

MINUTES
STATE POLICE COMMISSION
June 21, 2012

The State Police Commission convened its monthly meeting at 9:20 A.M. on Thursday, June 21, 2012 in Classroom 5, State Police Training Academy, Building A, 7901 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Present were Chairman Mark Oxley, Co-Chairman Jason Turner, Members Freddie Pitcher, Franklin Kyle, and William Norfolk, Attorney. Joe Cage and William Goldring were absent.

On motion duly made and seconded by unanimous vote of the Members present, the Commission voted to approve the Minutes from the March 15, 2012 meeting.

There were no employees present for the Employee Opportunity to Address the Commission.

Colonel Mike Edmonson, Superintendent of State Police, addressed the Commission. Colonel Edmonson stated that he had attended a meeting with the Governor's office in which he reiterated the importance of filling the vacancy on the State Police Commission as soon as possible. He stated that there was currently a search underway in the 3rd Congressional District. Colonel Edmonson stated that he understood that not having a seventh Commission member put a burden on the Commission as far as ensuring a quorum be present for all meetings and hearings. He urged the Commission to submit a letter to the Governor's Office urging them to fill the vacancy.

Colonel Edmonson reported that his administration was visiting with troopers across Louisiana to discuss the 2012 Legislative session and the current state of the department's budget. He is also addressing his concern over the increase in the number of Internal Affairs cases in which troopers are not being truthful. Colonel Edmonson stressed the importance of honesty while wearing the badge and that the badge is discolored, defaced and lessened when a trooper is less than honest while wearing it. For public trust in Louisiana State Police to be compromised would be disastrous. Chairman Mark Oxley commended Colonel Edmonson for addressing this issue.

Colonel Edmonson reported that he would be attending a meeting later in the day to discuss the possibility of having a small 2012 Academy. This would be a joint venture

with Wildlife and Fisheries. There is currently a list of eligible applicants who have completed the vetting process. Colonel Edmonson stated that would be the list used to hire for the upcoming Academy. To vet a list cost approximately \$350,000 and the Department does not have the funds to vet new applicants. There are currently 30 funded positions and money remaining in the budget. The last class graduated in February 2009. The current number of troopers is below 950 with approximately 28 eligible to retire at this time. Filling the 30 funded positions would help replace troopers lost through attrition. Colonel Edmonson stated that he believed that there was a good pool of available candidates currently employed by Department of Public Safety .It would be his recommendation that DPS employees in good standing be allowed to be interviewed and places on the eligibility list without having to take the cadet test. There are approximately 130 officers with DPS who meet these criteria. Chairman Mark Oxley stated that the Commission would take this under advisement.

Under consideration of Revision of State Police Commission Rule 11.34 Crisis Leave Pool, Lieutenant Rodney Hyatt represented the Department. He stated that during the past legislative session House Bill 698 which was signed into law by Governor Jindal as Act 590 allowed compensatory leave to be donated to the crisis leave pool. In the past only sick and annual leave for able o be donated. The Department is therefore requesting a rule change that would allow compensatory leave to be used. David Young, Director of Louisiana State Troopers Association stated that LSTA fully endorses the addition of compensatory leave to the crisis leave pool. He stated that this should help increase the size of hours available in the pool as more troopers will now be eligible to donate.

Under Commission Business, Attorney Bill Norfolk voiced his concern over security at the State Police Commission location. He stated that the office should only be accessible by Commission staff.

David Young, Director of Louisiana State Troopers Association, presented a letter to the board addressing LSTA's concern in regards to the Commission being residents on the Louisiana State Police compound. The Commission was created to be an independent authority over State Police services and this location does not offer the appearance of independence that should exist. LSTA acknowledged that there were advantages to both commissioned officers and the administration for the Commission office to be located so

close to headquarters, yet they do not believe that this convenience factor outweighs the importance of the appearance of complete impartiality. Mr. Young stated that in recent years the Commission, the Appointing Authority and the Association have been able to work together in a cooperative spirit to improve the quality and performance of Louisiana State Police. However, this may not always be the case. LSTA urged the Commission to consider their position in future discussions of office requirements.

