

In Re: Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training

Transcript of Meeting

November 14, 2024

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Transcript of Meeting 11/14/2024

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
BOARD ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
STANDARDS & TRAINING

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING

Taken at Mississippi Department of
Public Safety Planning,
152 Watford Parkway,
Canton, Mississippi,
on Thursday, November 14, 2024,
beginning at approximately 9:00 a.m.

REPORTED BY:

ELLA J. HARDWICK, CVR-M, CCR #1749

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1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
2 Jim H. Johnson, Chair, Sheriff, Lee County
3 Jeff Johns, Director, Office of Standards &
 Training
4
5 Sean Tindell, Commissioner, MDPS
6
7 Brandon Hendry, Captain, Director of Law
 Enforcement Training Academy
8
9 Daniel Sanford, Chief, MS Campus Law Enforcement
 Officers Association
10
11 John Quaka, Chief, Tupelo Police Department
12
13 Michael Hall, Chief, Guntown Police Department
14
15 Randy Tutor, Chief, MS Chiefs Association
16
17 Kassie Coleman, Esq., District Attorney
18
19 Lindsay Cranford, Esq., Office of the Attorney
 General
20
21 Robert Hancock, Constable, Mississippi Constable
 Association
22
23 Randall Tucker, Sheriff, MS Sheriffs Association
24
25 Luke Williamson, Esq. (VIA PHONE)

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1 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: We'll get started
2 this morning by asking Captain Brandon
3 Hendry to lead us in the Pledge of
4 Allegiance, followed by a prayer by the
5 Honorable Robert Hancock.

6 And we would also like to take a pause
7 at the end of that to remember Lieutenant
8 Christopher Picou and then the wife of
9 Officer Josh Stinson with the Mississippi
10 Department of Public Safety. Following
11 the prayer, we'll take a brief moment of
12 silence.

13 (PLEDGE.)

14 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Please remain
15 standing as we say our prayer.

16 (PRAYER.)

17 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: You may be seated.
18 Board, if you will, remember that we have
19 a court recorder. So if you have any
20 statements, state your name and be
21 respectful so she will be able to take
22 that down.

23 We'll now do the roll call. Director
24 Johns.

25 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Anthony Chancellor.

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1 Kassie Coleman.
2 MS. COLEMAN: Here.
3 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Lindsay Cranford.
4 MS. CRANFORD: Here.
5 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Michael Hall.
6 MR. HALL: Here.
7 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Robert Hancock.
8 MR. HANCOCK: Here.
9 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Charles Haynes.
10 Brandon Hendry.
11 MR. HENDRY: Here.
12 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Jim Johnson.
13 MR. JOHNSON: Here.
14 DIRECTOR JOHNS: John Quaka.
15 MR. QUAKA: Here.
16 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Daniel Sanford.
17 MR. SANFORD: Here.
18 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Sean Tindell.
19 Randall Tucker.
20 MR. TUCKER: Here.
21 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Randy Tutor.
22 MR. TUTOR: Here.
23 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Luke Williamson.
24 MR. WILLIAMSON: Here.
25 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Mr. Chairman, that

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1 concludes the roll.

2 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: All right. That
3 concludes the roll, and we do have a
4 quorum. We're going to do the
5 introduction, number 5, of invited
6 officials. We have Representative Brent
7 Anderson with Hancock County.

8 MR. ANDERSON: First of all, I want
9 to thank y'all for having me. As I said,
10 I'm Brent Anderson. This is my second
11 term in the House. I spent 16 years in
12 law enforcement, everything from the road
13 to narcotics to supervisor.

14 But I'm working on a bill this year to
15 kind of help the minimum standards board,
16 as well as agencies across the State. And
17 I'm just going -- I'm going to put it in a
18 nutshell because I know y'all have other
19 business to tend to, but I didn't want to
20 drop this bill without being able to speak
21 to you all, and I'm going to attend the
22 chief's conference and sheriff's
23 conference, too.

24 Basically in a nutshell what I'm
25 trying to do is I'm trying to clean up

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1 these rogue police officers throughout our
2 State. We might not have many, but we
3 have some.

4 So basically what this bill will do
5 is, if a law enforcement officer is
6 terminated or resigned due to either
7 criminal activities or just basically just
8 not being a good police officer, the
9 sheriff or the chiefs will have to send
10 their certificate and a full explanation
11 of what their termination was for or what
12 they resigned for due to disciplinary
13 actions within 72 hours of the minimum
14 standard score.

15 What I'm trying to do is protect these
16 officers and these deputies that get in
17 trouble here, and then the agencies don't
18 do anything about it. Then they come over
19 to your city, and everybody says, oh,
20 yeah, he's a good guy. You're stuck with
21 him, and six months later, you're in
22 lawsuits, or he's doing criminal
23 activities on your watch.

24 So what we're going to try to do is
25 put some teeth in here of, A, if they're

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1 not in compliance, they won't be eligible
2 for any of the grants, seatbelt grants,
3 DUI grants, whatever other grants you may
4 be working.

5 We're also going to try to put in
6 there holding the reimbursements on
7 academies, and we'll start putting it on
8 the cities and counties. We'll get in
9 your pocket.

10 If you don't want to comply with what
11 the minimum standards board is requiring,
12 we're going to get in your pocket. We're
13 going to force you to get in compliance,
14 and let's get these people, men and women,
15 wearing a badge, and some don't deserve to
16 wear a badge.

17 And it's -- the police officer still
18 burns in me, and to watch this and watch
19 the news and watch Facebook, and you see
20 these. So that's a nutshell of what we're
21 looking to do with it. I'm working with
22 Lindsay and Commissioner Tindell. We're
23 going to try to make sure about the
24 language.

25 But I want your opinions, I want your

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1 comments, because I don't want to miss
2 something. I want to do this bill one
3 time. And so, we have to give you folks
4 here that represent the law enforcement
5 community through our state the ability to
6 help clean up some of these.

7 And each one of us knows a location, a
8 city or a county, who has one of these
9 rogue police officers who have been
10 terminated. I've got two on the Coast.
11 One went back to work at another agency,
12 and he didn't deserve to. That's kind of
13 what got me thinking on this.

14 And, like I said, I just wanted to
15 give y'all a brief update on it. Between
16 now and in session, I'd love to hear your
17 comments, your concerns, or if you support
18 the bill. I'm going to drop the bill, but
19 see how much y'all support it.

