

Private Security Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2020

1. Call To Order

The regular meeting of the Private Security Advisory Committee was called to order at 11:00 a.m. on January 15, 2020 at DPS, Building I, 2nd Floor Executive Conference Room.

2. Roll Call

Present

Patti James	Chairwoman	Private Investigator Representative
Alan Trevino		Security Officer Representative
Debi Ulmer		Alarm System & Electronic Access Control Rep.
C.D. Siems		Locksmith Representative
Wade Hayden		Public Representative
Derrick Howard		Public Representative
Stephen Willeford		Public Representative
Jason Hester	Assistant Chief	Texas Department of Public Safety
Chris Sims	Service Director	Texas Department of Public Safety
Ryan Garcia	Program Asst. Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Huel Haynes	Program Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Sarah Gaytan	Program Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Leslie Stevens	Executive Assistant	Texas Department of Public Safety

3. Minutes from July 17, 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Jason Hester took this opportunity to make introductions of all Advisory Committee members, including himself. He stated that he came over to the Regulatory Services Division in September, having previously been at the Texas Highway Patrol as a Major. He went on to say that he had been in law enforcement since 1995, having worked in Training, Highway Patrol, and now RSD.

He also took this time to explain that with the Legislative change in Private Security from a Board to an Advisory Committee, there was still a lot to be done and that the members' input was invaluable. Assistant Chief Hester stated that the Division and Department needed the input and feedback of every member, as they are the subject matter experts in their fields. He further stated that this also went for the public members as well, as they are representing the citizens of this state.

Assistant Chief Hester went over a few changes that would occur as an Advisory Committee versus a Board. The first change is that the committee will review proposed Rule changes for input before they are submitted to the Public safety Commission for approval. Another change is that the committee is not subject to Open Meeting Act and does not require a quorum to hold meetings, and can also discuss matters amongst themselves outside of the meetings. Yet another change is regarding the loss of reimbursement for travel for the meetings. Any member who wished to come to Austin for the quarterly meetings was welcome to do so, but DPS would also provide a call in/conference call option for those who did not.

Wade Hayden brought up the subject of negotiated rulemaking and asked how that was going to go moving forward. Jason Hester replied that changes to the Rules would be pushed out to the Advisory Committee members who would then solicit input from the industry they represent as well as the associations they are involved in. Alan Trevino brought up the point that not all licensees are members of associations and that there did not seem to be another vehicle for disseminating that information. Ryan Garcia stated that in the past the division would post on the website under the tab "Pending Rules" any time there were changes so that everyone had access to them. He suggested the Department utilizing this method along with the "Contact Us" link to provide feedback.

4. Quarterly Reports from Regulatory Services Division

a. Licensing Statistics

Ryan Garcia presented this information to the committee members. He stated that these numbers seemed to be consistent from year to year and were trending as normal. He also pointed out that some of the report terminology changed from Registrations to Licenses.

b. Compliance & Enforcement Statistics

Sarah Gaytan presented this information to the committee members. She stated that in addition to this information she checked with the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) and could report that there were no arrests made in the 1st quarter regarding Private Security. Patti James asked what was being done with unlicensed activity. Sarah explained that when RSD receives information regarding possible unlicensed activity they turn it over to CID for investigation. She further stated that this is done after first trying to get the unlicensed entity to obtain their license.

C.D. Siems asked if updates are ever received regarding complaints made to the Department, specifically if the person making the complaint is ever notified of the investigation into the complaint. Sarah explained that all complainants receive an initial notification stating that their complaint has been received. Once the case is closed the division sends a letter letting them know that it has been completed. If specific information is wanted regarding the outcome, the complainant would need to file an Open Records Request. C.D. stated that he has heard throughout the Locksmith industry that no letters are ever received when someone files a complaint. Sarah stated she would look into this if he could give her a bit more information as an example.

c. Executive Office Report

Jason Hester reported to the committee that Jay Alexander retired in December and the Division was feeling his absence. With this change, along with many others, the Division was currently going through a function review to see what the next steps were and where they could realign the programs to work as efficiently as they could. Once this review is complete he would inform the committee of any relevant changes.

5. Industry Reports

a. Security Officers:

Alan Trevino brought up an issue to the committee regarding Consultant Licenses and questions being raised regarding being armed on school campuses. During the last Legislative Session there was a push from ASSIST for clarification on who can or cannot do security. Mr. Trevino stated that some direction regarding this issue needs to be made.

Jason Hester stated that he would do some research on this issue, with counsel, and get back to the committee with his findings.

b. Investigators:

No report or discussion

c. Alarm systems & Electronic Access Control:

No report or discussion

d. Locksmiths:

No report or discussion

6. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Items

a. Private Investigator Schools

Patti James brought up this issue stating that pop-up PI schools want to teach people how to be a PI, but there is currently only one school approved to do this, University of North Texas. She went on to say that all of these schools are turning out unqualified people. She had firsthand knowledge of this as she was asked to teach Ethics at UNT and it turned out to be a joke. She stated that she wanted the committee to consider doing away with the schools altogether.

Jason Hester stated that he would consult with counsel regarding what Statute and Rules say on this and possible ways this could be handled.

b. Locksmith Schools:

C.D. Siems stated much the same as Patti James, in that no one wants to have these schools for locksmiths either, including Texas Locksmith Association.

7. Future Agenda Items

- a. Private Investigator and Locksmith Schools
- b. Staying ahead of future technology concerns within the various Private Security industries

8. Date of Next Meeting

Date options to be followed up with committee members via email from Leslie Stevens.

9. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:13 pm