



AGENDA

STATE POLICE COMMISSION GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024 10:00 A.M.

JEFF LANDRY
GOVERNOR

JASON HANNAMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE POLICE COMMISSION, VETERANS MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM, SUITE 1247,
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY BLDG., 5825 FLORIDA BLVD., BATON ROUGE, LA 70806

Chairman Simien welcomed new Commissioner Ross Bourgeois.

I. Call to Order

The State Police Commission convened its monthly general business meeting at 10:07 A.M. on Thursday, February 8, 2024.

II. Roll Call

Present were Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr., Vice-Chairman Monty Montelongo, Commissioners Mark "Aubrey" Cole, Tony Pierite, Ross Bourgeois, Jared Caruso-Riecke, and Oliver Jenkins. There was a quorum. Additionally, Commission Referee Lenore Feeney, Deputy Director Aarika Dorsey, and Executive Director Jason Hannaman were present.

III. Moment of Silence

Chairman Simien shared his condolences on the passing of State Police Lieutenant Amanda Fournier, a 22-year veteran of the Office of State Police.

A moment of silence was observed.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Simien led the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. Opportunity to Address the Commission by employees or others concerning items on the agenda. (Please submit a speaker request form prior to the meeting being called to order.)
There were no requests by employees or others to address the Commission on matters on the agenda.

VI. Business

1. Consideration of the meeting minutes from January 11, 2024.

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Montelongo, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to adopt the meeting minutes from January 11, 2024.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstained: Commissioner Bourgeois

2. Request of the Office of State Police to reinstate leave for Lt. John Clary in accordance with the provisions of State Police Commission Rule 11.30.
Attorney Jason Hessick appeared on behalf of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police. Attorney Kyle Green appeared on behalf of the appellant, Lieutenant John Clary.

- Executive Session regarding allegations of misconduct.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to go into Executive Session to discuss issues regarding allegations of misconduct at 10:11 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Commissioners Riecke, Cole, Jenkins, Pierite, Bourgeois, Vice-Chairman Montelongo, and Chairman Simien.

Opposed: None

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to end Executive Session to discuss issues regarding allegations of misconduct at 10:19 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Commissioners Riecke, Cole, Jenkins, Pierite, Bourgeois, Vice-Chairman Montelongo, and Chairman Simien.

Opposed: None

- Public discussion and possible vote.

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Montelongo, seconded, and unanimously passed; the commissioners voted to accept the request of the Appointing Authority pursuant to Rule 11.30 to restore the leave taken by Lt. John Clary in the following amounts:

Payable compensatory time: 6 hours,

Straight compensatory time: 160 hours, and

Annual leave: 1,571.2 hours.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

3. In accordance with State Police Commission Rule 13.22, consideration of the Amicable Settlement of Appeals submitted by the parties in the matters of Russell Brue (Docket 23-270-T), Daniel Cedars (Docket 23-271-S), and Keith Bergeron (Docket 23-272-S).

- Discussion of proposed settlement agreements and presentations by the parties.

Attorney Jason Hessick appeared on behalf of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police. Attorney Floyd Falcon appeared on behalf of the appellant, Daniel Cedars. Attorney Jeff Keating appeared on behalf of the appellant, Keith Bergeron.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to move the matter of consideration of the amicable settlement for the appeal submitted by Russell Brue (Docket No. 23-270-T) to be continued to the March hearing date.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

The discussion of proposed settlement agreements continued in the matters of Daniel Cedars (Docket 23-271-S) and Keith Bergeron (Docket 23-272-S).

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Montelongo, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to defer their decision to go into Executive Session until after the department presented agenda item #4.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

After the Executive Session was held following the submission of agenda item #4, the Commission returned to agenda item #3 to consider the proposed settlement of appeals in the matters of Daniel Cedars (Docket 23-271-S) and Keith Bergeron (Docket 23-272-S).

