

Texas Private Security Advisory Committee (TPSAC)

Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2025

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Texas Private Security Advisory Committee was called to order at 11:03 a.m. on April 9, 2025, via conference call as well as in person at 5806 Guadalupe St., Building I, Austin, Texas 78752.

2. Roll Call

Patti James	Chairwoman	Private Investigator Representative
DJ Seeger	Member	Public Representative
Debi Ulmer	Member	Alarm Systems, Elec Access Control
Louis Felini	Member	Security Guards Representative
Vanessa Mayo	Assistant Chief	Texas Department of Public Safety
Ron Joy	Service Director	Texas Department of Public Safety
Audrey Rosales	Service Director	Texas Department of Public Safety
Mark Berry	Captain	Texas Department of Public Safety
Robert Hawkins	Spec Assign Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Christopher Lyons	RSD Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Lisa Cargill	RSD Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Lawrence Cortez	Case Support Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Linsey Silva	Program Supervisor	Texas Department of Public Safety
Amalia Sanchez	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
Amanda Contrino	Senior Policy Analyst	Texas Department of Public Safety
Haydee Saenz	Comp and Enforcement Spec	Texas Department of Public Safety
Samantha Coronel	Admin Operations Team Lead	Texas Department of Public Safety
Deborah Failey	Personnel Admin Specialist	Texas Department of Public Safety
Renee Davis	Personnel Admin Specialist	Texas Department of Public Safety
Carlos Romero	Admin Operations Specialist	Texas Department of Public Safety

3. Minutes from January 8, 2025

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

4. Quarterly Reports from Regulatory Services Division

a. Executive Office Report

Service Director Ron Joy informed the Texas Private Security Advisory committee of the transition from a SPURS reporting system to KASEWARE. The transition now allows DPS to produce more stats for the report.

SD Ron Joy also stated there are 11 Bills he believes affecting Private Security. DPS will continue to stay informed of the bills and will send committee members the list of those bills.

b. Complaints/Investigations

Captain Mark Berry informed the committee that DPS has been completing investigations and arrests, in which are mostly individuals impersonating Private Security Guards. Currently there are 4 outstanding warrants with another possible 2-3 warrants in the near future. Captain Berry added that there is a Locksmith investigation in San Antonio currently being investigated.

c. Disciplinary Actions

Linsey Silva spoke in absence of Ryan Garcia and mentioned the numbers are provided in the report.

d. Licensing Statistics

Linsey Silva spoke in absence of Ryan Garcia and mentioned the numbers are provided in the report.

5. Industry Reports

a. Security Officers

Louis Felini, new Security Officer committee member, introduced himself stating he has been in law enforcement for 28 years and has been in the private sector for the last seven years. He asked that a rule change is needed for the Level 2 and Level 3 Guards due to level 3 guards not being able to operate if they have misplaced or lost their hard card. Mr. Felini proposed to allow a level 3 guard to conduct their business like a level 2 guard by operating with a temporary card. Steve Moninger answered he will need to review the statutory policies regarding this topic. Patti James asked if a temporary replacement notification be issued in this type of even. Captain Mark Berry added that there is a portal to check, for example, if someone has lost their card, however it's an administrative fine of \$250. Steve Moninger added it would be a rule violation. Assistant Chief Vanessa Mayo suggested if there's no statutory prohibition, DPS can entertain the rule request.

Louis Felini proposed for a School Resource Officer to take the equivalent type of training program, law enforcement take. His reason for this proposition is due to HB 3 mandating law enforcement arm security

must be in that space which creates a huge gap. Ron Joy answered that HB 1064 agrees with Mr. Felini's proposition and in fact, school districts are requiring much more extensive training because they also see the need.

Louis Felini asked about the MMPI, and the psychological evaluations needed to be completed by a psychologist or Psychiatrist. He suggested a change of wording on the signature line from Psychologist or Psychiatrist to any Licensed Certified Counselor/Psychologist. The reason for this suggested change is because the State of Texas is the only state in the United States that has an exemption to where you do not have to be a psychologist or psychiatrist and can be a licensed certified counselor with Pearson Group to provide the exam. Ron Joy answered this issue was brought up to the Advisory Committee last year and extensive research was conducted. DPS mirrored what is done for Peace Officers and after further analysis when engaging with the department's own psychologist, getting a certificate so the exam can be administered is not what the intent of the legislation is. Instead, it is doing an analysis and interview. It is a subjective analysis of the results when an individual does the MMPI and when the administer receives the results, it may appear on paper that the individual is a poor candidate. However, the licensed psychologist finds out reasons why the answers may be skewed towards one direction or another. It is the opinion that is more important than the actual written exam. In addition, this is the reason, two different analyses are utilized, a psychological analysis and a personality test. SD Joy added, this topic has been evaluated as a committee and was agreed upon to keep the rule as it currently stands.

Lastly, Mr. Felini stated to be a firearms instructor, the individual must have an NRA certification, and my team employs several prior military and law enforcement firearm instructors. However, that is not an exemption for the NRA rule. Steve Moninger answered, the statutory rules state a department approved instructor, a certificate issued by NRA, an instructor certificate issued by TECOLE or issued by any federal, state or political subdivision, law enforcement agency, and/or documentation of having regularly instructed individuals in the use of handguns and have graduated from a nationally accepted course. SD Ron Joy added that current legislation has 3 bills being proposed this session recognizing the roles of veterans.

b. Investigators

Patti James stated she had nothing to report currently.

c. Alarm systems and Electronic Access Control

Debi Ulmer stated she had nothing to report currently.

d. Locksmiths

Nothing to report currently.

e. Public Report

DJ Seeger asked about background checks taking longer than usual to complete. Assistant Chief Vanessa Mayo answered the criminal histories have taken longer due to full time employee changes, but the department is doing everything they can to process all background checks as efficiently as possible. Amalia Sanchez added the department is beginning on the month of March for new applications. In addition, Assistant Chief Mayo stated the 90-day restriction to apply for a private security license, is being changed to 6 months prior expiration. A concern from Mr. Felini was if applying 6 months out opposed to 90 days, is a huge window of time in respect to the criminal background check. Assistant Chief Mayo stated the background check is always the last step in the process.

6. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Items

There were no discussion or possible recommendation items currently.

7. Future agenda items

DJ Seeger mentioned two agenda items:

- 1) Level II and Level III uniforms and vehicle decals.
- 2) Bouncers working bars and nightclubs, are they required to be licensed?

8. Date of next meeting

Date of the next meeting will be held July 9, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

9. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.