20 And I'd love to have y'all's support,
21 you know, when we go into legislation that
22 I can say the sheriffs, the chiefs, and
23 minimum standards board supports this
24 bill. So that's a nutshell of it.

25 I could sit here and talk to you for

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1 30 minutes, but I know y'all have other
2 business to attend to. And I happened to
3 be in Jackson, and I appreciate Jeff
4 getting me up here and allowing me to at
5 least get this started with you all.

6 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Thank you. Any
7 comments or questions?

8 MR. SANFORD: When do y'all go into
9 session?

10 MR. ANDERSON: January 7th.

11 MR. TINDELL: Representative
12 Anderson, what's your -- what's the -- I
13 know you're going in on the 7th. Do you
14 know the deadline to drop the bill? I
15 think it's pretty early this year.

16 MR. ANDERSON: Not honestly, because
17 we're a week behind than we were last
18 year. So --

19 MR. TINDELL: Maybe two weeks?

20 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah. It's the like
21 third week of January maybe to drop
22 general bills. But speaking of some of
23 y'all individually, I know you're going to
24 have some questions and concerns. Some of
25 you have given me your cards. I'm going

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1 to send you my information.

2 Like I said, I want to get it right,
3 but I want to protect counties, cities,
4 citizens, chiefs, and sheriffs. I mean
5 y'all -- y'all have to ultimately answer
6 for this. And it's -- it's a time that
7 it's hard enough to do recruitment now,
8 but when officers -- good officers don't
9 want to work with bad officers, they're
10 not coming to our agencies.

11 So I'd appreciate any of y'all's help
12 and comments, and let's try to move this
13 forward and make it right so y'all have
14 the ability as a board here -- you know,
15 we'll give them an appeal process, but
16 they're going to come stand up here and
17 appeal to you.

18 But you'll have a full explanation of
19 why this individual's either resigned or
20 terminated due to disciplinary actions.
21 So I thank y'all for y'all's time, and I
22 appreciate it. Look forward to y'all's
23 support.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Thank you very
25 much. Item 6, I need a motion for

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1 approval of the minutes that were sent
2 out.

3 MR. QUAKA: I'll make a motion.

4 MS. COLEMAN: I second. Kassie.

5 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: I have a motion
6 and a second. Any discussion?

7 (NO RESPONSE.)

8 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: All in favor say
9 aye.

10 ALL: Aye.

11 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Any opposed?

12 (NO RESPONSE.)

13 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: There are none.
14 Old business, item 7, is in-service CEU
15 training by Training Coordinator
16 Alexander.

17 MR. ALEXANDER: Good morning,
18 everybody. The list I gave that's in
19 front of you today is a whole lot smaller
20 than the last time. We have -- it's very
21 short. Everything is law enforcement
22 based.

23 Director Johns and I have basically
24 approved all of these, but letters have
25 not been sent out saying that they've been

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1 approved yet per board approval. If you
2 have a discretion with any of those, we
3 can -- just let me know, and I'll bring it
4 up with whoever sent the stuff in.

5 Also there are two conferences that
6 literally just came across emails this
7 week that started on Tuesday. I just
8 wanted to let you know that they did come
9 across. They have been approved. Any
10 questions about what we have right there?

11 (NO RESPONSE.)

12 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Okay. We have two
13 sheets here for approval for in-serve
14 training. After you look at it, I'll
15 entertain a motion.

16 MR. TUCKER: Randy Tucker, Madison
17 County, motion to approve.

18 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Have a motion. Do
19 I have a second?

20 CHIEF HALL: Chief Hall, second.

21 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Any discussion or
22 questions?

23 (NO RESPONSE.)

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: All in favor say
25 aye.

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1 ALL: Aye.

2 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Any opposed?

3 (NO RESPONSE.)

4 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: There are none.
5 That carries. Thank you. New business,
6 item 8, certification of officers.

7 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Before you, you have
8 the officers that will be certified by the
9 various academies around the State and
10 that we would recommend. Unless Donna has
11 any corrections or additions, at this
12 time, we would recommend affirmation of
13 those pending their passing the Academy.

14 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: You have two
15 sheets before you front and back. Feel
16 free to look at it. We'll entertain a
17 motion for certification purposes.

18 MS. ROGERS: And you will notice
19 number 23.

20 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: 23 is on the first
21 page at the back, Marquez Randolph.

22 MR. TUTOR: Could y'all give me a
23 definition of "closely related"?

24 DIRECTOR JOHNS: That would be in a
25 parallel position that's not necessarily

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1 sworn or controlled by this agency as
2 certified. And teaching criminal -- you
3 know, they let law enforcement to teach
4 criminal justice. Donna, any other
5 examples that you've run across? That
6 pops into my head.

7 MS. ROGERS: Right. Someone who may
8 have been full-time transferred to
9 part-time and then come back to a
10 full-time position.

11 DIRECTOR JOHNS: At one time, it was
12 investigators in the DA's office, but that
13 was corrected through a statutory that
14 they're -- they're sworn and get
15 certificates -- certification from us at
16 this stage. Of course, that was. . .

17 Noted on 3, that's an ongoing
18 situation that Chief Ballard's aware of,
19 and we've been in communication with him.
20 So we hope to bring the Board some action
21 on that at a later date.

22 MR. TUCKER: Is that on 23?

23 MS. ROGERS: That name appeared on
24 the national decertified list.

25 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Correct.

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1 MR. SANFORD: So if we vote to
2 approve, we're going to vote to approve
3 with the exception of 23?

4 MS. ROGERS: Correct.

5 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Correct.

6 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: With no discussion
7 or comments, we'll entertain a motion.

8 MR. SANFORD: Motion to approve with
9 the exception of number 23 on the list.

10 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: I have a motion.
11 Do I have a second?

12 MR. QUAKA: I second. John Quaka.

13 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Second. Any other
14 discussion or comments?

15 MR. HANCOCK: The ones that have no
16 app.

17 MS. ROGERS: Those are ones that are
18 self-sponsoring through the training that
19 have not hired on with the department.

20 MR. HANCOCK: Got you.

21 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Anyone else? All
22 in favor say aye.

23 ALL: Aye.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Any opposed?

25 (NO RESPONSE.)

