

**MINUTES**

**BLEOST MEETING**  
**November 18, 2021**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Vice-Chairman Brad Carter.

**Roll Call:**

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

Officer Brad Carter  
Col. Randy Ginn  
Chief Michael Hall  
Sheriff Jim Johnson  
Dr. Steve Mallory  
Constable Glenn McKay  
Chief Vance Rice  
Mr. Windy Swetman

Hon. Candice Rucker, Board Counsel

**Board members not present were:**

Hon. Kassie Coleman  
Chief Don Gammage  
Sheriff Greg Pollan  
Mayor Gary Rhoads  
Hon. Ed Snyder

**Introduction of Guests, Introductory Remarks:**

The guests introduced themselves and they were welcomed.

**Speakers/Guests present were:**

Lt. S. Richardson, Hattiesburg P.D.  
Officer Fredrick Gordon – Noxubee Co. School District  
Chief Deputy Brent Swan – Lowndes Co. S.O.  
Sheriff Eddie Hawkins – Lowndes Co. S.O.  
Chief SRO Patrick Hopkins - Noxubee Co. School District  
Officer Eric Maye – Moss Point P.D.  
Captain John Bishop – Monroe County S.O.  
Major Billy Richey – Monroe County S.O.  
Director Chuck Jenkins – Lafayette Co. LEOTA  
Mayor Earlie Henley Jr. – Brooksville  
Hon. Jordan McMichael – DPS Attorney  
Deputy Melisa Kelland – Jones Co. S.O.

Director Eddy Ingram – Jones Co. S.O.  
Deputy Chief Tyrone Buckley – Jackson P.D.  
Director Alfred Cooper – Jackson P.D.

**Staff Members Present were:**

Bureau Director Robert Davis  
Division Director Bob Morgan  
Training Director, Michael Nash  
Certification Officer Donna Rogers  
Certification Officer Bebea Boney

**Approval of Minutes:**

A copy of the minutes from the September 23, 2021, meeting was emailed to each member. Sheriff Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Constable McKay seconded the motion. The motion carried without opposition.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**In-Service Training – Request for Approval:**

1. Report Writing, Evidence Collection/Crime Scene Analysis, Case File Preparation/Trial Preparation, and Courtroom Testimony; 5 hours; District Attorney – Fourth District
2. Shift from Drug War to Drug Health; 6.5 hours; MS Public Health Institute
3. Field Training Officer, Supervisor/Instructor Development; 90 hours: Amory Police Department

The Chair entertained a motion for approval. Constable McKay made a motion to approve the training. Dr. Mallory seconded the motion, and it was approved by unanimous consent.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Discuss Request from the MS State Hospital Concerning Officers in Default of their Educational Leave Obligations to the Department of Mental Health:**

MS Code Ann. § 41-4-23 states “Failure to meet repayment obligations may result in revocation of law enforcement certification in the same manner provided in Section 37-101-291, which states in part, “Failure to meet the terms of an educational loan contract shall be grounds for revocation of the professional license which was earned through the paid educational leave compensation granted under this section.”

The State Hospital loses officers that they have trained to higher paying law enforcement agencies. The Hospital requests that the Board apply these statutes, when their officers violate the terms of their contract by finding that officers that default on their agreements be considered as having unprofessional conduct and therefore issue a revocation of the officer’s certification.

The Board discussed this issue and Sheriff Johnson made a motion to table this matter in order to hear from the State Hospital so questions could be answered. Col. Ginn seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

**Presentation and Vote to Accredite the Following Part-Time Academies: Monroe County Sheriff's Department Law Enforcement Training Academy; Lowndes County Sheriff's Department – Golden Triangle Regional Training Academy, and Southaven Police Department Training Academy:**

Training Director Michael Nash addressed the Board and provided his findings after the inspection of the necessary application and paperwork from the three requests and after the physical inspection of their facilities. He recommended that the Board approve the accreditation of these three facilities. After discussion, Sheriff Johnson made a motion and Constable McKay seconded the motion to approve the Monroe County facility. Dr. Mallory made a motion and Chief Rice seconded the motion to approve the Lowndes Co. facility. Chief Hall made a motion and Sheriff Johnson seconded the motion to approve the Southaven facility. All three motions were approved without opposition.

