

**House Committee on Judiciary**  
Interim Meeting on the Review of Law Enforcement Training  
Minutes of Meeting  
October 19, 2016

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Katrina R. Jackson, chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary, called the meeting to order at 10:42 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 Robby Carter  
Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan  
Representative Randal L. Gaines  
Representative Jimmy Harris  
Representative Valarie Hodges  
Representative Robert A. Johnson  
Representative Christopher J. Leopold  
Representative Tanner D. Magee  
Representative Joseph A. Marino, III

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr.  
Representative Lowell C. "Chris" Hazel  
Representative Marcus L. Hunter  
Representative Mike Johnson, vice chair  
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 thanked the committee for attending today's meeting and stated the following: "As we convene the hearings of the Judiciary Committee, I want to state that the purpose of these meetings are to bring resolution. Louisiana finds itself similarly situated as the rest of our nation, in having the issue regarding the relationship between law enforcement and the community placed at our doorstep. It has become apparent that discussions about this issue are necessary but these discussions are not necessitated by any drive other than the drive to resolve the woes of this relationship.

Therefore, today, as we begin to take testimony from our citizens who sit on both sides of this issue, we do so with the understanding that there are frustrations. We share some of those same frustrations as we watch newscast after newscast about young men and women losing their lives at the hands of those who take the oath to protect and serve. Or the frustration in hearing how having encounters with law enforcement leave emotional and mental scars that sometimes become permanent and further impede an individual's ability to live peacefully. We share the frustration as we watch processions of law enforcement motorcades for those who have offered their lives everyday to protect and serve, but because of the tensions that exist, that the service has been forced to end by no fault of their own. We see the frustrations in the peculiar situation this leaves good and honorable men and women of law enforcement with the community. And we acknowledge the frustration and sorrow of the families that are left behind in all the tragedy. In all of this, the one thing that I am convinced of is these frustrations cannot lead us to a place where we believe that all law enforcement officers are bad and that we have to stand against them in order to reach a solution. These frustrations cannot lead good and honorable law enforcement officers to a point that they believe that they must abandon the oath to protect and serve and choose a single oath to defend. These frustrations must lead us to a solution.

As Louisianans, we must be moved by a strong sense of resolve. In that we must acknowledge the reality that families are losing loved ones. Members of both the public and law enforcement have lost their lives while this vicious cycle of hate attempts to steal the spotlight. We are a nation and a state full of hope and promise and we have great things we can offer and accomplish when we operate with love and unity. We cannot let this issue tarnish the spirit of who we are as a people.

Many have criticized the public's response to this situation. I have an issue with those who have responded with violence and with a need to perpetuate hate. But in taking a brief walk down memory lane, I am reminded that people, in the not so distant past, marched to and gathered at our nation's capitol, this capitol, and our nation's Supreme Court to effectuate change. History shows that those who did so with a nonviolent motivation for resolve realized victory. Therefore, I have participated, a number of times, with those who advocate for higher education funding, better race relations, improved resources for Louisianans with disabilities, and a host of other groups.

Again, I understand that in order for Louisiana to move forward, this issue must be addressed. In order for our children to leave their homes feeling safe, we must resolve this. To prevent us from seeing another newscast of a memorial service for our citizens and officers, we must have this conversation. This is a needed conversation, and a worthy conversation. Do many of us share in the frustration? Of course we do. But please know that our drive to love and offer a forum for resolution extinguishes any fleshly drive to become a part of this vicious cycle of hate. I have worked beside many people, including law enforcement, and have never allowed any act or occurrence to persuade me to accept the generalization that an entire race of people is bad or that everyone who takes the oath is bad because of bad actors. I keep within me, as many of you do, a hope and a desire to understand that transcend others' egregious actions.

So today, as we engage in this conversation, we ask that you bring to the table your passion and your truth. But most importantly, we ask that you bring your heart of resolve."

