

MINUTES

BLEOST MEETING
February 15, 2024

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Greg Pollan.

Roll Call:

The Chair called the roll, and a quorum was established. Board members present were:

Mayor Nancy Chambers
Hon. Kassie Coleman – by phone
Col. Charles Haynes
Chief Michael Hall
Sheriff Jim Johnson
Dr. Steve Mallory
Constable Glenn McKay
Sheriff Greg Pollan
Chief John Mark Quaka
Chief Daniel Sanford

Board Counsel Luke Williamson

Board members not present were:

Supervisor Anjuan Brown
Hon. Lindsay Cranford
Deputy Charles Harris

Introduction of Guests and Introductory Remarks:

The guests introduced themselves and were welcomed by the Chairman.

Speakers/Guests present were:

Asst. Chief Wendell Watts, Jackson PD
Chief Barry Hale, Gluckstadt PD
Winston Ragland III
Chief John C. Harris, East Central CC PD
Melissa Shackelford
Keyshawn Younger, Columbus PD
Trish Younger
Asst. Chief Garland Ward, Columbus PD
Chief Joseph Daughtry Sr., Columbus PD
Capt. Christian Vance, Jackson PD
Asst. Chief Tyrone Buckley, Jackson PD

Staff Members Present were:

Program Supervisor Robert Davis
Program Specialist Donna Rogers-Perkins
Program Specialist Risa Turpin
Accreditation Manager Bob Morgan

Approval of Minutes:

A copy of the minutes from the meeting on January 11, 2024, was emailed to each member. Sheriff Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Constable McKay seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

OLD BUSINESS

In-Service Training – Request for Approval:

- 1. National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI) – Training Conference – 6 hours.**
- 2. National Threat Assessment Center-School Violence-US Attorney’s Office – 3 hours**

These topics were presented to the Board for approval. Constable McKay made a motion to approve, and Dr. Mallory seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

Review Proposed Changes to Background Investigation Application:

The Board reviewed the changes made to the Applicant’s Background Investigation Review page. It was proposed at the last meeting that Question 4 on this page might be less confusing to applicants if the information concerning an expungement, was a separate question. The proposed change removes expungement from Question 4 and creates an additional question, with that question asking the applicant “have you ever had an expungement”. This new question would be number 6. There would be a total of 10 questions on the application for the applicant to answer. Sheriff Johnson made a motion to approve the proposed application. Chief Sanford seconded the motion, and it passed without opposition.

NEW BUSINESS

Certification of Officers:

Director Davis presented three (3) full-time academy classes for certification pending completion of all requirements. The Chair entertained a motion. Chief Hall made a motion to approve the full-time classes for certification subject to meeting all requirements. Dr. Mallory seconded the motion. The motion was adopted without opposition.

Eighteen (18) full-time and three (3) part-time equivalency of training candidates were presented

for certification pending completion of all requirements. It was noted that candidate 1 on the part-time list has been qualified to take the equivalency test. The Chair entertained a motion. Dr. Mallory made a motion to approve the equivalency candidates for certification subject to meeting all requirements. Chief Sanford seconded the motion. The motion was adopted without opposition.

Certification Review Hearing for Officer Melissa F. Shackelford:

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training (BLEOST) received a “Full-Time Law Enforcement Application for Certification” from the East Central Community College Police Department. This agency hired Officer Shackelford as a law enforcement officer on 6/16/2022. Based on information in her certification file, the Board’s staff determined that she was not eligible for certification. She requested this hearing before the Board.

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training (BLEOST) has been provided with information that she was discharged from the MS Department of Corrections. Her discharge was due to her failure or refusal to comply with agency policies or procedures and the general standards of professional conduct. She admitted to having sexual contact with an offender, who was on parole with the MS Department of Corrections. She was charged and indicted with “Sex Between Correctional Officer and Offender in violation of Miss. Code Ann. § 97-3-104. This conduct or action violates the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics or would greatly diminish the public trust in the competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer. According to the record, she was certified by the BLEOST as a law enforcement officer on April 7, 2016, certificate number 24965.

Mr. Davis presented a 41-page document taken from Officer Shackelford’s file to back up the allegations (marked as exhibit 1).

Officer Shackelford addressed the Board and explained her side of the story. She stated that the person that she was involved with lied about their relationship. She stated that he assaulted and raped her, but she did not report this, nor did she tell the investigators during her interview. (This person is now deceased). Chief Harris spoke on behalf of Officer Shackelford, he said that he trusts her and would put her to work tomorrow.

