

SOUTH CAROLINA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

"Serving the Sheriffs of South Carolina Since 1913"

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Jarrod M. Bruder
Executive Director

Sheriff Michael E. Hunt, Sr.
President

October 21, 2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

Law enforcement officers today are arguably facing greater opposition and scrutiny than ever before. The public's heightened sense of scrutiny, combined with a general distrust of government, creates an extremely dangerous scenario for law enforcement officers and the communities they serve. For that reason, the Sheriffs of South Carolina believe it is critical that our officers are provided the highest quality of training available. In that regard, we would like to commend the Members of the Law Enforcement Training Council on the selection of Chief Jackie Swindler as the new Director of the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. We believe Director Swindler has the education, training, and real life experience to oversee the Academy's efforts to elevate and enhance the training experience of South Carolina's law enforcement officers. It should be noted, however, that a task of this magnitude cannot be achieved alone. If we truly want to see significant improvements in the training and performance of law enforcement officers in our State, then we must surround Director Swindler with equally educated, trained, and experienced members on the Law Enforcement Training Council.

As you know, the Sheriffs of South Carolina are currently represented on the Law Enforcement Training Council by Sheriff Bruce Bryant of York County (fulfilling the role of a Sheriff of a county with a population of more than fifty thousand) and Sheriff Ed Darnell of Bamberg County (fulfilling the role of a Sheriff of a county with a population of less than fifty thousand). While these Sheriffs have done a fantastic job of enhancing the overall training experience and representing the Sheriffs' interests, both of these individuals will soon be vacating their positions on the Council. After two decades of serving the people of York County as Sheriff, Sheriff Bryant has decided to retire at the end of this term, which will create a vacancy on the Training Council. While Sheriff Darnell will continue to serve as Sheriff (beginning his tenth consecutive term in January, 2017), he recently submitted a letter of resignation to the Law Enforcement Training Council, in which he cited unforeseen circumstances as his motivation for resigning from the Council.

With this in mind and understanding the importance of an active and experienced Council, the Sheriffs felt it was necessary to discuss possible recommendations to the fill the Sheriffs positions on the Law Enforcement Training Council during our Quarterly Business Meeting, which was held on October 20, 2016. With more than thirty Sheriffs in attendance, I am

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pleased to report that the Sheriffs of South Carolina unanimously voted to recommend the appointment of Sheriff Barry Faile of Lancaster County (to fulfill the role of a Sheriff of a county with a population of more than fifty thousand) and Sheriff Lee Foster of Newberry County (to fulfill the role of a Sheriff of a county with a population of less than fifty thousand).

Now, before I go any further, please let me assure you that we fully understand and respect the fact that the ability to appoint individuals to the Law Enforcement Training Council is solely yours. We simply hope you will look upon our recommendations favorably as significant thought and consideration was invested in to this process before our final recommendations were reached. You see, we firmly believe that each position on the Law Enforcement Training Council provides unique perspective that helps our State develop the most comprehensive and well-rounded training process. We are recommending two Sheriffs for your consideration that we feel are uniquely qualified to serve on the Council and have significant experience in the Office of Sheriff. We feel their experience as Sheriff will be an invaluable asset to the Law Enforcement Training Council.

Sheriff Barry Faile is currently serving his second term as Sheriff of Lancaster County and is running for re-election in November, 2016. Faile has more than twenty-seven years of experience with the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office, as he began his career in 1989 as a Patrol Deputy and eventually rose through the ranks to Chief Deputy before he ran for the Office of Sheriff. Today, Sheriff Faile also serves as the First Vice President of the South Carolina Sheriffs' Association, a member of the South Carolina Police Accreditation Council, and a member of the State's Local Detention Committee. Faile, who is also a graduate of the National Sheriffs' Institute, absolutely has the respect and confidence of his fellow Sheriffs.

Sheriff Lee Foster is currently serving his seventh consecutive term as Sheriff of Newberry County and is seeking re-election in November, 2016. In our humble opinion, Sheriff Foster's experience uniquely qualifies him to be an excellent candidate to serve on the Law Enforcement Training Council. Not only has Foster served as Sheriff of Newberry County for nearly three decades, but he has also served as a full-time Instructor at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy and as a Police Chief. His extensive experience and willingness to implement new technology in to his agency's pursuit for justice has caused Sheriff Foster to also serve on several national law enforcement advisory committees. He is also a member of the United States Attorney's Office Anti-Terrorism Task Force and the Executive Committee of the Joint Terrorism Task Force. Foster also serves as the Secretary/Treasurer of the South Carolina Sheriffs' Association.

It is our sincere hope that you will agree with recommendations and consider these individuals to be worthy appointments to the Law Enforcement Training Council. Again, we fully understand and respect the fact that the ability to appoint individuals to the Law Enforcement Training Council is solely yours. We simply hope you will consider our recommendations in a favorable light.

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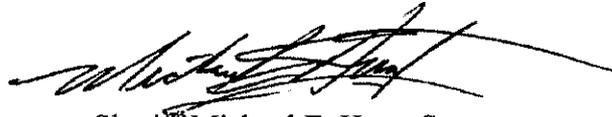
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In conclusion, I want to thank you for your continued support of law enforcement officers throughout South Carolina, especially us Sheriffs. Protecting and serving our communities in these uncertain times can be a daunting task, but knowing that we have an ally in the Governor's Office makes our jobs that much easier. Please do not hesitate to contact me or our Executive Director, Jarrod Bruder, should you have any questions or need any further information.

Respectfully,



Sheriff Michael E. Hunt, Sr.
President

MEH/jb

CC: Chief Mark Keel, LETC Chairman