#### **IV. DISCUSSION**

Julie Baxter Payer, deputy chief of staff, Communication, Legal, and Special Projects, Office of the Governor, P.O. Box 94004, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, testified on behalf of the governor.

Col. Mike Edmonson, superintendent, and Charles Dupuy, assistant superintendent, Department of Public Safety Services, 7919 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, testified on behalf of state police regarding training.

Senator Regina Ashford Barrow, 4811 Harding Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70811, testified on the need for police training reform.

Representative Patricia Haynes Smith, 251 Florida Street, Suite 300, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, testified on the need for police reform.

Gary Chambers, activist, The Rouge Collection, 6663 Willow Springs Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70811, testified for informational purposes.

Representative C. Denise Marcelle, District 61, 1824 N. Acadian Thruway W., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, testified on the need for police reform.

Alanah Odoms Hebert, representing Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson, Louisiana Supreme Court, 400 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70130, testified for informational purposes.

Representative Edward C. "Ted" James, II, District 101, 830 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, testified on the need for police reform.

Sharon Weston Broome, 3591 Aletha Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70814, testified on the need for police reform.

Representative Edmond Jordan, District 29, 5763 Hooper Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70811, testified on the need for police reform.

Mayor Kip Holden, East Baton Rouge Parish, 222 St. Louis St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, testified for informational purposes regarding East Baton Rouge Parish.

Jan Kasofsky, executive director, and John Nosacka, Capital Area Human Services, 4615 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, testified for informational purposes.

Carl Dababie, Baton Rouge Police Chief, and J.D. Leach, 9000 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, explained East Baton Rouge police training.

Rev. Alexis Anderson, executive director, PREACH, P.O. Box 67070, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, testified for informational purposes.

Sandra Sterling, 3054 Garnet Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70805, testified for informational purposes.

Linda Franks, board chair, PREACH, 12213 Mumford Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70807, testified for informational purposes.

Brandi, (victim testimony) P.O. Box 1171, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, testified for informational purposes.

Taylor Williams, Grambling State University, 403 Main St., Grambling, LA 71245, testified for informational purposes.

Remy Augustine, Grambling State University, student, no address provided, testified for informational purposes.

Rasheed Proctor, Grambling State University, student, no address provided, testified for informational purposes.

Linda Logan, community advocate of Morehouse Parish, Grambling State University, P.O. Box 378, Mer Rouge, LA 71261, testified for informational purposes.

Cherita Wilson, Grambling State University, student, 28 Melanie Dr., Monroe, LA 71203, testified for informational purposes.

Inetha Wimberly, office of judicial affairs, Grambling State University, 295 Beech Springs Rd., Jonesboro, LA 71251, testified for informational purposes.

Dr. Lurie Thomason, Department of Criminal Justice, Grambling State University, 2549 Buckhorn Bend Loop Rd., Monroe, LA 71202, testified for informational purposes.

Diane Mouton Allen, representing National Coalition Building Institute, 105 Arbor Dr., Lafayette, LA 70507, testified for informational purposes.

Michael Ranatza, executive director, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, 1175 Nicholson Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, testified on the need for police reform.

Sid J. Gautreaux, III, East Baton Rouge Sheriff, 8900 Wedell Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70807, testified on behalf of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.

Newell Normand, Jefferson Parish Sheriff, 1233 Westbank Expressway, Harvey, LA 70058, testified on behalf of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.

Steve Prator, Caddo Parish Sheriff, 501 Texas St., Ste. 101, Shreveport, LA 71101, testified on behalf of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.

Greg Champagne, St. Charles Parish Sheriff, P.O. Box 426, Hahnville, LA 70057, testified on behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association, as president.

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

Fabian Blache, executive director, Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, 700 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, testified on behalf of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police.

Michael Harrison, superintendent, New Orleans Police Department, 715 S. Broad St., New Orleans, LA 70119, testified on behalf of the New Orleans Police Department.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: Five for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**VI. CLOSING REMARKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katrina R. Jackson, Chairman  
House Committee on Judiciary