- Consideration and vote on whether to accept the proposed amicable settlement of appeals presented by the parties:
 - In the matter of Daniel Cedars (Docket 23-271-S)

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to approve the joint settlement as presented.

In Favor: All
Opposed: None
 - In the matter of Keith Bergeron (Docket 23-272-S)

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to approve the joint settlement as presented.

In Favor: All
Opposed: None
- 4. Consideration of a request from the Office of State Police, in accordance with SPC Rule 12.5, to place Senior Trooper Nicholas Gee on suspension without pay pending criminal proceedings until the resolution of the criminal charges, or there is no longer a need for the suspension. (Representative of the agency to be available to answer any questions of the Commission.)
 - Opportunity to Respond.

Attorney Jason Hessick appeared on behalf of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police. Attorney Floyd Falcon appeared on behalf of the appellant, Senior Trooper Nicholas Gee.

- Executive Session to discuss investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commissioners voted to go into Executive Session for agenda items #3 and #4 at 10:41 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Commissioners Riecke, Cole, Jenkins, Pierite, Bourgeois, Vice-Chairman Montelongo, and Chairman Simien

Opposed: None

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commissioners voted to end Executive Session for agenda items #3 and #4 at 11:07 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Commissioners Riecke, Cole, Jenkins, Pierite, Bourgeois, Vice-Chairman Montelongo, and Chairman Simien

Opposed: None

- Public discussion and possible vote.

Commissioner Bourgeois moved to approve the suspension but allow Senior Trooper Nicholas Gee to use his accrued leave until it is exhausted; however, should Trooper Gee exhaust his leave prior to the next meeting, he would be placed on administrative leave with pay, pursuant to Rule 12.5(d). The motion was seconded.

In discussion, Chairman Simien informed the Office of State Police that the commissioners do not have the information necessary to decide to place Trooper Gee on leave without pay. He invited the department to return in March and provide the Commission with a basis for the request other than there being a pending investigation.

The Commission voted to approve Commissioner Bourgeois' motion.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

5. Public hearing to consider proposed changes to the State Police Major minimum qualifications as detailed in General Circular No. 235.

- Public Comments

Colonel Robert Hodges, State Police Superintendent, appeared on behalf of the Office of State Police. He discussed the proposed rule changes to the minimum qualifications for the State Police Major. Public comments were submitted in support of and opposition to the rule change. Executive Director Jason Hannaman read all comments into the record.

- Consideration of Proposed Changes

On motion duly made by Commissioner Montelongo, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to approve rule changes as stated in General Circular No. 235.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

VII. Director's Report

The attention of the Commission was directed to the Commission's Monthly Expenditure Report that had been provided for its review. There were no questions regarding the report.

The Executive Director advised the commissioners that he was finalizing the announcement for the May promotional exam. The exam will be a mandatory retest for state troopers. The announcement will be published next week, and a department-wide email will be sent to notify all troopers of the mandatory retest.

Lastly, the next Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. There were no further questions regarding the report.

VIII. Opportunity to Address the Commission by employees or others on matters not on the agenda. (Please submit a speaker request form prior to the meeting being called to order.)

A request was received from Mr. Robert Burns of Sound Off Louisiana to speak to the Commission regarding a letter sent by the Commission in response to a campaign billboard for the interim District Attorney in St. Tammany Parish.

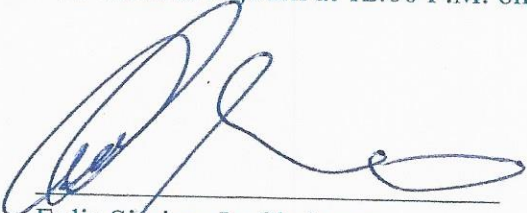
A request was received from Mr. Billy Broussard; he offered suggestions to improve how individuals are charged by district attorneys and within the Office of State Police.

IX. Adjourn

There being no further business on a motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Montelongo, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to adjourn at 12:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 8, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jason Hannaman, Executive Director


Eulis Simien, Jr. Chairman