

MINUTES  
STATE POLICE COMMISSION

Date: October 13, 2016 Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: State Police Commission  
Office of Management Finance & OMV Building  
7979 Independence Boulevard, Suite 208  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

Present: Donald Breaux Cathy Derbonne, Director  
Eulis Simien, Jr. M. Lenore Feeney, Referee  
Thomas "T.J." Doss T. Taylor Townsend, Referee  
W. Lloyd Grafton  
Jared Caruso-Riecke

Absent: Calvin W. Braxton, Sr. Vacancies: 1

Scribe: Cathy Derbonne, Director

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AGENDA

- I. Call to Order: Trooper Thomas TJ Doss, Chairman
  - II. Roll Call of the Members - Cathy Derbonne, Director  
Pledge of Allegiance
  - III. Opportunity to Address the Commission by Employees or Others
  - IV. Business
    1. Consideration of September 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes
    2. Proposed Rule Changes
      - a. General Circular No. 182 Revision of SPC Chapter 3: Duties of the Director
    3. General Circular No. 183 State Police Commission Meeting
    4. Status of approval of General Circular No. 180 (Revisions of SPC Ch 6), TS #57
    5. Damon Dyson v. Louisiana State Police Commission, et al Docket no. 651,338-Div. 25
    6. Preparation of Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget Request
  - V. Adjournment
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- I. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Trooper T. J. Doss, Chairman
- II. **Roll Call.** Ms. Derbonne called the roll. Five members were present, which constituted a quorum. Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Doss led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **Opportunity to Address the Commission by Employees or Others**

Retired LSP Lt. Leon Millet stated that he has attended the last several meetings, and voiced his opinions as follows:

- a) That he believes that a "conflict" exists because the Commission elected its employee-representative Member to serve as the Commission Chairman. He explained that his belief is based on the fact that Chairman Doss, as a State Trooper, is a subordinate to Colonel Edmonson, and remarked that Chairman Doss' first task included a nine page report to remove the duties and authority of the director.

- b) That he believes that Col. Mike Edmonson was dishonest with the Commission concerning the request submitted for the position of Chief Administrator Officer ("CAO"), specifically in that the position was not intended for Jason Starnes, and that the position would not cost the department any additional money. He further stated his belief that Major Starnes was appointed as the CAO and received a pay increase without Commission approval.
- c) He suggested that the Commission should, at the next meeting, remind Colonel Edmonson that the Commission is his Constitutional Superior; that Commission members swore an oath to uphold the Constitution; and the Commission should require Col. Edmonson and his department to respect the Commission and its Director.
- d) He believes that the recent pay increase for Lt. Colonels was not done in accordance with applicable state constitutional provisions and SPC rules concerning pay for the State Police Service, and that the increase is in excess of the current pay grid.
- e) He voiced his opinion that a conflict exists with regard to Commission attorney Taylor Townsend, who was a co-chairman of the governor's transition team and now heads Edwards' super PAC fundraising committee. He suggested that a conflict exists with regard to the Commission, due to Townsend's involvement with the super PAC fundraising committee and a "controversial lawsuit" against oil and gas companies.
- f) He believes that Commission attorney Taylor Townsend failed to share a letter from a retired trooper concerning remarks made by Trooper Doss, now Commission Chairman, at the LSTA convention, which remarks Mr. Millet described as being disparaging to the Commission Members and the Commission's Executive Director. He further voiced his opinion that the investigations are biased, and that the Commission should compare itself with State Civil Service commission, with regard to interaction between the Commission and the Department(s) it oversees.
- g) He questioned investigation performed by T. Taylor Townsend concerning prohibited activity involving unnamed classified members of the State Police Service pursuant to SPC Rule 16.19. Specifically, Mr. Millet asked about the status of a report, and after Mr. Townsend stated that, under the rules, no report was required or requested by the Commission, he asked why a report was completed and submitted for the investigation of prohibited activity involving former Commission members. Mr. Townsend explained that the Commission's Executive Director had requested a written report on the Commission Members, to which Mr. Millet responded, "I agree, that we disagree again."
- h) He stated that the Louisiana State Trooper's Association (LSTA) board of directors recently met regarding a proposed change to the LSTA bylaws, which would excommunicate or remove certain retirees from LSTA for wrong doing, and for causing embarrassment based on the complaint the retirees filed with the Commission. He acknowledged that the Commission does not have jurisdiction over LSTA, but that it regulates its members and that two Commission members were also members of the LSTA.
- i) He closed his remarks by recommending that Commission members read the book, Murder in the Bayou, by Ethan Brown. He opined that the book shows the reason and need for necessary oversight, and that when police agencies become political they also become corrupt.

**IV. Business**

**1. Minutes from the September 8, 2016 Meeting**

Mr. Riecke moved to approve the minutes, which motion was seconded by Mr. Grafton and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote of the Members present.

**2. Proposed Rule Changes**

**a. General Circular No. 182 Revision of SPC Chapter 3: Duties of the Director**

Mr. T. Taylor Townsend reports that the proposed rule revision provides further clarification in the event of a vacancy of this Commission as to the protocol or procedure to provide written notice to the Office of the Governor, the Director of the Office of Boards and Commissions, and to the University Presidents enumerated in Article X, Part IV, Section 43 (C) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974. Mr. Grafton moved to approve the proposed Chapter 3 rule change, which motion was seconded by Mr. Riecke, and passed with no opposition.

**3. General Circular No. 183 State Police Commission Meeting**

Trooper T. J. Doss moved to continue the matter regarding General Circular No. 183 until the next meeting, which motion was seconded by Mr. Riecke, and passed without opposition.

**4. Status of approval of General Circular No. 180 (Revision of Ch 6), Transmittal Sheet #57**

Trooper T. J. Doss reported on the status of approval of General Circular No. 180, and that on October 12, 2016, an approval by the Governor to implement the State Police Pay Plan adopted by the State Police Commission on November 12, 2015, was received. Trooper T. J. Doss reports no further action is required of the Commission.

**5. Damon Dyson v. Louisiana State Police Commission, et al Docket no. 651,338-Div. 25 19th JDC, Parish of Each Baton Rouge**

Mr. Riecke moved to continue the matter of Damon Dyson v. Louisiana State Police Commission, et al. the next meeting, which motion was seconded by Mr. Simien, and passed with no opposition.

**6. Preparation of Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget Request**

Mrs. Derbonne reported the House Appropriations Committee will conduct hearings on the implementation of the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 (FY 17) budget and the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 (FY 18) budget requests submitted by each department. These meetings will take place in early December and State Police Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 2016.

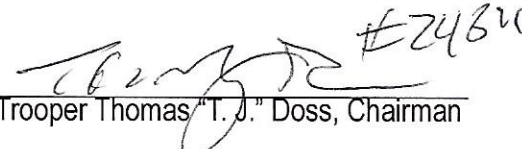
**V. Adjournment**

At the conclusion of the Commission's agenda, Mr. Riecke moved to adjourn the meeting, which motion was seconded by Mr. Breaux, and passed with no opposition. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Next meeting: The next regular business meeting of the State Police Commission will be held on November 10, 2016, at 9:00 a.m., at Office of Management Finance & OMV Building, 7979 Independence Blvd., Suite 208, Baton Rouge, La. 70806.

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Respectfully Submitted by:

  
Trooper Thomas "T. J." Doss, Chairman

  
Cathy Derbonne, Director