After all testimony was concluded, the Chair entertained a motion. Chief Hall made a motion to go into closed session to consider whether to declare an executive session, Dr. Mallory seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Nine members were present. (DA Coleman recused herself from this hearing and left the meeting due to other obligations.) Constable McKay made a motion to enter into executive session to consider the allegations of misconduct and evidence produced during open proceedings, and the possible issuance of an appealable order. Chief Quaka seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After executive session was completed, the Chair invited everyone back to the meeting room. Mayor Chambers made a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Chief Sanford. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair announced that after deliberations in Executive Session, the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training finds that:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Board has promulgated policy and procedure whereby: the Board may reject any unqualified applicant for certification by a classification of not eligible for certification, and any conduct or action that would violate the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics or would greatly diminish the public trust in the competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer would be actionable as due cause for reprimand, suspension (under condition), recall or cancellation of a certificate.
2. Clear and convincing evidence was placed before the Board that you, Melissa Ferguson Shackelford, admitted to having sexual contact with an offender, who was on parole with the Ms Department of Corrections. You were charged and indicted with “Sex Between Correctional Officer and Offender in violation of Miss. Code Ann. §97-3-104. This conduct or action violates the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and would greatly diminish the public trust in the competence and reliability as a law enforcement officer. You were certified by the BLEOST as a law enforcement officer on April 7, 2016, certificate number 24965.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Upon consideration of the testimony presented today, and pursuant to Mississippi Code, Section 45-6-7, the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training has promulgated policy for the administration of the Law Enforcement Officers Training Program (LEOTP) allowing the Board the authority to reject any unqualified applicant for certification by a classification of not eligible for certification. Any conduct or action that would violate the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics or would greatly diminish the public trust in the competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer would be actionable as due cause for reprimand, suspension, recall or cancellation of a certificate.

In Executive Session, after considering the facts presented, the Board voted unanimously (9-0) that you are not eligible for certification and that your certificate is cancelled, certificate number 24965. This action is effective on February 15, 2024.

Certification Review Hearing for Officer Keyshawn Younger:

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training (BLEOST) received a “Full-Time Law Enforcement Application for Certification” from the Columbus Police Department. This agency hired Officer Keyshawn Younger as a law enforcement officer on 1/15/2023. Based on information in his file, the Board’s staff determined that he was not eligible for certification. He requested this hearing.

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training (BLEOST) has been provided with information that he pled guilty, was fined, was ordered into probation in relation to a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude or that is directly related to the duties and responsibilities of a law enforcement officer. He was indicted and charged with the crime of Embezzlement. He falsified BLEOST certification documents concerning his criminal history. This conduct or action violates the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics or would greatly diminish the public trust in the competence

and reliability of a law enforcement officer. According to the record, he completed the basic academy in April 2019. No law enforcement agency requested for him to be certified until this request came from the Columbus Police Department. There is an issue with his high school diploma.

Mr. Davis presented a 24-page document taken from Officer Younger's file to back up the allegations (marked as exhibit 1). While working for the Claiborne County Sheriff's Office, he used the County's Fuelman Card for his personal use in the amount of \$720.26. His online high school diploma was from a non-accredited school. According to CIC, this charge has not been expunged. He falsified the first application from the Columbus P.D. by not revealing his arrest and guilty plea.

Officer Younger addressed the Board and explained his side of the story. He stated that he admits to the crime that took place and apologized for his actions. He learned from his mistake and wants a second chance. Asst. Chief Garland Ward stated that what he heard today does not sound like this officer that he know, he said that the people of Columbus loves Officer Younger, and he works hard. Chief Daughtery stated that he told him that other officers were doing the same thing that he did. He has apologized for his actions and the Chief asked the Board to consider that.

After all testimony was concluded, the Chair entertained a motion. Dr. Mallory made a motion to go into closed session to consider whether to declare an executive session, Chief Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Eight members were present. (Constable McKay recused himself from this hearing because he knows the officer's mother) Chief Quaka made a motion to enter into executive session to consider the allegations of misconduct and evidence produced during open proceedings, and the possible issuance of an appealable order. Chief Sanford seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After executive session was completed, the Chair invited everyone back to the meeting room. Sheriff Johnson made a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Chief Quaka. The motion passed unanimously.