Chairman Mark Oxley stated that the Commission respected the opinions of LSTA and attached great significance to their opinions due to the fact that their members are the commissioned officers that we represent. Chairman Oxley provided a brief history of the move to the other Commission members. He stated that when the Commission had to vacate the condemned offices at the Wooddale locations the former Deputy Director had qualms about relocating on the State Police compound. Attorney Bill Norfolk also voiced reservations about the perception of such a move. However, the Commission accepted the Department's offer to locate in the Training Academy building due to the convenience it would provide to both troopers and to the Administration. Chairman Oxley stated that the Commission had been located on the compound for three years and had received no complaints about the location. This recent move was to the Office of Management and Finance and OMV, which is another building on the compound. Both Director Cathy Derbonne and Attorney Bill Norfolk expressed multiple concerns over the move, however, Chairman Oxley felt that there would be no problem due to the fact that the Commission was already located on the compound. He felt that all concerns of security and the perception such a move would send had been addressed and, after consulting with Vice Chairman Jason Turner, decided to move forward with the relocation. However, in light of LSTA's objections, Chairman Oxley stated that he was willing to put the matter before the board.

Member Franklin Kyle reiterated that if the role of the Commission was to represent troopers, it was imperative that we listen to their concerns and address them. He asked David Young to further discuss his concerns. David Young stated that there should be separation of the Commission and the Department due to the perception it sends to troopers. There has been a past history of contention between the Commission, the Appointing Authority and the Association. While there is a positive working relationship

at this time, Mr. Young acknowledged that it may not always be as such and wants to ensure that there is no overlap. Vice Chairman Jason Turner stated that if and when a problem arises relocation can be discussed further. He stated that he felt strongly that the Commission had effectively demonstrated its independence from the Department. Member Freddie Pitchers stated that while perception can create a lack of trust, he also believes that the Commission has demonstrated by its recent rulings that it is a separate entity. However, he understands that troopers may not share this view.

Director Cathy Derbonne stated that by not entering into a lease with Department of Public Safety for the new location the Commission runs the risk of having the legislature taking away the lease money. This will create a problem in the future when the Commission may have to relocate off the compound and does not have the budget authority to do so. Jamie McLendon, budget analysis with Department of Administration stated that we will lose the money at the end of the fiscal year if it is not used and the money will not be given back. Chairman Oxley recommended paying the Department full rent to ensure not losing the money.

Colonel Mike Edmonson stated that it was the decision of the Commission to decide where to be located. The Administration made the offer of office space to ensure that Commission staff had what they needed in order to be effective and to have space that was conducive to do their jobs. He stated that the Department will support any decision that the Commission makes.

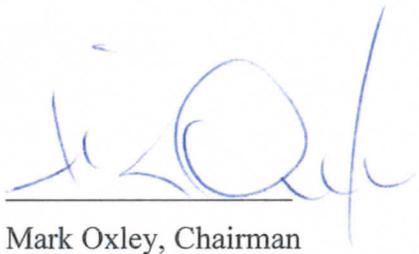
Under Commission Business, Attorney Bill Norfolk stated that there were currently seven appeals pending. He felt that several would possibly enter into settlement agreements. Dates in August and October were discussed as future hearing dates.

Chairman Mark Oxley reported that a meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 26 with Helen Wise, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology at Louisiana State University at Shreveport, to discuss grades from the 2012 Promotional Examinations. Grades should be mailed to troopers at the end of the week. The meeting with LSUS will address problems with this testing cycle such as the length of time to grade tests, the late date in submitting the final test to the Commission, not using scantrons, etc.

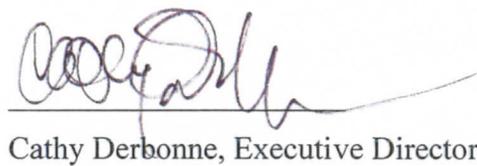
Then Commission entered into Executive Session to discuss other matters.

At the Conclusion of the Commission's agenda, on motion duly made and seconded, by unanimous vote of the members present, the Commission voted to adjourn its meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Mark Oxley, Chairman



Cathy Derbonne, Executive Director