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1 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: There are none.
2 Item 9 is Director Johns, Standards in
3 Training SIU Update.

4 DIRECTOR JOHNS: So as you, the
5 Board, is aware, the Special Investigation
6 Unit within the Office of Standards and
7 Training is created under House Bill 691's
8 passage and signature by the Governor. We
9 have with us today Investigator Emma
10 Baptiste, who is the first investigator
11 inside that unit.

12 We are holding interviews Friday and
13 Monday to secure the second investigator
14 in that position. And I have asked
15 Investigator Baptiste to give you a brief
16 overview of what they're doing inside that
17 investigative unit.

18 INV. BAPTISTE: Good morning,
19 everyone. I'm Emma Baptiste, so I cover
20 the south region, Jackson south, but
21 obviously with the new creation of the
22 Division, they slammed 100 case files on
23 my desk.

24 The first thing I did was divide them
25 between south and north, kind of go

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1 through them to make sure who's with
2 agencies or applying with agencies and
3 not. Currently in the south, I have 35,
4 actually 38 active cases. One I've
5 already referred to the Public Integrity
6 Division at the AP's office.

7 Sixteen are trying to get on with
8 agencies. Eight are out. And we're just
9 basically reviewing them and doing
10 investigations to just revoke their
11 certificates based on their conduct.

12 So collectively, while I'm doing that,
13 I am trying to create standard operating
14 procedures for this newly created
15 division, doing research in other states
16 that obviously have had this. So I'm not
17 going to try to reinvent the wheel.

18 I've called national academy graduates
19 of other states trying to figure out what
20 they've already done. I'm actually
21 partnered with a Georgia Post investigator
22 currently, and he has actually given me a
23 lot of information to bring us, you know,
24 into the 21st century with some digitized
25 processes and things of that nature.

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1 I'm looking to hopefully have a site
2 visit in Georgia with their executive
3 director and sit with all of their team to
4 kind of get work flows of everybody to try
5 to help our entire office be more
6 efficient to get this more streamlined.

7 Let's see now. We're also helping
8 with building the background of the ACADIS
9 system, the new online service that we'll
10 have across the State. So Director
11 Johnson is allowing everybody to have
12 input to get that more efficient based on,
13 you know, your role.

14 As we've been doing this and
15 uncovering a lot of other things, the
16 inefficiencies we have, but we have been
17 told even by agencies that they're seeing
18 swift action starting to come out of this
19 office again, and they're getting newfound
20 confidence that we're actually going to be
21 the regulatory board that we should be.

22 And now, they're actually sending
23 stuff to us, and they're getting an
24 immediate response. So we have a lot to
25 work to do, but I'm excited and ready to

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1 get it done. Thank you.

2 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Thank you very much,
3 Investigator Baptiste. Mr. Chairman, I
4 would also present, we had discussed the
5 equivalency exam and the suspension of
6 that exam until it could be revisited. I
7 believe our Equivalency Committee has
8 completed that, and I had asked Captain
9 Hendry to speak to those results.

10 CAPTAIN HENDRY: Good morning,
11 everyone. As you probably heard if you
12 were here for the first meeting, I was
13 pretty excited about getting this started,
14 although about two or three days into it,
15 I was questioning my life choices.

16 So I -- I appreciate the opportunity
17 to help this organization improve the
18 state of law enforcement here in
19 Mississippi. I appreciate Director Johns
20 and the sheriff for allowing me to
21 participate in this.

22 I also want to thank the committee
23 members that helped me: Amy, for
24 spellcheck and grammar; Director Carlson,
25 for the help of the PT outline that he

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1 presented with us; and, Chief Quaka for
2 talking me off the ledge and having me
3 start all over again and being the voice
4 of reason. Thank you.

5 So we reviewed every single question
6 in the test bank, removed or reworded any
7 ambiguous or incorrect questions. We left
8 it in the same format as ACADIS exported
9 it to us. So, therefore, they should be
10 able to import it right away, and there
11 should be no issues with them applying the
12 test and activating it as soon as we
13 approve it, if that's the Board's wishes.

14 We broke it up into some different
15 categories other than just legal. Of
16 course, we did legal. We did a 400
17 question bank roughly. There's legal
18 questions. There's skills-based
19 questions, like alert, EVOC, firearms,
20 defensive tactics. There's ethics
21 questions, spelling questions, bias-based
22 or profiling questions, as well as some
23 reading comprehension.

24 So I think we will get a better view
25 of an applicant's ability to be a police

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1 officer here in the State after they take
2 this exam.

3 And, Mr. Tutor, I think that might get
4 a little bit narrower scope on what a
5 closely related field is, because if
6 you're not doing a law enforcement job,
7 you're going to have no idea what any of
8 this is. So a closely related field may
9 be a security guard. They're not going to
10 know a lot of these answers, and I think
11 that's who we're trying to hire is
12 qualified people.

13 As far as how the test goes, I guess
14 it would still be -- I think it would be
15 up to Director Johns as far as if it would
16 still be a 100-question test. I mean, I
17 certainly think we have plenty of
18 questions to keep it that way and keep 400
19 questions, new questions rolling in, and
20 nobody will really be able to predict what
21 questions they're going to see.

22 We've -- also I've reached out to the
23 Mississippi Law Research Institute at Ole
24 Miss where we pulled -- where we pulled
25 down. They were super helpful with this,

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1 and they gave us a copy of the Mississippi
2 Law Enforcement Officer's Handbook that
3 they publish every year. We referenced
4 that heavily in this exam and took a lot
5 of the questions, probably more than half
6 of the questions come straight out of that
7 book.

8 And what I've asked Director Johns to
9 do is coordinate with them, and I'm not
10 sure exactly what the status is on that,
11 about allowing applicants to have access
12 to that, whether they pay for it or BLEOST
13 provides it or however that needs to work
14 out, I'm not sure, but as a study guide
15 for them to review the legal questions,
16 because some of those are technical
17 questions. And that would be the extent
18 of what that study guide is for is for the
19 legal part of the exam.

20 You've also got -- in front of you,
21 you've got the Mississippi Officer
22 Equivalency Applicant Skills Evaluation
23 Outline that Director Carleton really
24 helped me out with.

25 These will be skills evaluations.

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1 Since we are doing the testing at the
2 academies, these will be skills
3 evaluations that each academy will
4 evaluate an applicant on as a pass or fail
5 basis, and you can see some of the details
6 of how that's going to be set up and what
7 skills they're required to perform on the
8 form.