After deliberations in Executive Session, the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training finds that:

1. The Board has promulgated policy and procedure whereby: the Board may reject any unqualified applicant for certification by a classification of not eligible for certification, and any conduct or action that would violate the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics or would greatly diminish the public trust in the competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer would be actionable as due cause for reprimand, suspension (under condition), recall or cancellation of a certificate.
2. Clear and convincing evidence was placed before the Board that you, Keyshawn Younger pled guilty, was fined, was ordered into probation in relation to a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude or that is directly related to the duties and responsibilities of a law enforcement officer. You were indicted and charged with the crime of Embezzlement. You falsified BLEOST certification documents concerning your criminal history. This conduct or action violates the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics or would greatly diminish the public trust in the

competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer. The certificate of education is not acceptable.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Upon consideration of the testimony presented today, and pursuant to Mississippi Code, Section 45-6-7, the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training has promulgated policy for the administration of the Law Enforcement Officers Training Program (LEOTP) allowing the Board the authority to reject any unqualified applicant for certification by a classification of not eligible for certification. Any conduct or action that would violate the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics or would greatly diminish the public trust in the competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer would be actionable as due cause for reprimand, suspension, recall or cancellation of a certificate.

In Executive Session, after considering the facts presented, the Board voted unanimously (8-0) that you are unqualified for certification and are not eligible for certification. This action is effective on February 15, 2024.

Certification Review Hearing for Officer Winston Ragland III:

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training recalled his law enforcement certification on November 14, 2013. According to Mississippi Code Ann. § 45-6-11 (3) (c), “No person shall serve as a law enforcement officer in any full-time, part-time, reserve or auxiliary capacity during a period when that person’s certification has been suspended, cancelled or recalled pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.” Mississippi Code Ann. § 45-6-11 (10) states that “Any full- or part-time law enforcement officer whose certification has been cancelled pursuant to this chapter may reapply for certification, but not sooner than two (2) years after the date on which the order of the board cancelling such certification becomes final.”

On May 26, 2016, he appeared before the Board to request his certification. The Board declined to reinstate his certification.

On September 19, 2023, the Gluckstadt Police Department made inquiry concerning his certification. He was not hired by Gluckstadt since he was not eligible to serve as a law enforcement officer due to the recall of his certification. Officer Ragland requested to come before the Board for the third time to ask the Board to reconsider his certification.

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training (BLEOST) has been provided with information that he engaged in conduct that would breach the established minimum standards, violate the *Law Enforcement Code of Ethics*, or would greatly diminish the public trust in his competence and reliability as a law enforcement officer. He was arrested in 1993 while serving as a Jackson Police Officer, discharged from the Jackson Police Department on January 27, 1994, charged with the crime of Receiving Stolen Goods, and pled guilty on or about April 15, 1994. Adjudication of guilt was withheld, and he was ordered to participate in two years of supervised probation, pay a fine of \$250.00, pay restitution in the amount of \$200.00, and participate in forty hours of community service.

He fulfilled all the requirements of the restitution order, and the period of probation was

successfully completed, and the charge was dismissed on July 2, 1996. All official records of this incident were expunged on November 8, 2006.

Mr. Davis presented a 23-page document taken from Officer Ragland's file to back up the allegations (marked as exhibit 1).

Officer Ragland addressed the Board. He stated that the child he was those many years ago is no longer in him. He stated he is a loving father, a loving husband, he raised two boys and taught them from his mistakes how to be good men. They are now grown and have families of their own. They graduated from college with honors. He stated he is in church; he is a hard worker, and his jobs speak for themselves. His character is not questionable. He said he is rehabilitated and can do this job with honor. He said that he has been before the Board three times and requests that the Board give him another chance to do the job, which he is so passionate about. He is now a security supervisor at a hospital and is a security officer at the Federal Courthouse. His background is clean. He asked the Board to see him as the man he is now. He said he was a living testimony that you can change. Asst. Chief Watts of Jackson PD and Chief Hale of Gluckstadt PD spoke on behalf of Officer Ragland.

After all testimony was concluded, the Chair entertained a motion. Chief Quaka made a motion to go into closed session to consider whether to declare an executive session, Dr. Mallory seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Nine members were present. Constable McKay made a motion to enter into executive session to consider the allegations of misconduct and evidence produced during open proceedings, and the possible issuance of an appealable order. Sheriff Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After executive session was completed, the Chair invited everyone back to the meeting room. Constable McKay made a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Chief Quaka. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair announced that in Executive Session, after considering the facts presented, the Board voted unanimously (9-0) to reinstate his certification pending successful completion of the refresher course, effective February 15, 2024.

Next Scheduled Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2024.

Concluding Remarks; Adjournment:

Chief Quaka made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chief Sanford. There was no opposition.

The meeting was adjourned at about 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Director, Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training