



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Criminal Justice Services

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Criminal Justice Services Board (CJSB) Executive Committee

October 29, 2019

Members Present

Ms. Tonya Chapman, Chair
Chief Craig Branch
Ms. Amanda Indorf (*proxy for Mr. David Johnson*)
Jagdish Katyal
The Hon. Bryan Porter, Vice-Chair
Major Tricia Powers (*proxy for Colonel Gary Settle*)

Members Absent

Sheriff Vanessa Crawford
Chief Kelvin Wright

I. Call to Order

Chairman Tonya Chapman called the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Criminal Justice Services Board to order at 1:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

II. Decertification of Mr. Shavonte Cotman-Russell

Mr. Erik Smith, Acting Director, Law Enforcement Division, Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), gave a summary of Mr. Shavonte Cotman-Russell's certification status.

Chief Craig Branch made a motion, seconded by Mr. Byran Porter, to rescind the decertification of Mr. Cotman-Russell. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Appeal Hearing for Mr. Schneider

Ms. Cathie Hutchins, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, explained the appeals process to the Executive Committee members and gave a brief procedural history of Mr. Schneider's case.

- On July 12, 2006, Mr. Schneider was initially licensed as a bail bondsman.

- On December 23, 2015, Mr. Schneider was charged with three federal charges of wire fraud, tax fraud, and theft of government property.
- On January 27, 2016, Mr. Schneider plead guilty to these charges.
- On January 29, 2016, Mr. Schneider issued bonds after being charged with a felony.
- On February 2, 2016, Mr. Schneider voluntarily surrendered his bail bondsman license to DCJS. His agents continued issuing bonds.
- On April 25, 2016, Mr. Schneider was convicted of three felonies. He was sentenced to 24 months in federal prison and, upon release from prison, is subject to supervised release for three years.
- On May 19, 2017, Mr. Schneider was released from prison and his supervised release ends in May 2020. He is making payments toward restitution of \$830,000.
- On September 28, 2017, Mr. Schneider's civil rights were restored and Mr. Schneider applied for a bail bondsman license in December 2017.
- On January 10, 2018, DCJS denied Mr. Schneider's application.
- On February 12, 2018, Mr. Schneider appealed the denial of his application and requested an Informal Fact Finding Conference, which was conducted on April 12, 2018.
- On June 18, 2018, DCJS upheld the denial of Mr. Schneider's application. Mr. Schneider then requested a formal hearing.
- On November 8, 2018, a formal hearing on the denial was held. The hearing officer upheld the denial in February 2019. Mr. Schneider appealed this decision to the Executive Committee.

Ms. Hutchins noted that DCJS is asking the Executive Committee to uphold the denial because DCJS has determined that (i) Mr. Schneider has not met the high professional standards of conduct required of DCJS licensees, (ii) Mr. Schneider is still on probation for his three felony convictions until May 2020, (iii) Mr. Schneider's employees issued bonds after the surrender of his license, and (iv) Mr. Schneider has failed to remain in good standing.

Mr. Stone Taylor, Mr. Schneider's attorney, addressed the Executive Committee and asked that it reconsider Mr. Schneider's case, noting that Mr. Schneider has a fine track record as a bail bondsman and would like to have the opportunity to continue to serve the community in that capacity.

Mr. Porter made a motion, seconded by Chief Branch, that the Executive Committee close the meeting for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel, Mr. Michael Jagels and Ms. Holly Wood, Assistant Attorneys General, Office of the Attorney General, and the provision of legal advice by such counsel,. The motion passed unanimously.

Once the Executive Committee had concluded its closed session, Mr. Porter made a motion, seconded by Chief Branch, that the Executive Committee re-open the meeting to the public. The motion passed unanimously. All members of the Executive Committee certified that only matters involving legal advice from counsel were discussed during the closed session.

Mr. Porter made a motion, seconded by Chief Branch, to uphold DCJS's decision to deny Mr. Schneider a bail bondsman license. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Chapman noted that the appeal has been held in accordance with Virginia Code §§ 9.1-108.1 and 9.1-141 and 6 VAC 20-174-510 of the Virginia Administrative Code and that the Executive Committee's decision is the final agency decision of this matter.

IV. Other Business

Mr. Smith notified the Executive Committee that it may need to convene again in either late November or December to address potential decertifications of some officers who did not properly complete in-service training.

V. Adjournment

Chief Branch made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jagdish Katyal, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.