9 And these skills should align with,
10 you know, like, nationwide standards or
11 statewide standards, rather, that we all
12 teach at the basic class at the Academy,
13 and that should translate from one state
14 to the other as well. Sort of like
15 defensive tactics alert, EVOC training.
16 That should all translate from one state
17 to the next. Any questions? Thank you.

18 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Thank you. Are
19 there any follow-up or comments from
20 anyone else on that committee that wants
21 to add to it? Any questions for that?

22 MR. SANFORD: When do we anticipate
23 it being back online?

24 DIRECTOR JOHNS: We would ask the
25 Board to reinstate the question bank so

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1 that we could proceed, because we've got
2 several anxious departments that need to
3 implement that. So we would ask your
4 permission for staff to put back up the
5 examination.

6 MR. TUCKER: Okay. I just want to be
7 clear. Director Johns, have you and your
8 staff reviewed this?

9 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Yes, sir.

10 MR. TUCKER: Everything that you guys
11 need or are required are contained --

12 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Yes, sir. It does
13 exactly what we needed it do. Absolutely.

14 CAPTAIN HENDRY: I would just want --
15 one more thing, Director Johns. I'm
16 prepared at Harrison County to administer
17 the test immediately. I have not talked
18 to other directors as far as whether or
19 not they're immediately prepared to
20 administer the test.

21 MS. VANDERFORD: Are we giving it on
22 the system?

23 CAPTAIN HENDRY: No. Yes. It'll --
24 they sent for me -- for me, they sent a
25 link, and then you click the link, and it

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1 opens a protected browser, and then the
2 applicant will take the test on a locked
3 browser.

4 DIRECTOR JOHNS: It's a lockdown
5 browser that they use through the Acadis
6 system.

7 CAPTAIN HENDRY: We didn't have any
8 technical problems. It was simply an
9 outside link, and it was all online.

10 DIRECTOR JOHNS: We could do some
11 testing on that.

12 MS. VANDERFORD: Yeah. We're ready.
13 Well, it's a lockdown browser, so, yes.
14 It's proctored.

15 THE COURT REPORTER: Who was that
16 speaking?

17 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Amy Vanderford.

18 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

19 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Mississippi Delta
20 Law Enforcement Training Academy, Amy
21 Vanderford. The staff is also working,
22 Mr. Chairman, with Ole Miss on determining
23 the best path to provide that handbook to
24 prospective students.

25 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Does any academy

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1 feel like they've got a problem? Good to
2 go? All right. We've got a -- we've got
3 a recommendation from the staff here to go
4 forward with the testing, the remodel of
5 the testing. Do we have a motion?

6 MR. QUAKA: I'll make a motion. John
7 Quaka.

8 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: We have a motion.
9 Do we have a second?

10 MR. HANCOCK: I second. Robert
11 Hancock.

12 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Any other
13 discussion? All in favor say aye.

14 ALL: Aye.

15 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Any opposed?

16 (NO RESPONSE.)

17 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: There are none.
18 Thank y'all for your work. Item 10 is the
19 bylaws and policy revisions and subpanel.
20 Director Johns.

21 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Mr. Chairman and
22 Board, we have gone through the bylaws,
23 which, interestingly enough -- and you may
24 still see some font irregularities in
25 there because we converted the original

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1 bylaws from a typed by typewriter PDF to
2 its current state. And so, we're still
3 working on polishing that up before it's
4 posted. But you would see the original
5 proposed 2024 bylaws incorporating changes
6 to the Board and changes to modernization.

7 The one thing that we have not
8 concluded that we thought maybe to bring
9 now or a different time for you to think
10 about is whether or not the Board would
11 like an amendment inserted that includes
12 the ability to meet by electronic means,
13 whether it be Zoom or Teams or whatever
14 flavor existed, and put that out for the
15 Board's pleasure.

16 Do not necessarily have to pass this.
17 We've included in your packet both the
18 proposed, and then at the back of your
19 packet is the original bylaws if you'd
20 like more time to do that.

21 This is mostly housekeeping. I don't
22 think there's any substantial changes that
23 impact the workings of the bylaws. That
24 comes in the next section, which is the
25 hearing panel amendment that follows this.

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1 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Okay. If any of
2 y'all were on the Board during COVID, you
3 remember we had to take up the Zoom
4 meetings. It will work, and I can tell
5 you that --

6 DIRECTOR JOHNS: It's not a lot of
7 fun.

8 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: It's not a lot of
9 fun, but if it hits it's hard to get a
10 meeting to get it approved, so you can do
11 that. So it's better to get it handled
12 upfront.

13 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Yes, absolutely.

14 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: With that change
15 being made, is there any comments or
16 questions before we go forward with it?

17 CAPTAIN HENDRY: Would there need to
18 be any rule changes to facilitate in the
19 future live streaming the meeting for
20 public viewing, or is that --

21 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Luke, did you hear
22 that question?

23 MR. WILLIAMSON: I did. I'm not sure
24 if that would need to be a policy or if
25 that's something that would be covered by

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1 some other statute and that we would just
2 have to opt into. So I would need to -- I
3 would need to research that.

4 I know that that is something that's
5 desired by a lot of people for these
6 meetings to be live streamed. So I think
7 that's the direction we need to move in,
8 but I'm not sure exactly what we need to
9 enable us to get there legislatively.

10 Obviously, you've got the technology
11 part of it, and then our own policy part
12 of it, but I'm not sure what our policy
13 needs to be just yet.

14 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Would that perhaps,
15 Mr. Williamson, be contained in whatever
16 amendment that we offer for electronic
17 meetings?

18 MR. WILLIAMSON: I think that we
19 would want to have a standalone discussion
20 of electronic meetings, both for the
21 entire Board, but also for the hearing
22 panels, because we do have situations like
23 COVID.

24 And, also, just with us being spread
25 around the State, I think that if we give

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1 people options on how to attend, depending
2 on what your schedule is like, then
3 there's a greater chance that we have a
4 bigger crowd or a fuller meeting with
5 virtual attendance with video conferencing
6 software.

7 So I think that that's something we
8 need to discuss kind of on its own for
9 what that would look like, what we
10 would -- what we would want to require.
11 In other words, do we still need our
12 witnesses and our people who are under
13 consideration to attend in person if some
14 of the Board members are not attending in
15 person?