**Certification Review Hearing for Officer Eric E. Maye:**

**On March 14, 2019, the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training cancelled Officer Maye's law enforcement certificate. It has now been over two years since this cancellation, and he is eligible to reapply for certification. Chief Brandon Ashley with the Moss Point Police Department has made application for Officer Maye's certification and is requesting that he be allowed to work as a law enforcement officer with his police department.**

**Documents were presented to the Board that provided information that Officer Maye engaged in conduct or actions that would breach the established minimum standards, violate 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 was certified by the BLEOST as a law enforcement officer, certificate number 25096. While he was employed as an officer with the Gautier Police Department, an investigation by this police department revealed that he made sixteen (16) unlawful purchases of fuel using the city owned Fuelman card totaling the amount of \$624.23. These purchases were made at nine (9) locations within Gautier, Ocean Springs, D'Iberville and Biloxi. Thirteen (13) of the purchases were made while he was off duty, and two (2) were made within hours after fueling up a patrol unit. All purchases made lawfully for the patrol unit were made using regular unleaded gas, while the sixteen (16) unlawful purchases were made using premium gas. Video footage of three (3) transactions clearly show him purchasing fuel for his personally owned Dodge Charger while using the City of Gautier owned Fuelman card. He was terminated from the Gautier Police Department. He admitted to making the unlawful transactions and paid the amount of \$624.23 to the City of Gautier.**

**Officer Maye told the Board that he has been working at Ingalls Shipbuilders for the past two years and has just completed basic training in the military reserves. He said all of his**

problems are behind him and he wants a second chance to return to a law enforcement career.

The Vice-Chair entertained a motion and Sheriff Johnson made a motion to go into closed session to consider the information presented. Constable McKay seconded the motion and it passed without opposition. In closed session, Constable McKay made a motion to enter into Executive Session and Dr. Mallory seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. After deliberating in Executive Session, Sheriff Johnson made a motion to come out of Executive Session, Chief Rice seconded the motion, and it passed without opposition.

The Vice-Chair announced that in Executive Session the Board voted unanimously to declare that Eric Eugene Maye was eligible for certification without any conditions taken against his certification. He will need to complete the Skills Updates and Law Course since he has had a break in service.

#### **Certification Review Hearing for Officer Fredrick Gordon:**

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training received an application from the Noxubee County School District requesting Officer Gordon's law enforcement certification. On July 14, 2016, the Board cancelled his certification. The law allows him to reapply for certification after two years from the date of the final order of the Board.

Documents were presented to the Board that provided information that Officer Gordon engaged in conduct that would breach the established minimum standards, violate the law enforcement code of ethics, and would diminish the public trust in his competence and reliability. According to the record, he did not disclose to the Board all of his prior arrests when he applied for certification in 1996, therefore the certification was obtained through misrepresentation. In 1984, he was charged in Texas with aggravated assault (using a deadly weapon), a felony, which was reduced to a class A misdemeanor, and he pled guilty; in 1987, he was charged in Texas with attempted murder (using a deadly weapon), a felony, which was reduced to aggravated assault, a felony and he pled guilty.

Officer Gordon stated that his wife brought the aggravated assault charge against him, she tried to drop the charges, but was not allowed to or face charges, so he pled guilty even though he did not assault her. He said that he did shoot his boss because he jumped on him and was assaulting him. He said he had to defend himself. He said that his ex-wife and he are friends now. He is sorry for what happened in the past. He said he was sorry about the application; he didn't read all of it and answered what he saw and didn't purposely falsify the application. Chief Patrick Hopkins of the School District stated that Officer Gordon has done a good job and he would like for him to be a law enforcement officer at the school. Mayor Earlie Henley of Brooksville stated that he would hire Officer Gordon as a police officer if the Board granted him his certificate.

The Vice-Chair entertained a motion to go into closed session to consider going into Executive Session. Chief Rice made a motion to enter into closed session. Col. Ginn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Constable McKay made a motion to enter into

**Executive Session to consider the presented information. Sheriff Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. After deliberating in Executive Session, Mr. Swetman made a motion to come out of Executive Session, Dr. Mallory seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

**After deliberation in Executive Session, the Board determined that clear and convincing evidence was placed before the Board to show that Fredrick Gordon was arrested and entered guilty pleas and this information was not provided to the Board at the time of his application for initial certification.**

**The Board made the finding that he engaged in conduct that: constituted a felony offense which resulted in judicial non-adjudication; breached the established minimum standards; violated the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, and greatly diminished the public trust in his competence and reliability as a law enforcement officer and that his certificate was obtained through misrepresentation. The Board voted unanimously to uphold the previous decision on July 14, 2016, based on the previous stated reasons to deny the certification. This action is effective on November 18, 2021.**

**Certification of Officers:**

Director Davis presented 1 F/T Basic class and 1 P/T Basic class for certification pending completion of all requirements. There are 30 F/T equivalency candidates and 11 P/T equivalency candidates for certification pending completion of all requirements. The Chair entertained a motion. Sheriff Johnson made a motion to approve the basic and equivalency candidates for certification subject to meeting all requirements and Chief Rice seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

**Director's Report:**

The director stated that the AG's opinion on the Board's questions concerning the new laws that were discussed has not been handed down yet.

**Next Scheduled Meeting:**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2022.

**Concluding Remarks; Adjournment:**

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn. Chief Rice made a motion to adjourn. Col. Ginn seconded the motion and it passed without opposition. The meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Director, Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training