

House Committee on Judiciary
Interim Meeting on the Review of Law Enforcement Training
Minutes of Meeting
October 20, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Katrina R. Jackson, chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary, called the meeting to order at 9:19 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Katrina R. Jackson, chairman
Representative John H. Bagneris
Representative Chad Brown
Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan
Representative Randal L. Gaines
Representative Jimmy Harris
Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Robert A. Johnson
Representative Christopher J. Leopold
Representative Joseph A. Marino, III

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr.
Representative Robby Carter
Representative Lowell C. "Chris" Hazel
Representative Marcus L. Hunter
Representative Mike Johnson, vice chair
Representative Tanner D. Magee
Representative John C. "Jay" Morris, III
Representative Robert E. Shadoin
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lisha Landry, attorney
Diane Merritt, secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Michelle Fontenot, legal division director
Victoria Langston, clerk
Danny Lemming, sergeant at arms
Clarence Russ, sergeant at arms

III. OPENING REMARKS

Representative Jackson stated that this meeting was a continuation of evaluation of law enforcement training and de-escalation techniques.

IV. DISCUSSION

John Gallagher, executive director, Louisiana Municipal Association, 700 N. 10th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, testified on behalf of the Louisiana Municipal Association.

Dr. Ernest Johnson, representing NAACP, 3313 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, testified on behalf of the NAACP.

Jim Craft, executive director, Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, 602 N. 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, testified on behalf of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice.

Mike Tregre, St. John Parish Sheriff, 1801 W. Airline Hwy., LaPlace, LA 70068, testified on behalf of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.

Bob Wertz, section manager, P.O.S.T., Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, P.O. Box 3133, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, testified on behalf of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice regarding P.O.S.T. certification.

Donna Collins Lewis, Metro Council District 6, 222 St. Louis St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, testified on behalf of Metro Council District 6 of East Baton Rouge Parish.

Michael W. Victorian, president and chairman of the board, 100 Black Men of Metro Baton Rouge, 2050 North Foster Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, testified on behalf of 100 Black Men, a nonprofit organization.

Stephen Dixon, American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana (ACLU), 1330 Highland Park Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, testified on behalf of the ACLU.

Lt. Eric McElroy and Kenneth Tramble, Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office, 400 St. John St., Monroe, LA 71201, testified on behalf of Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office regarding community oriented policing strategies.

Mark Dumaine, East Baton Rouge District Attorney's Office, 222 St. Louis St., Ste. 550, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, testified on behalf of the East Baton Rouge District Attorney's Office regarding law enforcement and community relations.

Taryn C. Branson, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), 7735 N. Jefferson Place Circle, Apt. B, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, testified on behalf of SCLC regarding community oriented policing strategies.

Sharon E. Edwards, 2615 Laurel St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, testified regarding community oriented policing strategies for zip code 70802.

Erika Green, Metro Council District 5, 4333 Noble Cane Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70814, testified on behalf of Metro Council District 5 of East Baton Rouge Parish.

Mark Stevenson, representing Travis Stevenson, 3335 Wainwright St., Alexandria, LA 71301, testified on behalf of his deceased brother, Travis Stevenson, who was killed by law enforcement. He explained that his brother had mental health problems and that law enforcement needs additional training in order to de-escalate situations with mental illness.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

VI. CLOSING REMARKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Jackson explained to the committee that she plans on setting up a subcommittee to continue reviewing law enforcement training and de-escalation techniques. The committee staff will poll the members of the Judiciary Committee to see who would like to participate in the subcommittee.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katrina R. Jackson, Chairman
House Committee on Judiciary