



MINUTES/ACTIONS

LOUISIANA STATE POLICE COMMISSION
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023
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 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, March 9, 2023.

II. Roll Call

Present were Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr., Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, Commissioners Monty Montelongo, Jared Caruso-Riecke, Harold Pierite, Sr., and Bernell Nevil, Jr. There was a quorum. Additionally, Commission Referee Lenore Feeney, Deputy Director Aarika Dorsey, and Executive Director Jason Hannaman were present.

III. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Eulis Simien 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.)

A request was received from Mr. Robert Burns from Sound Off Louisiana to speak on agenda Item #4. He appeared and offered comments regarding his belief that LSP recruiting problems are not limited to monetary issues.

VI. Business

1. Consideration of the meeting minutes from February 9, 2023.

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to approve the meeting minutes from February 9, 2023.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

2. Oral arguments on pre-hearing motions filed in the matter of Michael Reichardt (Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police), Docket No. 22-265-S. Devin T. Jones representing Mr. Reichardt. Jason Hessick representing the Office of State Police.

Jason Hessick appeared on behalf of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police. Devin Jones appeared on the behalf of the appellant, Michael Reichardt.

- Executive Session regarding allegations of misconduct

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to go into Executive Session to discuss issues related to alleged misconduct at 10:39 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Vice-Chairman Crawford, Commissioners Nevil, Pierite, Riecke, and Chairman Simien

Opposed: None

Recused: Commissioner Montelongo

On motion duly made by Chairman Simien, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to end Executive Session at 10:57 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Vice-Chairman Crawford, Commissioners Nevil, Pierite, Riecke, and Chairman Simien

Opposed: None

Chairman Simien stated that no response was needed from Commissioner Montelongo to end Executive Session due to his recusal on the matter.

- Public discussion and possible vote

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to deny the appellant's request for summary disposition.

Favor: All

Opposed: None

Chairman Simien stated that the Commission denied the appellant's motion for summary judgment; however, no decisions were made on the merits or demerits of the discipline or the claim that the discipline was unreasonable – that would be determined following a trial.

3. Consideration of the appeal status in the matter of Kasha Domingue (Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police), Docket No. 21-250-T. Kasha Domingue ordered to appear.

Kasha Domingue appeared before the Commission. She asked for a continuance due to a pending civil trial and stated that she was advised by her legal representation not to make any additional comments until the conclusion of the civil trial.

Commission Referee Lenore Feeney discussed the previous stay order in the matter and the previous motion for summary disposition filed by LSP. The previous stay was lifted and the department's motion was denied. Referee Feeney advised that the previous stay was based on the dependency of a criminal investigation and there is no longer a stay in place for this matter.

Kasha Domingue made an oral Motion to Stay the matter of Docket No. 21-250-T.

- Executive Session regarding allegations of misconduct

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to go into Executive Session to discuss issues related to alleged misconduct at 11:02 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Vice-Chairman Crawford, Commissioners Nevil, Pierite, Riecke, and Chairman Simien

Opposed: None

Recused: Commissioner Montelongo

On motion duly made by Chairman Simien, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to end Executive Session at 11:07 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Vice-Chairman Crawford, Commissioners Nevil, Pierite, Riecke, and Chairman Simien

Opposed: None

Recused: Commissioner Montelongo

- Public discussion and possible vote

On motion duly made by Chairman Simien, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to deny the Motion to Stay and set the matter on the regular docket.

Favor: All

Opposed: None

Chairman Simien informed Kasha Domingue that the matter would be docketed and the hearing would be set no sooner than October based on the current docket schedule. The parties were ordered to meet with the referee immediately following the meeting to discuss the schedules and timing of the hearing. The appellant was ordered to return all telephone calls and correspondence related to the matter.

Jason Hessick appeared on behalf of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police; he shared his contact information with the appellant.

