

MINUTES

BLEOST MEETING

July 13, 2023

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:

Chief Anjuan Brown
Hon. Kassie Coleman
Hon. Lindsay Watts Cranford
Col. Randy Ginn
Chief Michael Hall
Deputy Charles Harris
Dr. Steve Mallory
Constable Glenn McKay
Sheriff Greg Pollan
Chief John Mark Quaka
Chief Daniel Sanford
Board Counsel Samuel Goff

Board members not present were:

Sheriff Jim Johnson
Mayor Gary Rhoads

Introduction of Guests, Introductory Remarks:

The guests were introduced and were welcomed.

Speakers/Guests present were:

Lt. Mike Cowan - DeSoto Co. S.O.
Major Jackie Moreno - Director SRPSI
William Granat - Byhalia P.D.
Chief Art Dunlap - Byhalia P.D.
Kymbotric Mason - West Point P.D.
Sgt. Kenneth Davis - West Point P.D.
Keith Dowd - Florence P.D.
Jamie Dowd - Spouse of Keith Dowd
Chief Brad Burns - Florence P.D.
Demetrius Hayes - Florence P.D.
Matt Lorance - Witness for Keith Dowd
Chief Eric Wiginton - AG PID
Asst. Chief John Mardis - AG PID

Staff Members Present were:

Program Supervisor Robert Davis
Program Specialist Donna Rogers-Perkins
Program Specialist Risa Turpin
Program Specialist Marie Fivecoat

Approval of Minutes:

A copy of the minutes from the meeting on May 11, 2023, was emailed to each member. Chief Hall made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Chief Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

OLD BUSINESS

In-Service Training – Request for Approval:

- 1. Basic Vehicle Theft and Recovery Investigations – Inv. Nick Sprowles, AG’s Office – 7 hours**
- 2. Constitutional Law, Search and Seizure, Laws of Arrest – Attorney/Instructor Shane Scott – 8, 16, 24 hours**
- 3. Juvenile Justice Symposium 2023 – 12 hours**
- 4. MASRO 2023 Training Conference (SRO) – 31-34.5 hours**
- 5. NIBRS (Insight to Crime Insight-1 hr.) (Theme Oriented Public Site-1 hr.) (Errors and Warnings-3 hours), Director Robin Layton**
- 6. Targeted Crime Scene Investigations – 24 hours – US Customs**
- 7. Internal Affairs Investigations – 24 hours – Columbia LETA**
- 8. Ballistic Shield Operator – 16 hours, Combat Shotgun Operator – 8 hours, Patrol Rifle Operator – 16 hours – Delta Tactical Training, Instructor Marcus Cohen**
- 9. Elder Abuse Guide for Law Enforcement – 2 hours online, Train the Trainer for EAGLE – 4 hours – DOJ Grant, Ron Gardner – Harrison Co. S.O.**

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.

NEW BUSINESS

Certification of Officers:

Director Davis presented 1 full-time academy class and 1 part-time academy class for certification pending completion of all requirements.

Seventeen full-time and two part-time equivalency of training candidates were presented for certification pending completion of all requirements. The Chair entertained a motion. Dr.

Mallory made a motion to approve the full-time class, the part-time class, and the equivalency candidates for certification subject to meeting all requirements. D.A. Coleman seconded the motion. The motion was adopted without opposition.

Director's Report:

The Director gave a report on the Curriculum Committee's first meeting. He stated that Dr. Mallory is serving as the chairman of the committee. Dr. Mallory stated that physical fitness and online training were discussed at this meeting. Board members volunteering to serve on the committee were Chief Hall, Deputy Harris, Special A.G. Cranford, and Col. Ginn.

The Director reported that long time employee Tim Brown retired on June 30th and his wife passed away 8 days later.

Certification Review Hearing for Officer Keith R. Dowd:

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training (BLEOST) received a "Full-Time Law Enforcement Application for Certification" from the Florence Police Department, indicating that Keith R. Dowd was hired as a law enforcement officer on 3/22/23. Based on information in his certification file, the Board's staff determined that he was not eligible for certification. Officer Dowd requested a Board hearing.

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training (BLEOST) has been provided information that he resigned to prevent termination from his last law enforcement job at the Columbus Police Department in 2017. The Columbus P.D. provided his body camera video of an incident occurring on August 18, 2017. Columbus provided a document indicating that 42 news outlets nationwide covered his actions on the video. During a traffic stop on this date, his conduct greatly diminishes the public trust in the competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer and violates the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics. On the application for certification, he completed with the Florence Police Department, he failed to record that he worked as a law enforcement officer with the Columbus Police Department and the University of Mississippi Medical Center. He failed to record that he resigned to prevent termination from the Columbus P.D. and that he was discharged from the University of Mississippi Medical Center for an unlawful arrest and negligent actions during the arrest. Columbus provided news documents indicating that a woman claimed she was physically and verbally abused by him while working as a law enforcement officer with the Jackson Police Department. Columbus provided a news document indicating that he was suspended while working for the Jackson Police Department for handcuffing a newswoman at the scene of a fatal accident. According to the record, he was certified by the BLEOST as a law enforcement officer on May 5, 2016, certificate number 15665.

