Executive Director.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to approve the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Performance Evaluation of Exceptional/Outstanding for the Executive Director.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

VII. Director's Report

Commission Expenditures:

The attention of the commissioners was directed to the Commission's Monthly Expenditure Report that had been provided for its review. Commission Knapp asked about investigative funds for the FY21/22 budget; the Executive Director advised that there were no additional funds appropriated in FY21/22. There were no other questions.

Fiscal Year Closure:

The commissioners were advised of the final close-out numbers for FY20/21. The final report for FY20/21 shows total expenditures at 97.71% of the total budget and 98.9% if unspent commissioner per diems and travel were excluded. Vice-Chairman Crawford commented on the tight margins of the Commission's budget.

Meeting Updates:

The attention of the commissioners was directed to General Circular No. 222 for updates to the remaining meeting dates for 2021 and the proposed General Circular No. 223 for meeting dates in the calendar year 2022. Vice-Chairman Crawford confirmed with the Executive Director that November's meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 9th.

Promotional Exam:

The commissioners were updated about the upcoming November Promotional Exam. The announcement was posted on August 24, 2021, and is open until October 15, 2021. The examination will be held on Monday, November 22, 2021, in Alexandria and Baton Rouge. There were 107 registered to take the November Promotional Exam as of today. It is expected that a smaller number would register for the November exam due to the upcoming mandatory retest in May 2022.

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 were no requests 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 Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to adjourn at 11:33 A.M. on Thursday, September 30, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jason Hannaman, Executive Director


Eulis Simien, Jr. Chairman