

MINUTES

BLEOST MEETING
November 10, 2022

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Vice-Chairman Steve Mallory.

Roll Call:

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

Chief Anjuan Brown
Hon. Kassie Coleman (By Phone)
Hon. Lindsay Watts Cranford
Col. Randy Ginn
Chief Michael Hall (By Phone)
Deputy Charles Harris
Sheriff Jim Johnson
Dr. Steve Mallory
Constable Glenn McKay
Chief John Mark Quaka
Chief Vance Rice

Board Counsel Samuel Goff

Board members not present were:

Mayor Gary Rhoads
Sheriff Greg Pollan

Introduction of Guests, Introductory Remarks:

New Board Member Anjuan Brown was introduced, and he spoke to the Board. Chief Brown has been appointed to the Board by the MS Association of Supervisors. He is the District 3 Leflore County supervisor and is the Chief of Greenwood-Leflore Consolidated School District.

The guests introduced themselves and they were welcomed.

Speakers/Guests present were:

Lt. Mike Cowan - DeSoto Co. S.O.
Training Coordinator Lauren Rhea – Lowndes Co. S.O.
Director Stefon Richardson – Hattiesburg P.D.
Director Dan Rawlinson - MLEOTA
Director Alfred Cooper – Jackson P.D.
Capt. Alex Fennell – Southaven P.D.
Major Bobby Riggs – Southaven P.D.
Director Darren Bane – Meridian CC

Deputy Chief Glenn Davis – Jackson Public Schools
Commander Eric Greene – Jackson Public Schools
Officer Larry Shaw – Jackson Public Schools
Clerk Shericka Walker – Inverness
SSO Don Walker – Sunflower Schools
Attorney Jordan McMichael – DPS
Chief Sherry Gates Myers – Sunflower Schools
Bobby Walker – Sunflower P.D.
Rep. Otis Anthony II – House District 31

Staff Members Present were:

Program Supervisor Robert Davis
Program Team Leader Bob Morgan
Program Specialist Risa Turpin
Program Specialist Michael Nash
Program Specialist Donna Rogers
Admin. Mary Crawford

Approval of Minutes:

A copy of the minutes from the meeting on September 8, 2022, was emailed to each member. Sheriff Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Chief Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

OLD BUSINESS

In-Service Training – Request for Approval:

- 1. MS Division of the International Association for Identification Conference, 24 hours**
- 2. Online EVOC and Defensive Driving, Lecticon Inc., 2.5 to 3.5 hours**

These topics were presented to the Board for approval. Mr. McKay made a motion to approve, and Sheriff Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

Discuss Military Family Freedom Act:

The Board held a lengthy discussion on the Military Family Freedom Act and reviewed the AG Board Counsel's interpretation of this law. If the applicant has been awarded a military occupational specialty, completed a military program of training, completed testing or equivalent training and experience, and performed in the occupational specialty, and is a member of the military, this applicant is acceptable for certification. The applicant must meet other requirements as listed in the law. The applicant is eligible to take the Board's equivalency test, if the applicant passes the test, certification will be issued. If the applicant doesn't pass the test, then the applicant must complete the refresher course.

Military law enforcement trained applicants no longer in the military must submit a comparison of their military training with the basic course for the Board to determine if their training is equivalent. If the training is deemed equivalent, the applicant may take the Board's equivalency test, if the applicant doesn't pass the test, the applicant must complete the refresher course.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss Proposed Changes to Training Requirement for Break in Service:

The staff presented a proposal to the Board with the intent to approve changes to the break in service policy. This change would remove the law course requirements for officers out over 2 years, but less than 5 years. It also allows officers with closely related jobs, or out of state/federal employment to return to MS law enforcement without training if the break is less than 5 years.

Officers, certified in this state, who have had basic as in Chapter 9, Rule 9.2, Subsection-C and meet the employment guidelines, with a break in service of more than two (2) years, are required to complete the hands-on skill tests ~~and law courses~~ of the refresher course and provide verification of First Aid/CPR certification to restore their certification. The skill tests ~~and law courses~~ must be completed within one year for full-time status and two years for part-time status of their date of hire. The skill tests must be conducted by a certified instructor or at a Board accredited academy. ~~The law courses must be conducted at a Board accredited academy.~~

Any officer, certified in this state, ~~whose~~ with a break in service was of five years or more due to service in a closely related criminal justice position may restore their certification by completing the hands-on skill tests and law courses of the refresher course. Once an officer has been deemed eligible for the skill tests and law courses, the department head will be notified by the Board.