Mr. Davis presented a 46-page document to be marked as exhibit 1 taken from Officer Dowd's file to back up the allegations. A flash drive from his body camera was marked as exhibit 2.

Officer Dowd explained his actions to the Board and had witnesses to testify on his behalf.

The Chair entertained a motion. Chief Quaka made a motion to go into closed session to consider

whether to declare an executive session, D.A. Coleman seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Eleven members were present. 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. Constable McKay seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After executive session was completed, the Chair invited everyone back to the meeting room. D.A. Coleman made a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Chief Hall. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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.

Clear and convincing evidence was placed before the Board that you, Keith R. Dowd, were not honest in completing official Board documents that violates the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and that your actions during a traffic stop greatly diminishes the public trust in your competence and reliability as a law enforcement officer.

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training issued professional certificate number 15665 in the name of Keith R. Dowd.

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 (11-0) to cancel certificate number 15665 in the name of Keith R. Dowd. This action is effective on July 13, 2023.

Certification Eligibility Hearing for William M. Granat III:

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training (BLEOST) received a “Full-Time Law Enforcement Application for Certification” from the Byhalia Police Department, indicating that William M. Granat III was hired as a law enforcement officer on 4/4/23. Based on the information received, the BLEOST staff has determined that he is not eligible for certification. William Granat requested a Board hearing.

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training (BLEOST) has been provided information that he was discharged “under other than honorable conditions” from the United States Marine Corp. on November 25, 2014. According to his DD Form 214, the reason listed for separation was due to a pattern of misconduct.

Mr. Davis presented a 15-page document to be marked as exhibit 1 taken from his file to back up the allegations.

Mr. Granat explained his actions to the Board and provided several documents for the Board’s review. He stated that he had hired an attorney to help him get his discharge upgraded, but it was taking several months.

The Chair entertained a motion. Chief Quaka made a motion to go into closed session to consider whether to declare an executive session, D.A Coleman seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Eleven members were present. Col. Ginn 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. Constable McKay seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After executive session was completed, the Chair invited everyone back to the meeting room. D.A. Coleman made a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Chief Hall. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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.

Clear and convincing evidence was placed before the Board that you, William M Granat III, were discharged from the Military “under other than honorable conditions”. Board policy requires law enforcement officers who are former members of the armed forces must have been discharged under honorable conditions.

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 (11-0) to declare that William M. Granat III is not eligible for certification. This action is effective on July 13, 2023.

Certification Eligibility Hearing for Kymbotric T. Mason:

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training (BLEOST) received a “Full-Time Law Enforcement Application for Certification” from the West Point Police Department, indicating that Kymbotric Mason was hired as a law enforcement officer on 11-8-22. Based on information received, the Board’s staff has determined that he is not eligible for certification. Mr. Mason requested a hearing before the Board.

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training (BLEOST) has been provided information that he was hired as a law enforcement officer on 6-8-21 by the Macon Police Department. He entered the Mississippi Delta Community College Law Enforcement Training Academy on August 15, 2021. Notice was received from the Academy on 9-23-21, that he was dismissed for sexual harassment. Qualifications for the employment of law enforcement officers includes good moral character and such other matters as relate to the competence and reliability of persons to assume and discharge the responsibilities of law enforcement officers.

Mr. Davis presented a 17-page document to be marked as exhibit 1 taken from his file to back up the allegations.

Mr. Mason explained his actions to the Board and had one witness to speak on his behalf.

The Chair entertained a motion. Chief Quaka made a motion to go into closed session to consider whether to declare an executive session, Chief Sanford seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Ten 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. Dr. Mallory 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 Dr. Mallory. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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.

Clear and convincing evidence was placed before the Board that you, Kymbotric T. Mason, sexually harassed a fellow cadet during training which does not display good moral character that relates to

the competence and reliability of persons to assume and discharge the responsibilities of law enforcement officers and you made false statements on your application for certification.

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 (10-0) that you are unqualified for certification and are not eligible for certification . This action is effective on July 13, 2023.

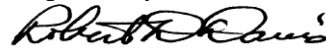
Next Scheduled Meeting:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2023.

Concluding Remarks; Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35.

Respectfully submitted,



Director, Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training