16 And does there need to be a minimum
17 number of people who do physically have to
18 be in the room for a meeting to be held?
19 Things like that.

20 And then preservation as well. I
21 mean, obviously we have a court reporter
22 today, but if we have people who are
23 attending virtually, I know some of the
24 video conferencing softwares will allow
25 you to record and preserve that video. So

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1 we would need to kind of talk through all
2 those nuts and bolts.

3 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Okay. Did that
4 somewhat answer your question? It got
5 discussion.

6 CAPTAIN HENDRY: Yeah. It got
7 discussion. I mean, I think it just needs
8 to be a consideration moving forward as
9 the Board goes.

10 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Mr. Chair, if I may
11 make a staff request that we be allowed to
12 study that in concert with general counsel
13 and Board attorney for a presentation at a
14 future Board date.

15 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: That sounds good.
16 Doesn't sound like our investigator's got
17 much going on. She could probably help
18 with that. Thank you, Luke, for that.

19 MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes, sir.

20 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: All right. We're
21 back to the -- did we do the approval of
22 the bylaws?

23 DIRECTOR JOHNS: No, sir.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: We had a -- we had
25 a motion and a second; did we not? Or did

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1 we?

2 MS. COLEMAN: I don't know if we did,
3 but don't we have to give a copy to the
4 Secretary of State before? Doesn't it
5 have to be published to them before we
6 vote on it?

7 Remember when we did all the things --
8 I remember when Ed Snider was here, and we
9 had to change the stuff for the military,
10 and I thought we actually had to submit a
11 copy before.

12 DIRECTOR JOHNS: That's our
13 regulations, the OLRC. I'm not sure.
14 Luke, question is -- did you hear the
15 question?

16 MR. WILLIAMSON: I did. And the way
17 that we have always done it is in a
18 two-step process, the way that -- the way
19 that -- the last rule change that we took
20 up we did it where we considered the
21 change first, and then voted -- voted on
22 recommending it for approval, and at the
23 next meeting, we approved it.

24 I've checked into that, what the OLRC
25 requirements are, and based on the

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1 conversations I've had internally with
2 some of the attorneys that work on the
3 state agency -- in the state agencies
4 division, I'm told that we can consider
5 and approve in the same meeting, and that
6 the publishing would occur after that, and
7 the time allowed for comment would be
8 between approval and consideration by the
9 OLRC.

10 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Okay. Any other
11 questions? All right. Do we want to vote
12 on considering to send it to them for
13 consideration?

14 MS. COLEMAN: Yes. I would -- I
15 would make a motion to do that as the
16 proposed, and then I guess we can take up
17 the other once y'all have had a chance to
18 discuss it.

19 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: We have a motion
20 by Kassie to send this for approval.

21 MR. TINDELL: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Is there a second?

23 MR. TINDELL: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Second by
25 Mr. Tindell. All in favor say aye.

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1 ALL: Aye.

2 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Any opposed?

3 (NO RESPONSE.)

4 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: And that will

5 carry. Anything else on that, Director

6 Johns?

7 DIRECTOR JOHNS: No, sir.

8 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: All right.

9 Item 11, legislative proposal,

10 Representative --

11 DIRECTOR JOHNS: I'm sorry,

12 Mr. Chair. Yeah. I'm sorry. We do have

13 the subpanel hearing committee

14 recommendation, which is the next item in

15 your packet.

16 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: All right. Go

17 ahead.

18 DIRECTOR JOHNS: And, Luke, do you

19 want to take that, or do you want me to --

20 I know you're unwell.

21 MR. WILLIAMSON: I can. I can do

22 that, as long as everybody can hear me

23 okay.

24 MS. COLEMAN: We can.

25 MR. WILLIAMSON: Okay. Great. So I

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1 put this together based on the statutory
2 language that gives us this authority. So
3 statutorily, you know, the law provides
4 that we have this authority, but we need
5 some fleshing out of how we're going to do
6 that. That's what this bylaw would be.

7 It would fit neatly under Article 6 of
8 the Bylaws, which does address committees,
9 and since it's the newest one, it would be
10 Section 3. Some of the language that's in
11 here is lifted directly from House
12 Bill 691 or from existing policies.

13 So we're not necessarily completely
14 reinventing the wheel, but what we are
15 doing is providing what the Board
16 recommended at the last meeting, which is
17 that the panel has at least five members,
18 that it includes either the chairman or
19 the vice chairman or a chair pro tempore,
20 who can run the meeting, and that they can
21 meet as necessary.

22 So there's not a fixed time for them
23 to meet. It's up to the Board how many
24 times the hearing panel meets. And then
25 that the person who runs the meeting, the

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1 chair, the vice chair, or the chair pro
2 tempore, has the discretion over the order
3 and length of the hearing, similar to the
4 way that a judge has discretion over how
5 to run his or her courtroom.

6 And then that the policies that
7 already exist would control the format of
8 the hearing. And then, per the statute
9 that gave us the stability, at the
10 conclusion of the hearing, the panel has
11 to give written recommendations to the
12 Board that the Board can then consider at
13 the next meeting.

14 So all of that is -- all of that is in
15 here. This is something we talked about
16 last month. So this should deal with
17 everything, except the ability for the
18 panel to convene virtually, which, again,
19 is kind of a standalone discussion.

20 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Thank you, Luke.

21 MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes, sir.

22 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: All right. After
23 discussion at a meeting and then this
24 being proposed to you, are there any other
25 comments from anyone on this subpanel?

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1 MR. TINDELL: Sean Tindell. The
2 panel consisting of five people, is
3 that -- I don't see that in here.

4 MS. CRANFORD: Is there more than one
5 page to this? I feel like we don't have
6 the whole --

7 MR. TINDELL: It says five members on
8 the back.

9 MS. COLEMAN: I don't have the back.
10 Yeah.

11 MR. WILLIAMSON: There's two pages,
12 but it would be at the bottom of the first
13 page. It's in the longer paragraph at the
14 bottom of the first page.

15 MR. TINDELL: Okay. Yeah. Mine
16 stops at E.

17 MS. COLEMAN: Okay. That makes more
18 sense for sure.

19 (OFF THE RECORD.)