4. Request by Commissioner Riecke to speak on the subject of the Louisiana State Police Pay Schedule.

Commissioner Riecke advised that he received some LSP salary information that needed verification; however, it appeared to show that the Louisiana State Police ranks among the lowest-paid state police agencies. He noted that the lack of competitive pay has detrimentally impacted the department's ability to hire and retain troopers. Commissioner Riecke advised that in addition to a pay review, he would like to see a stabilized academy schedule so that the state does not fall behind like in the 6-years during the Jindal administration when there were no academies. He stated that the Commission needs to get ahead of the situation and help be part of the solution.

Chairman Simien explained how concerned the commissioners are about the actions of past administrations; when discipline is needed then it is needed. He advised that he believes this administration is taking appropriate action and his expectation is that it will continue. He stated that the administration will have the support of this

Commission which would include support in reviewing compensation; however, to remember that to whom much is given much is expected.

Commissioner Montelongo advised that he is enthusiastically hopeful of the department recruiting and retaining good quality candidates for the upcoming academies and supports a review of the compensation schedule.

Commissioner Riecke wanted to put on record that the Commission is not looking to reward bad behavior but rather is looking to support hard-working employees and help recruit high-quality individuals to the Louisiana State Police.

Lt. Colonel Cammon, LSP Chief of Staff, appeared and advised that he is thankful for the support of the Commission. He noted that the recruitment and retention problem is a nationwide issue with over 50% of law enforcement agencies operating with less staff than they did three or four years ago.

5. Discussion of WAE demographic information requested by Chairman Simien.
Chairman Simien advised that he intended to discuss WAE demographic information but did not have the data in advance of the meeting. Lt. Colonel Cammon apologized for the late submission. Chairman Simien advised that he would like this item to be placed on the next meeting agenda for discussion.
6. Consideration of a request by Commissioner Riecke to address the question of whether the Commission should provide an exception to the approved job duties of WAEs that would permit performing public safety tasks throughout the state—not solely during the Mardi Gras season.

Commissioner Riecke discussed the positive feedback he received from individuals in his district and the surrounding areas following the Commission's decision to permit WAEs to work public safety duties during the Mardi Gras season. It sparked other conversations about WAEs being used in other areas across the state due to the department being so short-staffed. Commissioner Riecke stated that the Commission should permit exceptions to the approved job duties to permit WAEs to perform additional public safety duties.

Lt. Colonel Cammon, LSP Chief of Staff, agreed with Commissioner Riecke. He advised that the 71 WAEs are fully commissioned retired State Police Troopers. They have the resources, training, and knowledge from years of being within the agency.

Chairman Simien advised that he looks forward to the day when the agency has enough fully commissioned Troopers that are full-time classified employees to fill all the needs of the agency. He stated that any support he would give to the proposition would be with the understanding that this is temporary until the problem is fixed. Once full-time classified personnel are in place, he would be much less inclined to support the expansion of the duties of the WAEs. The Chairman noted that this is a possible temporary solution to the current problem and the Commission would consider a possible motion for expansion on the next meeting agenda.

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.

2023 Regular Legislative Session:

The commissioners were updated about the upcoming House Appropriations meeting set for March 28 and the Senate Finance meeting set for March 29; the Commission's FY23/24 budget is scheduled for review by those committees.

Personal Financial Disclosure Statements:

The Commissioners were reminded that their annual financial disclosure forms for the 2022 calendar year are due by May 15, 2023. The Tier 2.1 disclosure documents were placed in the commissioner binders for their convenience.

Next Meeting:

The next regular business meeting is set for 10:00 A.M. on April 13th, 2023.

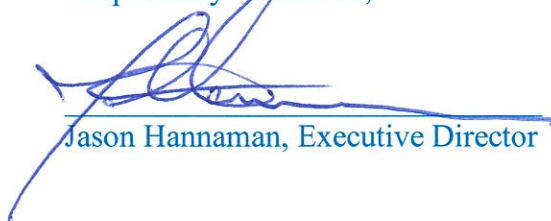
VIII. Opportunity to Address the Commission by employees or others on matters not on the agenda. (Please submit a speaker request form prior to the meeting being called to order.)

There was no request 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 Chairman Simien seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to adjourn at 11:34 A.M. on Thursday, March 9, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jason Hannaman, Executive Director


Edlis Simien, Jr. Chairman