Any officer, certified in this state, ~~whose~~ with a break in service was of five years or more due to serving as a law enforcement officer in another state or federal jurisdiction may restore their certification. Eligible officers need only complete the hands-on skill tests and law courses of the refresher course and provide verification of First Aid/CPR certification within one year for full-time status and two years for part-time status of their date of hire. The skill tests must be conducted by a certified instructor or at a Board accredited academy. The law courses must be conducted at a Board accredited academy

Sheriff Johnson made a motion with the intent to adopt the proposed changes, seconded by Chief Quaka. The motion passed without opposition.

Discuss Proposed Changes to Active Shooter Goals and Objectives:

Experts in the field of Active Shooter updated the Active Shooter Goals and Objectives. The objectives clearly state in these updates that the training utilize reality-based scenarios (force on force practicals). The staff recommended that these changes be adopted.

Identify and demonstrate ~~basic~~ tactics for dynamic looking threshold evaluation into a room prior to room entry.

Identify and demonstrate basic tactics of dynamic room entry.

Identify and demonstrate concepts and principles of team movement.

~~Identify proper stairwell and hallway entry, search, and clearance tactics.~~

Identify proper flashlight ~~and drawn gun search~~ techniques.

Identify and demonstrate proper room, stairwell and hallway entry, and clearance tactics, including with flashlight and drawn gun.

Identify and demonstrate techniques to systematically search and clear the location interior of an active attack shooter scene for suspect(s) and evidence of a crime.

~~Identify desirable information to determine identification and location of suspect(s) if none are located at the scene.~~ ways to obtain information regarding location of suspect(s).

Identify need to quickly advise the dispatcher and other first responders of disposition and other relevant information.

Demonstrate a proper search of a building and/or dwelling in a simulated situation utilizing reality-based scenarios; i.e., Force on Force practicals.

Determine what is a driving force and the appropriate response to that driving force.

~~Identify the need when talking to suspects and/or suspicious persons, to maintain proper stance and distance.~~

Describe and demonstrate the proper utilization of “cover and contact” during the approach and interview of suspicious person/suspect.

~~Discuss the safety tactics utilized in suspect contacts (i.e. identification of police, cover, and concealment).~~

~~Discuss the 1 + 1 rule with suspects and weapons.~~

Identify and demonstrate basic life saving measures; i.e, stop the bleed, tourniquet use, CPR.

Identify and demonstrate responsibilities of an officer and other responding officers who ~~discovers, or is first to~~ respond to an active attack event scene which requires a relocation and identification of witnesses and victims; conduct initial interviews; complete field notes; identify needed back-up units, such as medical, supervisor; protect scene from contamination/destruction.

Mississippi Homeland Security will provide all academies with equipment and instructors.

The Vice-Chair entertained a motion. Deputy Harris made a motion to approve the changes, seconded by Chief Brown. The motion passed without opposition.

It was mentioned the importance of training using simulated weapons. There have been a number of accidents in the past with live ammunition.

Certification of Officers:

Director Davis presented 3 full-time academy classes and 2 part-time academy classes for certification pending completion of all requirements.

Forty-four full-time and eleven part-time equivalency of training candidates were presented for certification pending completion of all requirements. The Vice-Chair entertained a motion. Mr. McKay made a motion to approve the full-time classes, the part-time classes, and the equivalency candidates for certification subject to meeting all requirements. Chief Rice seconded the motion. The motion was adopted without opposition.

Director's Report:

The Director reported that the staff is having to deal with so many unconventional high school diplomas that it has become difficult to determine what diplomas meet the Board's requirements. It was requested that members consider ways to address this problem. The Standards and Training office along with the entire Public Safety Planning division is moving to a location in Canton during December.

Certification Review Hearing for Officer Don E. Walker:

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training (BLEOST) received a "Full-Time Law Enforcement Application for Certification" from the Sunflower County Consolidated School District. The District hired Officer Walker as a law enforcement officer on 10-26-22. Based on information in his certification file, the Board's staff has determined that he is not eligible for certification. Officer Walker requested this certification review hearing.