20 MR. TINDELL: I guess the question I
21 would have on the five -- and I would just
22 bring it up for maybe discussion or
23 thoughts -- I mean, the idea of the panel,
24 we spend so much time as a Board hearing
25 these things and having to get five folks

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1 here seems like a lot, especially with as
2 busy as everybody is, if the goal is to
3 try to get these things heard outside of
4 our regular meetings.

5 And so, you know, a lot of times
6 you'll see three judge panels, whether
7 it's at federal court level, Court of
8 Appeals, or Supreme Court in Mississippi,
9 they usually convene in three court --
10 three judge panels to hear things.

11 And maybe we should consider a three
12 person panel, instead of five, because --
13 and I don't know if there's anything that
14 requires the number. I guess it's up to
15 us to set that number, but I'm just
16 throwing it out there because I know there
17 is a lot of cases. They do take up a lot
18 of time, and maybe a three person panel
19 would be easier to get everybody together.

20 And especially until maybe at some
21 point we get the virtual thing set up,
22 then maybe we could increase it to five at
23 that time since it'll be easier for folks
24 to get here. But just kind of bringing it
25 up for discussion and hearing thoughts

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1 from everybody else. If y'all are set on
2 five, we can do five, or maybe -- maybe do
3 three.

4 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: There was one
5 meeting we had that we discussed how the
6 breakup was going to be, and the chairman
7 or vice chairman had to be on one or the
8 other but couldn't be on the same.

9 There was some discussion, and I think
10 at that point may have been when the
11 number of five came up, but it's up for
12 discussion. So, I mean, that paper's
13 going to come back with five, that copy.
14 So does anybody entertain or want to talk
15 about moving it?

16 MR. SANFORD: I think most of us feel
17 that it's important enough we're going to
18 adjust some stuff around if we have to to
19 get here for something like that.

20 MR. TINDELL: Well, and keeping in
21 mind, too, ultimately the whole Board is
22 going to have to approve whatever
23 recommendation comes out of it. It's
24 just, again, I know a lot of y'all -- it's
25 not that big of a deal if it's me, but if

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1 I'm coming from Oxford or having to come
2 from the Coast, and I know everybody's
3 busy just trying to -- how many folks do
4 we have total on the Board? 19?

5 DIRECTOR JOHNS: 13.

6 MR. TINDELL: 13? So you're talking
7 almost half the Board having to come to do
8 these hearings that we're trying to
9 relieve the whole Board of some time --

10 MR. QUAKA: If you change it to at
11 least three, that doesn't preclude five or
12 six from showing up and attending the
13 Board meeting, correct?

14 DIRECTOR JOHNS: A minimum of three.

15 MS. COLEMAN: Yeah. You could just
16 say a minimum of three, you know, and then
17 if somebody else wanted to come, they
18 could come.

19 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: I know one issue
20 that I experienced was having a board
21 meeting with all the normal board stuff
22 and tying on a hearing on top of that. We
23 tried for years, but it is a lot for all
24 of that. So just being here it will help.
25 We can change it to a minimum of three or

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1 whatever the Board entertains.

2 MR. TINDELL: I would move to amend
3 it to a minimum of three, and then we can
4 always make it five later or keep it at
5 three or however everybody's schedule's
6 looking. It might be that only three
7 could get here on a certain date, and that
8 way we could proceed.

9 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: This is going to
10 be on the back of that sheet, the first
11 line, says it's comprised of at least five
12 members of the Board. We have a
13 recommendation or a suggestion to reduce
14 that to a minimum of three, but if five
15 showed up, they showed up.

16 MR. TINDELL: That's right.

17 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: You want to put
18 that in a motion?

19 MR. TINDELL: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Okay.

21 Mr. Tindell's made a motion.

22 MR. TUCKER: Well, I do have a
23 question.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Okay.

25 MR. TUCKER: If it's minimum three

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1 and five do show up, will all five
2 participate in that hearing and cast a
3 vote?

4 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: I'm going to say
5 they can.

6 MR. TINDELL: I think the one
7 challenge would be is if four shows up,
8 and you end up with a split two/two.

9 MS. COLEMAN: But you're still going
10 to present your findings to the Board to
11 vote on as a whole.

12 MR. TINDELL: That's right.

13 MS. COLEMAN: I mean, in other words,
14 there's going to be a written finding of
15 whatever the hearing was, and then present
16 it to the Board --

17 DIRECTOR JOHNS: So it's not
18 necessarily a decision. It's a
19 recommendation.

20 MS. COLEMAN: -- for approval of that
21 recommendation. Might make a rowdy
22 meeting to approve.

23 MR. TINDELL: Well, and let me throw
24 this out there, too. It might be one
25 thing that we could do if we know that

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1 hearing is coming up, when this Board sets
2 the panel, that we could get an idea who
3 wants to attend that particular hearing.
4 And it might be that it needs to be a five
5 or could be a seven person panel.

6 But this Board would set the panel,
7 and we just need to set it at an uneven
8 number. Might be that it's
9 run-of-the-mill case, and everybody -- we
10 only need three people to hear those.

11 MR. HANCOCK: And it may depend upon
12 the nature of the case.

13 MR. TINDELL: That's right. It might
14 be one where we say, you know what? The
15 whole Board wants to hear this one, and we
16 don't even do the panel. We just tell
17 them to show up, and the whole Board
18 participate.

19 Because a quorum's seven, right? So,
20 I mean, my thought is at five, you're just
21 two away from even just doing just a
22 regular board meeting and having a
23 meeting.

24 But, no. That's a good point.
25 Especially if you have four, and you end

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1 up with a tie, it's two/two.

2 MR. SANFORD: That being a
3 recommendation, I think that's --

4 MR. TINDELL: That's right.

5 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: The motion is to
6 have a minimum of three. So if you had a
7 hearing set and only three people could
8 show up, you could still have the hearing.

9 MR. TINDELL: That's right.

10 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: That's basically
11 my understanding of why -- but if five can
12 be here, that's wonderful, but you could
13 have it with three is the motion. We have
14 that from Commissioner --

15 MR. SANFORD: How many will be on the
16 panels themselves; do we know?

17 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: At least five.

18 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Rotate it through
19 the Board. Wasn't that the suggestion
20 from the last meeting is to rotate it
21 through the members of the Board?

22 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Okay. It was
23 picked from the Board to rotate, and the
24 chair was on one, and the vice chair was
25 on -- they couldn't be on the same board.

