

# **Texas Private Security Advisory Committee (TPSAC)**

Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2022

## **1. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Texas Private Security Advisory Committee was called to order at 11:04 a.m. on October 12, 2022, via conference call.

## **2. Roll Call**

Patti James	Chairwoman	Private Investigator Representative
Wade Hayden	Member	Public Representative
John Helweg	Member	Locksmith Representative
Alan Trevino	Member	Private Security Guard Representative
Debi Ulmer	Member	Alarm System & Electronic Access Rep
Jason Hester	Assistant Chief	Texas Department of Public Safety
Pablo Luna	Service Director	Texas Department of Public Safety
Chris Sims	Service Director	Texas Department of Public Safety
Sherrie Zgabay	Service Director	Texas Department of Public Safety
Christopher Hanson	Captain	Texas Department of Public Safety
Robert Hawkins	Special Assignments Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Lisa Cargill	RSD Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Christopher Lyons	RSD Manger	Texas Department of Public Safety
Lawrence Cortez	Program Supervisor	Texas Department of Public Safety
Jeremy LeCrone	Program Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Amalia Sanchez	Program Supervisor	Texas Department of Public Safety
Ryan Garcia	Program Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Linsey Silva	Program Supervisor	Texas Department of Public Safety
Trey Struhall	Program Supervisor	Texas Department of Public Safety
Steve Moninger	Senior Policy Analyst	Texas Department of Public Safety
Leslie Stevens	Personnel Admin Specialist	Texas Department of Public Safety
Renee Davis	Staff Services Specialist	Texas Department of Public Safety
Deborah Failey	Staff Services Specialist	Texas Department of Public Safety
Carlos Romero	Admin Operations Specialist	Texas Department of Public Safety

## **3. Minutes from April 13, 2022**

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

## **4. Quarterly Reports from Regulatory Services Division**

### **a. Executive Office Report**

Assistant Chief Jason Hester addressed the committee, stating that legislation elections are in November and bill filing starts soon. The legislative session will begin in January 2023.

AC Hester added that he and Chief Wayne Mueller recently attended the ASSIST Conference, and one recurring topic was insurance suspensions. He mentioned looking at an option to streamline the process within TOPS. Debi Ulmer said it can take time to have the suspension removed from the companies after uploading the documents. Wade Hayden asked what the Department's stance is when a company is in violation and the license has been suspended for failure to provide insurance.

AC Hester added that, technically, if they don't have insurance, they're not in good standing. He continued that the Department needs to find a better way to automate the process rather than the current manual process. Sherrie Zgabay mentioned if the insurance is suspended, the license will show "suspension" until DPS can manually review them. Wade Hayden asked if companies shut down when they are suspended.

AC Jason Hester responded that companies, technically, are not supposed to perform regulated services while suspended and companies must comply with the law. Steve Moninger added that the statute says 'we shall' suspend if not validated. The policy underlying this is to protect the consumer, and the point of insurance is to cover claims against the licensee. John Helweg mentioned that the issue is not an error on the part of the company or the Department, it's how it's being uploaded. He added the issue occurs during annual renewal; and knowing this, he tries to have the insurance company turn it over a month in advance. However, the insurance company waits until a week before the insurance is due, causing it to lapse.

AC Jason Hester concluded by saying the Department was going to review the current manual process. He further stated the goal is to give the insurance companies access to be able to directly upload the documents where auto fill takes place, and the process is completed.

#### **b. Complaints/Investigations**

Pablo Luna presented this information to the committee. Alan Trevino asked what the violation non-statutory authority meant. Lawrence Cortez answered non-statutory authority are typically complaints that the public have filed against companies or individuals, but don't fall under the Private Security Act. The Department acknowledges that the complaint was received, but that it doesn't have the authority to take action or to even investigate the case at that point. These cases are sent to another agency where they can pursue their complaint or indicate to them that it doesn't fall into the Private Security Act.

Captain Christopher Hanson gave a report of the law enforcement activities for the Private Security Program between June 1 – October 1. He stated investigators had been traveling throughout the state completing various types of activities related to the Private Security Program. Operation Lone Star resulted in 9 arrests and the seizure of 4 firearms. CID in Laredo conducted guard checks at a Gentlemen's Club that resulted in arrests. Captain Hanson added that they plan on having checks at the Texas State Fair as well. He informed the committee that RSD would soon be adding an agent to assist with the increased enforcement activity.

#### **c. Disciplinary Actions**

Jeremy LeCrone presented this information to the committee. Alan Trevino asked about the decrease in the report regarding advisory notices. Jeremy LeCrone explained that it was due to changes in the Penalty Schedule.

#### **d. Licensing Statistics**

Ryan Garcia presented this information to the committee. There were no follow up questions.

## **5. Industry Reports**

### **a. Security Officers**

Alan Trevino asked for an update regarding the rewrites/revisions of the Level II, Level III, and Level IV training. Chris Sims responded that these rewrites are a continuing project, and that the Department is receiving comments and continuing to make updates to be sent to the vendor for correction.

### **b. Investigators**

Patti James thanked DPS personnel who attended the conference in August.

### **c. Alarm systems and Electronic Access Control**

Debi Ulmer mentioned the Insurance Certification that was already discussed and is happy with the operations being conducted.

### **d. Locksmiths**

John Helweg informed the committee of the TLA upcoming convention to be held October 27-29, 2022. Mr. Helweg mentioned an industry issue that has been occurring related to the sale of equipment door-to-door and the Administrative Code 35.10. He asked if it were possible to use the Standard of Conduct Administrative Code 35.5 to ensure these sales are conducted under licensure. AC Jason Hester answered that there is no statutory authority over the door-to-door sales and that it would be a statutory change.

### **e. Public Report**

There were no updates or reports.

## **6. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Items**

None mentioned.

## **7. Future agenda items**

None mentioned.

## **8. Date of next meeting**

Date of the next meeting was confirmed to be January 11, 2023.

## **9. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.