

Texas Private Security Advisory Committee (TPSAC)

Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2025

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Texas Private Security Advisory Committee was called to order at 11:05 a.m. on October 8, 2025, via MS Teams conference call as well as in person at 5806 Guadalupe St., Building I, Austin, Tx 78752.

2. Roll Call

Patti James	Chairwoman	Private Investigator Representative
Wade Hayden	Member	Public Representative
John Helweg	Member	Locksmith Representative
Debra Ulmer	Member	Alarm Systems/Electronic Access
Louis Felini	Member	Security Guard Representative
Ron Joy	Service Director	Texas Department of Public Safety
Audrey Rosales	Service Director	Texas Department of Public Safety
Amanda Contrino	Senior Policy Analyst	Texas Department of Public Safety
Christopher Lyons	Field Ops Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Mark Berry	Captain	Texas Department of Public Safety
Robert Hawkins	Special Assignment Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Lawrence Cortez	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
Carlos Romero	Admin Operations Spec	Texas Department of Public Safety
Deborah Failey	Personnel Admin Spec	Texas Department of Public Safety
Leslie Stevens	Sr. Personnel Admin Spec	Texas Department of Public Safety

3. Minutes from July 9, 2025

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

4. Quarterly Reports from Regulatory Services Division

a. Executive Office Report

Service Director Ron Joy addressed the committee stating there was currently 1 (one) vacancy on the committee for a Public Member. He went on to say 4 (four) applications had been received for this position which were reviewed. A new Public Member had been chosen from these applications and was being recommended to the Public Safety Commission for approval to join the committee.

b. Complaints/Investigations

Service Director Ron Joy addressed the committee stating Captain Mark Berry's team have filed 20 (twenty) criminal charges in the last fiscal year. He stated that 16 (sixteen) of those charges resulted in arrests and 4 (four) warrants issued.

Service Director Ron Joy stated that the Private Security program continues to receive more complaints than any of the other programs overseen by the Regulatory Services Division. He stated Security Guards receive the most, with Locksmiths receiving the second most, and Private Investigators third.

Chairwoman James asked to know the nature of the arrests that were listed on the report. Mark Berry stated the majority of them are for tampering with documents such as fictitious DD214s. There were also arrests of impersonating security guards.

Additional information regarding complaints and investigations was included in the FY25 4q Statistics Report.

c. Disciplinary Actions

Information regarding disciplinary actions was included in the FY25 4q Statistics Report.

d. Licensing Statistics

Service Director Ron Joy addressed the committee stating the Texas Private Security Program has 193,000 individual licensees. He stated that 86% of those licensees are Security Guards, level II and Level III. Additional information regarding licensing was included in the FY25 4q Statistics Report.

5. Industry Reports

a. Security Officers

Louis Felini addressed the committee stating he wished to acknowledge Linsey Silva's outstanding assistance in getting his company issues resolved. He stated at the last meeting a subcommittee was formed to research multiple issues within the security guard industry. He stated that the committee met extensively. During the meeting school resource officers were a topic of conversation and whether to allow them to operate in a school environment similarly to law enforcement officers. This is still being discussed. If approved, it would add an 'S' designation to the Level III pocket card to show that person is allowed to work in school environments as a resource officer.

Another topic being discussed is approving short barreled rifles to be used by armed security officers, after specific training at the same level as law enforcement for specific types of environments. The subcommittee met with Duncanville ISD police chief. As it is largest school in Texas their sidelines range from 100 to 200 yards. This would make it very difficult for an officer to use a pistol to stop a target without missing them or hitting innocent people.

Also discussed by the subcommittee was the issue of the 1099. The subcommittee clarified that yes, security companies can contract with individuals in a 1099 capacity going forward.

Mr. Felini informed the committee that the final topic discussed by the subcommittee was the possibility of creating a Level V category. This would be a category specifically designated to former or retired military law enforcement. The reason is that the subcommittee believes there will soon be a partnership between the public and private sectors, and it will be necessary for law enforcement to meet the needs of the citizens. This would allow municipalities to contract with security companies in specific situations.

b. Investigators

Patti James stated some time ago there was a group of investigators who talked of completely revamping 1702 to take out things that no longer served, etc. She stated that she told those proposing this revamp to go ahead and bring her back their proposal.

c. Alarm systems and Electronic Access Control

Debi Ulmer stated she had nothing to report at this time.

d. Locksmiths

John Helwig stated he has been working with the Houston City College and they have opened up trade type courses, including access control and fire courses. There are three individuals from the industry that are teaching the courses to students and the courses are a semester long with 54-57 hours of classroom time, plus labs and discussion courses online. He added that in order to take the class the students first apply for a Level I tentative pocket card. Mr. Helweg explained that he will bring the verbiage to the committee's new Senior Policy Analyst, Amanda Contrino, to ensure continuing with this course of study meets the requirements for the Level I license to be completed within the classroom time. He added that the classes must meet nationally recognized material as far as NEC is concerned. Ryan Garcia informed the committee that 1702 specifically states alarm Level I courses must be taught by class O training school, so it would need further review.

e. Public Report

Wade Hayden stated he had nothing to report at this time.

6. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Items

Luis Felini proposed electing new officers to the committee pursuant to 1702.026. Chairwoman James stated Debra Ulmer has held the position of Secretary in the past and Wade Hayden, Vice Chairman. She stated that as they had the lengthiest tenure among the committee, she felt they should be re-elected to those positions.

John Helweg, Debra Ulmer, and Louis Felini voted to elect Wade Hayden as Vice Chair, with Wade Hayden abstaining from the vote.

John Helweg, Wade Hayden, and Louis Felini voted to elect Debra Ulmer as Secretary, with Debra Ulmer abstaining from the vote.

7. Future agenda items

There were no future agenda items discussed at this time.

8. Date of next meeting

Date of the next meeting will be held January 14, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

9. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.