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1 I think. That's the best I can remember
2 that it was.

3 DIRECTOR JOHNS: That's correct.

4 MR. TINDELL: So it'd be kind of two
5 standing panels, I guess, would meet, and
6 then maybe just kind of -- okay.

7 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: You've got enough
8 on the Board to have -- you could actually
9 have two hearings going at one time --

10 MR. TINDELL: Right.

11 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: -- if you get
12 everybody here.

13 MR. TINDELL: Okay.

14 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: To try to speed it
15 up.

16 MR. TINDELL: That's right. I like
17 that.

18 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Okay. We've got
19 the motion. I think the Chief seconded
20 it.

21 MR. SANFORD: I second it.

22 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Sheriff, did that
23 get your question answered?

24 MR. TINDELL: It does.

25 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Okay. Any other

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1 discussion? All in --

2 DIRECTOR JOHNS: (Indiscernible) not
3 on the five. So are we ruling on the
4 motion on the number?

5 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: We're voting on to
6 change it from at least five to at least
7 three.

8 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Okay.

9 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: All in favor to
10 change it from five to three, say aye.

11 ALL: Aye.

12 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Any opposed?

13 (NO RESPONSE.)

14 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: There are none.
15 That will carry, and y'all can make that
16 change. Anything else? Okay. Back to
17 Director Johns.

18 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Mr. Chairman, on
19 review of the staff, and I have not had a
20 chance to talk about this with Luke and
21 process, we raised a question based on
22 historic perspective when this Board has
23 had a hearing, it was presented by the
24 Director, we did not have the
25 investigators, and then it was -- the

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1 opposing side was allowed to present it.
2 There was not a cross-examination, which
3 we have included in this hearing panel
4 that we say that they may also question
5 any adverse witness.

6 In review of some of our sister state
7 counterparts, they also do not allow
8 cross-examination in the hearing panel or
9 in the Board meeting. So I just wanted to
10 put that forward for both Luke's
11 (indiscernible) since we haven't had a
12 chance to discuss it, and whether or not
13 that's appropriate or do we want to redact
14 that.

15 MS. COLEMAN: Am I under -- Kassie.
16 Am I understanding correctly that you're
17 saying that they don't provide the officer
18 that's subject to the hearing the
19 opportunity to cross-examine any witnesses
20 that are brought?

21 DIRECTOR JOHNS: That is correct.
22 It's almost reminds me of an appellant
23 situation that you -- each side gets to
24 present their case before the hearing
25 panel and/or the Board, and there is no

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1 cross-examination.

2 MR. HANCOCK: So they just establish
3 their findings?

4 DIRECTOR JOHNS: They establish them.

5 MR. SANFORD: And you said that's
6 consistent with -- that practice that we
7 just discussed is consistent?

8 DIRECTOR JOHNS: It's my
9 understanding, although I was not present
10 for a hearing, the sheriff or somebody
11 was, that is -- in the past that Robert
12 would present, the opposing party would
13 present, but there was not a
14 cross-examination period within --

15 MS. COLEMAN: I don't know that there
16 was --

17 MR. WILLIAMSON: The policy right now
18 as it exists in our Rule 4.3 that governs
19 our procedures does provide for
20 cross-examination of any witnesses.

21 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: I know on the
22 hearings, which are many that I've been a
23 part of, was Robert would present his
24 side. Then we would have an opportunity
25 to ask him any question, or anybody could

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1 ask him any question they wanted to ask,
2 and then he sat down.

3 And then the officer or their attorney
4 presented their side and had the same rule
5 of law. You could ask them any -- anybody
6 could -- on the panel could ask whatever
7 they wanted to ask. They were just told
8 that anything brought up in this meeting
9 is all that could be used in an appeal to
10 Chancery Court. You couldn't add to it
11 after that. So if he was going to bring
12 it, bring it here.

13 But as far as who asked anybody
14 whatever, it was kind of open to ask
15 whatever you wanted is the way we did it.

16 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Did you -- and I
17 guess the question that I don't know is,
18 did you permit the officer to ask Robert
19 questions, or Robert to ask the officer?

20 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: He did. Yes.

21 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Okay. And that --

22 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: He can ask --

23 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Apparently I was
24 misinformed on that. So the officer may
25 question --

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1 MR. SANFORD: I never saw him do it.

2 MS. COLEMAN: Right. That's what I
3 was about to say. Normally they would say
4 just do you have anything to, you know,
5 ask of him, and then, of course, they were
6 allowed to present their side. I don't
7 ever remember it happening.

8 DIRECTOR JOHNS: And maybe that's
9 what --

10 MS. COLEMAN: The only one I'm
11 remembering is the one where the Chief was
12 on the Board, the one that got appealed,
13 and I think they ended up trying to call
14 him as a witness.

15 But I still think you're better to
16 flesh out whatever the questions are in
17 here so that we have the best and the full
18 information before we make that decision,
19 because that is what's going to be the
20 basis if it's appealed is what's in the
21 record.

22 MR. TINDELL: And I think if it gets
23 to a point where it's irrelevant or it's
24 getting --

25 MS. CRANFORD: Repetitive.

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1 MR. TINDELL: -- repetitive, or, you
2 know, but, yeah. The chair would have the
3 ability to cut it off.

4 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Yeah. The biggest
5 thing that you had to emphasize was the
6 fact that this is an appealable process
7 and that whatever went on in here was all
8 that could be appealed. So if you don't
9 have a chance to cover it in here, you're
10 not going to have a chance to cover it in
11 your appeal.

12 MR. TINDELL: Right.

13 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: And so, if the
14 question wasn't asked in here, you're not
15 going to be able to ask it later. But I'm
16 like them. I don't remember anyone
17 questioning what Robert said, because it
18 was all factual. It was just a pamphlet
19 of what the allegations and what was in
20 the file. But they did have an
21 opportunity to ask.

22 MR. TINDELL: And now with the
23 investigators, there might be an
24 opportunity they want to ask, particularly
25 an investigator maybe some questions about

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1 it. So it might open that up a little
2 bit.

3 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Based on the
4 discussion, I would withdraw our issue
5 with that and move on to the next one,
6 which is the staff did recommend to add to
7 paragraph 1 or to determine eligibility of
8 any candidate for certification to the
9 other items that were included by
10 Mr. Williamson in the original draft.

