

Jefferson County Deputy Sheriffs Civil Service Commission

Steve Cox, President
Will Liston, Vice President
Jean Vezzosi, Commissioner



Jacki Shadle, County Clerk
Bessie Nelson, Administrative Support

PUBLIC HEARING

Jefferson County Commission Meeting Room

MINUTES

Thursday, April 28, 2022
6:00 PM

1. Attendees:

Steve Cox
Will Liston
Jean Vezzosi

Sheriff Tom Hansen
Bessie Nelson

2. Meeting Called To Order @ 6:00 PM

3. Refusal to Certify Deven Tyler Morris

- a. Mr. Cox announced that JCDSCSC refused to certify Mr. Morris based on information received:
 - i. Mr. Morris' letter of resignation dated March 30, 2021 addressed to Sheriff Harmon of Berkeley County.
 - ii. Memo from Sheriff Harmon to the Berkeley County Council regarding Resignation in lieu of Termination/Deven Morris.
 - iii. Charges brought against Mr. Morris as a result of an internal investigation were not dropped or removed.
 - iv. Normally at this time, Mr. Morris would have an opportunity to speak.
 - v. Mr. Cox read the email received at our general inbox from Mr. Morris on April 28, 2022 at 3:32 PM requesting to remove his name from the agenda.
 - vi. This public hearing was scheduled solely to address this matter. This was advertised and could not be cancelled.
 - vii. Mr. Cox called for a motion for JCDSCSC to reevaluate its position refusal to certify Mr. Morris. **No motion was made.**
- b. **Public Comment** -Sheriff Hansen spoke as the Appointing Officer for JCSO spoke:
 - i. Based on Law Enforcement Professional Standards (LEPS), Mr. Morris' certification is not suspended or revoked, it is inactive. When you resign from an agency, they (LEPS) automatically put it on the inactive list. As long as you are hired by another agency and catch your in service up, you certification status is changed to active. LEPS has not taken any action against Mr. Morris. What Berkeley County did or didn't do has no bearing on Sheriff Hansen hiring Mr. Morris'. According to LEPS, he would have to appear in front of them (LEPS) for a meeting to determine if it was justified or if there was any problem, and he would be certified again. His certification is not revoked or suspended.

- c. Mr. Cox called for a motion to reconsider JCDSCSC decision or enter into executive session. Mr. Liston made a motion to enter into executive session. Mr. Vezzosi 2nd.
- d. Mr. Vezzosi made a motion to return from executive session. Mr. Liston 2nd.
- e. No further action in the matter will be taken. The decision of JCDSCSC to refuse to certify Mr. Morris will stand.
- f. As a result, Mr. Morris' test results will not be released because JCDSCSC refused to certify Mr. Morris before the test results were received.
- g. Mr. Liston will draft a letter to Mr. Morris advising him of the outcome and Ms. Nelson will email a copy and mail the original letter to his home address.

4. Meeting was Adjourned at 6:56 PM

JCDSCSC

From: Deven Morris <deventylermorris@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 3:32 PM
To: JCDSCSC
Subject: Re: JCDSCSC Refusal to Certify

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or on clicking links from unknown senders.

You can remove me off of tonight's agenda.

Respectfully,

-D.T. Morris

On Apr 13, 2022, at 13:22, JCDSCSC <jcdscsc@jeffersoncountywv.org> wrote:

Good after Mr. Morris.

JCDSCSC is in receipt of your request for a public hearing. The public hearing has been scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2022. Please see the attached memo and the public hearing notice for further information.

Should you have any questions, please respond to this email.

Regards,

Bessie F. Nelson
Administrative Support
Jefferson County Deputy Sheriffs Civil Service Commission
Jefferson County Clerk's Office
bnelson@jeffersoncountywv.org
304-728-3340
100 E Washington St
PO Box 208
Charles Town, WV 25414

Visit us on the web at www.jeffersoncountywv.org

From: Deven Morris <deventylermorris@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 3:57 PM
To: JCDSCSC <jcdscsc@jeffersoncountywv.org>
Subject: Re: JCDSCSC Refusal to Certify

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or on clicking links from unknown senders.

<Memo to D Morris 04132022 - Public Hearing.pdf>

<Public Hearing Notice 20220428 - Morris.pdf>



Berkeley County Sheriff's Department
Sheriff Nathan A. Harmon

510 South Raleigh Street

Phone (304) 267-7000
Sheriff Nathan A. Harmon

Martinsburg, WV 25401

Fax (304) 267-7118
Nharmon@berkeleywv.org



To: Sheriff Harmon

From: Deven Tyler Morris

Re: Letter of Resignation

Date: 3/30/2021

On March 30th, 2021, I Deven Morris am requesting to resign from the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office. Effective immediately and upon approval of Sheriff Harmon and Chief Young, I Deven Morris am officially submitting my resignation letter on today's date March 30th, 2021 at approximately 1600hrs. In doing so, I understand that I am waiving my previous request to a hearing IAW West Virginia Code §7-14C-3

Deven Morris

Deven Tyler Morris



Berkeley County Sheriff's Office

Office of the Sheriff

510 South Raleigh Street

Martinsburg, WV 25401

Phone: (304) 267-7000

Fax: (304) 267-2676



30 March 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR: Berkeley County Council

SUBJECT: Resignation In Lieu Of Termination/Deven Morris

1. On 30 March 2021, Sheriff Nathan Harmon informed Deputy Deven Morris that the Sheriff intended to terminate Deputy Morris' employment as a deputy sheriff based upon an internal investigation.
2. On this date Deputy Morris indicated on the Statement of Charges and Recommendation of Action that he requested a hearing before a hearing review board. Afterwards Deputy Morris indicated that he would prefer to just resign.
3. On 30 March 2021, Deputy Morris submitted his formal letter of resignation. The charges were not withdrawn and the resignation was accepted "In Lieu Of Termination".
4. As a result of this action, the hearing board was cancelled and Deputy Morris' date of resignation was effective 30 March 21.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan Harmon".

Nathan Harmon
Sheriff, Berkeley County

Atch:
Letter of Resignation

cc:
Berkeley County Finance Department
Berkeley County Deputy Sheriffs Civil Service Commission
Internal Investigation File I-2021-1
Personnel File

