

JEFF JACKSON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL



REPLY TO: LAW  
ENFORCEMENT LIAISON  
SECTION  
(919) 716-6725  
FAX: (919) 716-6761  
CONTACT INFORMATION

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
PO BOX 629  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27602

May 21, 2025

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** N.C. Sheriffs' Education and Training  
Standards Commission Members and Staff

**FROM:** J. Joy Strickland  
Senior Deputy Attorney General *JS*  
Counsel to the Commission

**DATE:** May 21, 2025

**RE:** **FINAL AGENCY DECISIONS**

Craig Poteat  
Michael Lashley  
Trenton Taylor  
Alexandra McCaskill  
William Buck  
Joshua Phillips

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These matters are scheduled to be heard before the Commission at the June 12, 2025, meeting. At that time, you will be called upon to render your Final Agency Decision in these matters after reviewing all pertinent documents and hearing oral arguments. Please review the enclosed documents prior to the Commission meeting and bring them with you to the meeting.

The official records and transcripts from these hearings will be available at the meeting for your review. If additional submissions by the parties come to my attention before the Commission meeting, I will forward them to you.

### CRAIG POTEAT

An administrative hearing was held on December 5, 2024, before Administrative Law Judge David F. Sutton regarding whether Petitioner's justice officer certification should be revoked for the Commission of "lack of good moral character" in violation of Rule 12 NCAC 10B .0301(12). On March 20, 2025, Judge Sutton filed his Proposal for Decision and recommended that Petitioner **TAKE NO ADVERSE ACTION** against Petitioner's certification. Counsel for the Commission has submitted **Exceptions to the Proposal for Decision** and a **Proposed Final Agency Decision** for your review.

### MICHAEL LASHLEY

An administrative hearing was held on December 12, 2024, before Administrative Law Judge Brian P. LiVecchi regarding whether Petitioner's application for detention officer certification should be denied for the conviction of felony insurance fraud in violation of N.C.G.S §58-2-161. On March 20, 2025, Judge LiVecchi filed his Proposal for Decision and recommended that the Commission **REVERSE** the proposed denial of Petitioner's detention officer certification and issue Petitioner certification in a state of **PROBATION for ONE (1) YEAR**, on the condition that Petitioner shall not violate any federal law, any law of the State of North Carolina, or any rules of the Respondent Commission. Counsel for the Commission has submitted **Exceptions to the Proposal for Decision** and a **Proposed Final Agency Decision** for your review.

### JOSHUA PHILLIPS (continued from the last meeting)

An administrative hearing was held on August 26, 2024, before Administrative Law Judge Jonathan S. Dills regarding whether Petitioner's justice officer certification should be revoked for lack of good moral character. On December 13, 2024, Judge Dills issued his Proposal for Decision and recommended that Petitioner's certification **NOT BE REVOKED**. Counsel for the Commission has submitted **Exceptions to the Proposal for Decision** and a **Proposed Final Agency Decision** for your review.

### TRENTON TAYLOR

An administrative hearing was held on December 16, 2024, before Administrative Law Judge Jonathan S. Dills regarding whether to revoke Petitioner's justice officer certification for commission of the Class B misdemeanor offense of assault on a female in violation of N.C.G.S. 14-33 and for lacking the good moral character required of a justice officer. On April 7, 2025, Judge Dills issued his Proposal for Decision and recommended that Petitioner's certification should be **ALLOWED**, and the decision of the Probable Cause Committee **REVERSED**. Counsel for the Commission has submitted **Exceptions to the Proposal for Decision** and a **Proposed Final Agency Decision** for your review.

ALEXANDRA MCCASKILL

An administrative hearing was held on February 7, 2025, before Administrative Law Judge David Sutton regarding whether Petitioner's application for detention officer certification should be denied for violating 12 NCAC 10B .0204(c)(2). On March 26, 2025, Judge Sutton issued his Proposal for Decision and recommended that Petitioner's certification be **DENIED FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS** but that the period of denial should be suspended, and if Petitioner is hired by a Sheriff's Office in North Carolina, that she be placed on a one year period of probation during which time she successfully complete the required detention officer certification course. Counsel for the Commission has submitted **Exceptions to the Proposal for Decision** and a **Proposed Final Agency Decision** for your review.

WILLIAM BUCK

An administrative hearing was held on February 12, 2025, before Administrative Law Judge Samuel K. Morris regarding whether Petitioner's application for detention officer certification should be denied for the commission of the Class B misdemeanor of misdemeanor larceny in violation of N.C.G.S. §14-72(a), during the five year period prior to appointment. On April 10, 2025, Judge Morris filed his Proposal for Decision and recommended that Petitioner's justice officer certification should be **DENIED** until July 1, 2026. Counsel for the Commission has submitted **Exceptions to the Proposal for Decision** and a **Proposed Final Agency Decision** for your review.

cc: Mikael R. Gross, Attorney for Craig Poteat  
Luther Johnson Britt, Attorney for Michael Lashley  
Joshua Phillips  
William Hill, Attorney for Trenton Taylor  
Alexandra McCaskill  
William Buck