



AGENDA

LOUISIANA STATE POLICE COMMISSION
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021
10:00 A.M.

John Bel Edwards
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*

NOTE: In response to COVID-19, face coverings and adherence to social distancing are required for anyone entering the LDAF building and Veteran's Memorial Auditorium for meetings.

Executive Session will be held in the Veteran's Memorial Auditorium. Upon the acceptance of a motion to enter into Executive Session, members of the general public shall exit the auditorium to the building atrium until notice is given that the commission is ready to be called back into regular session.

- I. Call to Order
The State Police Commission convened its monthly general business meeting at 10:05 A.M. on Thursday, April 8, 2021.
- II. Roll Call
Present were Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr., and Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, Commissioners Leonard Knapp, Jr., Robert Mire, Sabrina Richardson, and Jared Caruso-Riecke. Absent was Commissioner Harold Pierite, Sr. There was a quorum. Additionally, Commission Referee Lenore Feeny and Executive Director Jason Hannaman were present.
- III. Moment of Silence
A moment of silence was observed.
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance
Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr. 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.)
Belinda Parker-Brown appeared on behalf of Louisiana United International. She spoke on police accountability for State Police Troopers.

VI. Business

1. Consideration of the meeting minutes from March 11, 2021.
On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to adopt the meeting minutes from March 11, 2021.
2. Consideration of a request from the Office of State Police, in accordance with SPC Rule 12.5, to place Trooper Dakota DeMoss on suspension without pay pending criminal proceedings until the resolution of these 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.)
Attorney Michele Giroir and Lt. Colonel Doug Cain appeared on behalf of the Department of Public Safety (DPS), Office of State Police. Attorney Michael DuBos appeared on the behalf of appellant Trooper Dakota DeMoss.

Without opposition from either party, the Commission considered business agenda items #2 and #3 at the same time.

DPS Attorney Michele Giroir submitted a correction for the record: The letter submitted to the Commission stated that they (Troopers DeMoss and Harper) were placed on administrative leave pending investigation upon their arrest on February 8, 2021; however, they received notice on January 22, 2021, that they were being placed on administrative leave pending investigation. Due to their duty schedules, because it is based on working hours, the first hour of administrative leave used was on January 25th, 2021. The expiration of 400 hours of paid administrative leave under SPC Rule 12.4 will occur on or about April 12, 2021; therefore, the agency is requesting that they be placed on suspension without pay pending criminal proceeding upon the exhaustion of that administrative leave.

Mr. Michael DuBos asked that the Commission permit Troopers DeMoss and Harper the use of their accumulated paid leave in keeping with previous decisions of the Commission. Mr. DuBos stated that Troopers DeMoss and Harper have not been found guilty of any crime and still enjoy presumptions of innocence; they've earned that time and should be entitled to use it.

Ms. Michele Giroir advised that the department does not object to the request.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Mire, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to approve the request of the department with the provision that Troopers DeMoss and Harper be allowed to use their accrued 1.5 K-time and K-time following the 400 hours of administrative leave, and upon exhaustion of their paid leave they shall be suspended without pay.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

3. Consideration of a request from the Office of State Police, in accordance with SPC Rule 12.5, to place Trooper George Harper on suspension without pay pending criminal proceedings until the resolution of these 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.)

Attorney Michele Giroir and Lt. Colonel Doug Cain appeared on behalf of the Department of Public Safety (DPS), Office of State Police. Attorney Michael DuBos appeared on the behalf of appellant Trooper George Harper.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Mire, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to approve the request of the department with the provision that Troopers DeMoss and Harper be allowed to use their accrued 1.5 K-time and K-time following the 400 hours of administrative leave, and upon exhaustion of their paid leave they shall be suspended without pay.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

4. Consideration of a request from the Office of State Police for reinstatement of 3,208.16 hours of sick leave for State Police Master Trooper Karla Billiot per SPC Rule 11.21.1. (Representative of the agency to be available to answer any questions of the Commission.)

LSP Lt. Colonel Doug Cain appeared on the behalf of the Department of Public Safety, Office of State Police, and advised the department's support for the request.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Richardson, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to approve a request from the Office of State Police for reinstatement of 3,208.16 hours of sick leave for State Police Master Trooper Karla Billiot.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

5. Consideration of a possible extension to Chapter 21 - Emergency Rules that are set to expire on April 15, 2021.

During discussion of the agenda item, Vice-Chairman Crawford advised that the Commission was not suspending or repealing any provision that had been previously adopted for the protection of the troopers regarding the coronavirus pandemic. The Chapter 21 rules expiring on April 15th have been incorporated into permanent rules and the rules being extended have not yet been incorporated into the permanent rules of the Commission and will be considered at a later time. Chairman Simien echoed the sentiments of the vice-chairman.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to allow the provisions of Chapter 21 to expire except for Chapter 21 rules 21.1b, 21.2.1, and 21.10 which will extend through August 15, 2021.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

6. Consideration of pending litigation in the matter of LSTA, et al v. State Police Commission, et al, 19th Judicial District Court, Docket No.: C-672676

- Executive Session regarding discussion of pending litigation

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to enter Executive Session at 10:20 A.M. to discuss the consideration of pending litigation in the matter of LSTA, et al v. State Police Commission, et al 19th Judicial District Court, Docket No.: C-672676.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, Leonard Knapp, Jr. Sabrina Richardson, Jared Caruso-Riecke, and Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr.

Opposed: None

Recused: Robert Mire

Commissioner Mire excused himself from the meeting room during the Executive Session.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and unanimously passed, the Commission voted to end Executive Session at 10:37 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, Leonard Knapp, Jr. Sabrina Richardson, Jared Caruso-Riecke, and Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr.

Opposed: None

Recused: Robert Mire

- Public discussion and possible vote
None

VII. Director's Report

Commission Expenditures

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.

Promotional Exam

The Commission was advised that the computer-based format will be available for the upcoming May 2021 promotional exams. Due to the recent easing of COVID-19 restrictions across the state, the testing computer labs are now able to permit a limited number of testers with adequate spacing that will accommodate the number of testers registered for this examination cycle.

FY 21/22 Executive Budget

The attention of the Commission was directed to the upcoming Legislative Session and the upcoming meetings of the House Appropriations Committee and Senate Finance Committee. A copy of the agenda was provided to all commissioners for the House Appropriations Committee meeting being held on Friday, April 9, 2021.

Commissioner Riecke invited his fellow commissioners to the upcoming meeting of the House Appropriations Committee to request the necessary funds to hire part-time personnel to conduct investigations for the Commission.

Commissioner Knapp had a question about the agenda and when to expect the budget to be reviewed for the State Police Commission; Commissioner Riecke advised that the SPC budget is typically one of the last budgets reviewed during the day.

Updates:

The next meeting is May 13, 2021, and will begin at 9 A.M. for the scheduled appeal hearing.

The commissioners were advised that their Annual Financial Disclosure Forms are due to the State Board of Ethics by May 15, 2021.

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.)
No Comments.

IX. Adjourn
There being no further business on a motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to adjourn at 10:43 A.M. on Thursday, April 8, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted.



Jason Hannaman, Executive Director



Eulis Simien, Jr. Chairman