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training (BLEOST) has been provided information that he was charged with 2 counts of Extortion while serving as a police chief in Mississippi. The record states that he was indicted by the Grand Jury of Bolivar County and in the Circuit Court of Bolivar County on January 5, 2006, he entered a plea of guilty to the indictment, and he was adjudicated guilty in both counts. He was declared not eligible by the staff because he pled guilty, was fined, and ordered into probation in relation to a felony that is directly related to the duties and responsibilities of a law enforcement officer. His conduct violated the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and greatly diminishes the public trust in the competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer. According to the record, he was certified by the BLEOST as a law enforcement officer, certificate number 8929.

Mr. Davis presented as evidence a 25-page document taken from Officer Walker's file. He was indicted for collecting \$300.00 under color of office in order to not file in the City Court of Shaw, a DUI charge and no drivers license charge. In a second indictment, he was accused collecting \$300.00 under color of office in order to not file in the City Court of Shaw, a DUI charge, reckless driving charge, and failure to yield to blue lights citation. He served as the Chief of Police of

Shaw. He plead guilty to the two counts and was sentenced. At a later date, he requested an expungement, but this request was denied by the court.

Officer Walker explained his actions to the Board and had other witnesses testify on his behalf. He asked the Board to activate his certification and allow him to serve as a law enforcement officer.

The Vice-Chair entertained a motion. Mr. McKay made a motion to go into closed session to consider whether to declare an executive session, Chief Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Ten members were present. DA Coleman was not able to stay for the hearing. Mr. 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. Col. Ginn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

The Vice-Chair announced that after deliberations in executive session the Board voted 10-0 to cancel certificate number 8929 in the name of Don E. Walker. Clear and convincing evidence was placed before the Board that Don E. Walker committed actions that violated the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, and that these actions would greatly diminish the public trust in his competence and reliability as a law enforcement officer, that he pled guilty to a crime directly related to the duties and responsibilities of a law enforcement officer and was fined and ordered into probation in relation to a felony.

Certification Review Hearing for Officer Larry Shaw III:

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training (BLEOST) received a “Full-Time Law Enforcement Application for Certification” from the Jackson Public School Campus Police. This agency hired Officer Shaw as a law enforcement officer on 9-29-22. Based on information in his certification file, the Board’s staff has determined that he is not eligible for certification. Officer Shaw requested this certification review hearing.

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training (BLEOST) has been provided information that he was dismissed from the Greenwood Police Department for embezzlement by utilizing the department’s fuel card for his own personal use. He admitted that he misused the department’s fuel card stating that he was having financial issues. Greenwood discovered 19 unauthorized gas transactions, totaling \$772.98 from 8/9/21 through 11/6/21. Information was provided that he was charged with Embezzlement and in Greenwood Municipal Court he pled guilty and was found guilty as charged on 6/8/22. He was fined \$300.00. He was sentenced to 30 day that were suspended. He was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$772.98 by August 31, 2022. On the “Application for Certification” from the Jackson Public School Campus Police, he answered that he had not been charged with a crime and had not been found guilty or pled guilty to a crime. The Board reserves the right to reprimand, suspend or cancel and recall any certificate when the certificate was obtained through misrepresentation or fraud; when the holder has committed an act of malfeasance or has been dismissed from his employing law enforcement

agency; when the holder has been convicted, pled guilty, fined, 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; or other due cause as determined by the Board. His conduct violated the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and greatly diminishes the public trust in the competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer. According to the record, he was certified by the BLEOST as a law enforcement officer on October 8, 2020, certificate number 27406.

Mr. Davis presented a 32-page document taken from Officer Shaw's file to back up the allegations.

Officer Shaw asked the Board for a second chance because law enforcement is what he always wanted to do. Commander Greene of the JPS Campus Police testified on his behalf.

The Vice-Chair entertained a motion. Mr. McKay made a motion to go into closed session to consider whether to declare an executive session, Chief Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Ten members were present. DA Coleman was not able to stay for the hearing. Sheriff Johnson 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. Mr. McKay seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

The Vice-Chair announced that after deliberations in executive session the Board voted 10-0 to cancel certificate number 27406 in the name of Larry Shaw III. Clear and convincing evidence was placed before the Board that Larry Shaw III committed actions that violated the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, and that these actions would greatly diminish the public trust in his competence and reliability as a law enforcement officer, that he was dismissed by his law enforcement agency for these actions, that he pled guilty to a crime directly related to the duties and responsibilities of a law enforcement officer and was fined.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2023.

Concluding Remarks; Adjournment:

The Vice-Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Director, Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training