

Texas Private Security Advisory Committee (TPSAC)

Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2026

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Texas Private Security Advisory Committee was called to order at 11:01 a.m. on January 14, 2026, 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	Vice Chairman	Public Representative
John Helweg	Member	Locksmith Representative
Louis Felini	Member	Security Guard Representative
DJ Seegar	Member	Public Representative
Steve Moninger	Member	Public 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
Lisa Cargill	Field Ops Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Haydee Saenz	Compliance & Enforcement Spec	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
Julie Smith	Executive Assistant	Texas Department of Public Safety

3. Minutes from October 8, 2025

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved with one correction suggested by Chairwoman James.

4. Quarterly Reports from Regulatory Services Division

a. Executive Office Report

Service Director Ron Joy addressed the committee, stating that Representative Louderback's office recently contacted RSD regarding a working group to draft legislation addressing reserve officers working in construction zones and as escorts. Service Director Joy will be involved with this new working group.

b. Complaints/Investigations

Service Director Ron Joy stated the Private Security program continues to receive more complaints than any of the other programs overseen by the Regulatory Services Division. He stated RSD receives about 700 Private Security complaints per year. After investigating complaints, violations are found in 30% of cases on average. Whereas, with routine inspections, that average is 10%.

Captain Mark Berry addressed the committee and shared that RSD did not have commissioned employees in 2025; however, with the help of the Chief of the Highway Patrol, two commissioned Highway Patrol troopers assisted in making 21 arrests in 2025 in the private security section. Of those arrests, one was a third-degree felony, four were state jail felonies, and nineteen were class A misdemeanors. Captain Berry anticipates an increase in arrests as RSD adds several full-time commissioned officers by the end of 2025. Most of the offenses involved guard impersonation, and a few involved locksmith operations without appropriate credentials. The third-degree felony was an individual who was unlawfully possessing a firearm and was impersonating a private security guard.

Patti James asked if the majority of complaints were for security guards or if the complaints were split up by license. Service Director Ron Joy responded by stating the report is not broken down by license, instead all complaints are from all programs within the private security program. In addition, Patti James asked if the complaints came from the public. Service Director Ron Joy stated the complaints come from the public, law enforcement, and other government entities but the majority come from other private security companies.

Steve Moninger asked about the breakdown of the complaints and if a similar breakdown could be carried out for the disciplinary actions and inspections in the report. Service Director Joy requested Mr. Moninger to send a request to run a report with the specific data that he would like to see.

5. Industry Reports

a. Security Officers

Louis Felini addressed the committee by adding that he has been working with Service Director Joy on industry standards for guard services and training curriculums for special posts like school resource officers. Mr. Felini shared he is currently researching within all 50 states regarding the best practices for regulating guard services.

Service Director Joy stated the last rule regarding rifles was passed in 2024, which allowed them to be carried by honorably retired Texas police officers. The rule has not been expanded upon since that time, however, there is a desire from industry and certain representatives to revisit the topic. Service Director Joy shared with the committee that Mr. Felini has proposed some options for DPS to look through and will be reviewing them soon.

In addition, Mr. Felini stated he has taken a lot of calls from people in the industry that want to see changes and raise the industry standard. He recommends having site specific criteria which he believes can be handled through rule changes rather than new legislation.

b. Investigators

Chairwoman James stated she had nothing to report at this time.

However, Patti James referenced a discrepancy on the rules that are listed on the department's website. DPS Program Manager, Ryan Garcia confirmed that the version provided as a courtesy on the department's website is an earlier version from the 88th legislative session and will be updated.

c. Alarm systems and Electronic Access Control

No report was available from Debra Ulmer.

d. Locksmiths

John Helweg asked DPS to revisit the issue of students who are eligible to meet the requirements for the Level 1 license who are taking trade type courses including courses within the private security industry at Houston City College. DPS Program Manager Ryan Garcia stated that an individual who is looking to obtain a license does have to go through a background check; however, schools have the obligation to notify their students that if they do not pass the background check, they are not eligible for a license. Mr. Helweg requests that DPS explore creating something that is fair to both students and companies that want to hire them once the course materials have been completed.

In addition, Mr. Helweg expressed concern about other trade schools that teach industry trade material without running background checks or requiring students to be in TOPs. Another concern of his is the sensitive, private security industry information available for viewing on the internet.

Public member Wade Hayden suggested a rule that would prevent a licensee from posting sensitive industry information on the internet. Public member DJ Seegar suggested rule changes requiring training schools to conduct background checks on students before they begin these courses.

Public member Mr. Moninger shared that, based on similar questions that have come up in the past, he does not believe that we have the authority to tell training schools whom they can or cannot instruct.

Ms. James asked Mr. Garcia about the categorization of individuals in TOPs who have applied but do not yet have a license. Mr. Garcia informed the committee of the process. Once a person applies for a license by submitting all required documents and passing a background check, each individual will be listed as active in TOPs, but they will not receive a physical pocket card until they are employed by a licensed company.

Lastly, Mr. Helweg asked whether the individual and company representative CEU hours would overlap, or whether they would need to take duplicate coursework as a company representative. DPS Program Manager Ryan Garcia confirmed that the hours would overlap if the coursework material met the guidelines established for individual licensees. Mr. Helweg then suggested a possible change to the ethics requirement so that a licensee could take a course on code updates instead of the ethics course.

e. Public Report from Wade Hayden

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

f. Public Report from Steve Moninger

Steve Moninger introduced himself by stating that he hopes to bring more engagement from the public and the industry to this committee. Furthermore, a couple of suggestions for the committee were made, including the process for publishing meeting agendas and meeting minutes on the DPS website for public viewing.

Mr. Moninger added that, in order to fulfill the statutory purpose of providing advice and recommendations to the Public Safety Commission, the committee needs to have more engagement from the public and industry to further inform the committee on important matters.

Ms. James shared that she has always had difficulty obtaining information from industry professionals to present to the advisory committee.

Mr. Helweg shared that he also has difficulty obtaining information from his industry to share with the committee and attributes this to finding new ways to engage the public and industry.

6. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Items

- a) Process Improvement, recommending greater transparency in complainant reports.

Mr. Moninger recommended to the committee that DPS provide greater detail in the status and outcome reports provided to complainants. At this time the Texas Private Security Advisory Committee voted, and the motion was passed.

- b) Request for status report on previously approved rules for Company Representatives continuing education.

Service Director Ron Joy shared with the committee that when the recommendation was previously brought to the attention of Chief Mueller, he decided not to pursue it further. Additionally, he stated that if the committee still wishes to pursue this recommendation, he will notify the Chief, who will then present it to the Office of General Counsel for further evaluation. Mr. Joy also shared that the committee members are free to submit public comments to the Public Safety Commission (PSC) at any time and can also submit a written request to the division for Chief Mueller to evaluate and possibly present at the next PSC Meeting.

A discussion took place regarding the merits of this recommendation. Mr. Felini shared that he is a proponent of raising industry standards and, therefore, would support this rule.

After further discussion, the Texas Private Security Advisory Committee voted, and the motion was passed to re-present this recommendation to Chief Mueller to then present to the Office of General Counsel for further evaluation.

Mr. Helweg suggested a change to the ethics requirement so that a licensee could take a course on code updates instead of the ethics course. Mr. Moninger stated that the committee's recommendation is conditioned upon committee agreement on the final language, which will be discussed over email.

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 April 15, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

9. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.