11 And so, that was the ideal, that we
12 didn't really address certification
13 eligibility, that if we reject someone's
14 eligibility, that they could appeal that
15 and that it wouldn't have to go directly
16 to the Board, that that could also be
17 included in a hearing panel situation.

18 MR. SANFORD: So if your office said
19 they weren't eligible, it would go to a
20 panel?

21 DIRECTOR JOHNS: It could be. They
22 would have an appeal route to the hearing
23 panel if we reject their eligibility.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Okay. All right.
25 We've done a lot of marking. We changed

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1 five to three, and then we changed, about
2 midways down on the first --

3 DIRECTOR JOHNS: We withdrew that.

4 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: We withdrew that.
5 Okay.

6 DIRECTOR JOHNS: We withdrew that.
7 So the only other thing is that we would
8 add -- or to determine eligibility of any
9 candidate for certification. Luke, did
10 you have -- was there any thoughts on
11 that?

12 MR. WILLIAMSON: No. I think that's
13 fine.

14 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Luke, is that --
15 I'm sorry. Go ahead.

16 INV. BAPTISTE: E, you had E as well.

17 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Oh, I'm sorry. I
18 did miss one, Mr. Chairman.

19 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Okay.

20 DIRECTOR JOHNS: On E, we asked to
21 move the five days to ten based on ten
22 working days ahead of a hearing that all
23 documents must be in the office.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Okay. Everyone
25 hear that? On the first page, bottom

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1 line, the ten?

2 DIRECTOR JOHNS: Ten working days is
3 a correction.

4 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Okay. Do y'all
5 see anything else? Luke, you've heard all
6 this. Are we good with it?

7 MR. WILLIAMSON: I think that's fine.
8 I mean, I think given more time and given
9 that change in the initial paragraph, I
10 think that's good. I think those are good
11 changes.

12 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Okay. Now for the
13 overall vote to accept this with the
14 recommendation of the staff and the
15 attorney, do I have a motion?

16 MS. COLEMAN: Kassie. Motion.

17 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Motion. Do I have
18 a second?

19 MR. HENDRY: I'll second. Brandon
20 Hendry.

21 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Any other
22 discussion? All in favor say aye.

23 ALL: Aye.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Any opposed?

25 (NO RESPONSE.)

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1 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: There are none.
2 All right.

3 MR. WILLIAMSON: Mr. Chair, may I
4 make one comment before we move to the
5 next item?

6 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Yes.

7 MR. WILLIAMSON: If we wanted to go
8 ahead and convene a hearing panel pursuant
9 to this policy, I think because the
10 statute gives us the ability to do so, and
11 this is just a rule change that says how
12 we're going to do it, if we wanted to go
13 ahead and set a hearing panel date and
14 figure out who's coming and go ahead and
15 make an agenda prior to final adoption of
16 the rule by OLRC, I think any member of
17 the Board could just make a motion for us
18 to do so pursuant to this new proposed
19 bylaw, and then we can go ahead and set
20 that and get some of that work done.

21 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Okay.

22 MS. CRANFORD: Luke, this is Lindsay
23 Cranford. Is there a timeframe attached
24 to how quickly this will go before OLRC?

25 MR. WILLIAMSON: There is a -- the

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1 next scheduled meeting is in January, and
2 the plan and goal was to get on that
3 agenda.

4 MS. CRANFORD: So the question is, do
5 we want to have a hearing panel between
6 now and January? Do we want to wait for
7 them to pass judgment on it?

8 MR. WILLIAMSON: Or potentially even
9 do we want to -- do we want to just set --
10 schedule one for January before they pass
11 judgment on it.

12 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: I think he's
13 saying we have the authority to do it.
14 Does the Board feel like we want to go
15 ahead and exercise that authority and get
16 some hearings out of the way or wait?

17 MR. SANFORD: It's not going to go
18 away.

19 MS. COLEMAN: That's what I was
20 saying, Director Johns, you said there's a
21 pretty good backlog --

22 DIRECTOR JOHNS: We desperately need
23 the stand up hearing panel, and it would
24 be most helpful to us, you know, in
25 discussions with Luke if his research

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1 finds that we can do that. And so, it
2 would be most helpful for the Board to
3 give us that authority.

4 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: So who would make
5 a motion and recommendation?

6 MR. SANFORD: I make a motion.

7 MS. COLEMAN: I second.

8 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: So the Chief made
9 a motion, and Kassie Coleman seconded it.
10 We got two seconds, which is a fourth.
11 Any other discussion? All in favor say
12 aye.

13 ALL: Aye.

14 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Any opposed?

15 (NO RESPONSE.)

16 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: All right. When
17 they call you for one of these hearings, I
18 don't want to hear it. Is there anything
19 else?

20 DIRECTOR JOHNS: No, sir.

21 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Does that clear it
22 up? Okay.

23 MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you,

24 Mr. Chair.

25 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Thank you, Luke.

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1 All right. Item 11 is legislative
2 proposal, Representative Anderson --
3 DIRECTOR JOHNS: He's already spoken.
4 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Okay. We're
5 through with that. All right. Record
6 time. Our next scheduled meeting is
7 January 9th at 9:00 a.m. here. Is there
8 any other discussion for today's meeting
9 before we adjourn? Anything from the
10 audience?
11 CAPTAIN HENDRY: If you would like a
12 copy of the test bank just to look at the
13 questions, anybody on the Board, I can
14 provide that for you or Director Johns
15 can. Ask one of us if you'd like to
16 review any individual questions, or we can
17 send it out to the Board at large. It's a
18 cumbersome document, so. . .
19 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: If there's nothing
20 else, we'll entertain a motion to adjourn.
21 MS. COLEMAN: So moved.
22 MR. TINDELL: Second.
23 (MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:55 A.M.)
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CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

I, Ella J. Hardwick, CVR-M, CCR #1749, Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Mississippi, hereby certify that the foregoing contains a true and correct transcript, to the best of my ability, as taken by me in the aforementioned matter at the time and place heretofore stated.

I certify that I am not in the employ of or related to any counsel or party in this matter and have no interest, monetary or otherwise, in the final outcome of this matter.

Witness my signature and seal this the 25th day of November, 2024.


Ella J. Hardwick, CVR-M, CCR #1749

My Commission Expires:
February 8, 2025