Texas Private Security Advisory Committee (TPSAC)

Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2026

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Texas Private Security Advisory Committee was called to order at 11:00 a.m. on July 15, 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
Debbra Ulmer	Secretary	Alarm Company Representative
John Helweg	Member	Locksmith Representative
Louis Felini	Member	Security Guard Representative
Steve Moninger	Member	Public Representative
Lisa Cargill	CES Service Director, RSD	Texas Department of Public Safety
Amanda Contrino	Senior Policy Analyst, RSD	Texas Department of Public Safety

3. Minutes from April 15, 2026

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

4. Quarterly Reports from Regulatory Services Division

a) Compliance and Enforcement

RSD Compliance and Enforcement Service Director, Lisa Cargill addressed the committee and shared that total regulatory inspections in Q3 2026 saw a significant increase to 1,751, up from 640 in Q3 2025, driven primarily by an uptick in annual routine inspections, from 473 to 1,525. These inspections resulted in 102 violations, 82 of these resulted in fines, and 1 administrative violation against the license. There was also a rise in complaint investigations, which increased from 167 to 226 and yielded 51 violations and 33 fines.

b) Complaints/Investigations

Special Assignments Manager, Andres Pena, addressed the committee and shared that between January 1 and July 13, 2026, 17 individuals were arrested on 19 charges, driven primarily by 13 cases of impersonating a security officer. Additional arrests included unlicensed alarm and locksmith services, unauthorized security employment, and a guard possessing illegal weapons and substances.

c) Licensing and Review Service

Licensing and Review Service Manager, Ryan Garcia, addressed the committee and shared that third-quarter 2026 data shows a year-over-year increase of 9,168 individual licenses compared to 2025, reaching a total of 205,928. Conversely, business licenses decreased by 197 to 6,670 over the same period, potentially due to expirations.

d) Executive Office Report

RSD Assistant Chief, Roland Luna, addressed the committee and shared that the Division (RSD) is undergoing a comprehensive, long-term review of all outgoing regulatory correspondence. This division-wide initiative aligns with an ongoing multi-year systems modernization project and aims to evaluate every letter for compliance with statutory rules and administrative requirements.

In addition, the division is prioritizing updates to two specific letters flagged by advisory committee member Steve Moninger. These improvements are targeted for completion before the end of the fiscal year, with a formal update planned for the first FY2027 advisory committee meeting.

- **Notice of Administrative Action (NOAA):** Legally mandated by Government Code Section 411.5426, this letter requires a brief summary of the action. The division aims to make these summaries more descriptive, uniform, and refined, and will share the finalized layout with the committee.
- **Complaint Disposition Letter:** The division identified that this letter currently conflates a final "disposition" with an ongoing "investigative status." It is being updated to accurately reflect that it provides an investigative status update to the complainant.

Beyond rewording the text, the division is evaluating its internal workflow to determine which service team should ultimately own the responsibility for managing and creating these communications. The goal is to maximize division efficiencies, improve process flows, and ensure the highest quality end-product.

5. Industry Reports

a) Security Officers

Louis Felini addressed the committee and shared that he recently conducted some regulatory research and identified a critical gap. Mr. Felini noted that while shotgun ammunition is regulated, semi-automatic ammunition is not. This oversight allows security officers—who are often entry-level workers required to purchase their own equipment—to choose cheap, dangerous full-metal jacket (FMJ) rounds over hollow points. This type of ammunition poses a severe risk of over-penetration and collateral damage, and sub-compact firearms are highly inaccurate over long distances in crowded public spaces like schools. This issue was raised as a future discussion point to propose new rule changes.

b) Investigators

Chairwoman Patti James stated that she had nothing to report at this time. She noted that, despite her efforts to encourage members of her industry to share any concerns, she has not received any information to report.

Chairwoman James shared that she has received questions about the continuing education requirements for Personal Protection Officers (PPOs), specifically whether the required six hours of continuing education are separate from the mandatory handgun proficiency training under Texas Occupations Code § 1702.309.

Licensing and Review Service Manager, Ryan Garcia, clarified that the six hours of continuing education must be completed in person and taught by a DPS-approved instructor. The handgun proficiency training is a separate requirement in addition to those six hours. He also noted that the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) is not a licensed private security training school, so PPOs cannot use TCOLE training to meet this requirement. An exemption is available for PPOs who were active peace officers at the time of their initial application. Finally, Mr. Garcia advised that licensed training schools can be found on the Texas Online Private Security Portal.

c) Alarm systems and Electronic Access Control

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

d) Locksmiths

John Helweg stated he had nothing to report at this time. He shared that the Texas Locksmiths Association Annual Convention is scheduled for September 17-20 in Pflugerville.

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 stated he had nothing to report at this time. Mr. Moninger recommended adding the names of each Industry Member to the shared agenda for future meetings.

Mr. Moninger asked for an update on his previous request to have disciplinary actions broken down by the category of allegation, similar to how complaint types are currently categorized. He noted that while the list of complaint types is detailed, the report on outcomes only shows totals for suspensions, revocations, and other actions, without linking them to specific categories. Mr. Moninger asked whether this type of breakdown was being considered or if it was not feasible.

Chief Luna responded that this request aligns with ongoing efforts to refine reporting as part of the division's modernization initiative. He explained that the current system is being phased out, and more robust analytics will be available once modernization is complete. He added that fulfilling the request now would require an evaluation of the time and staff resources needed, and the division wants to avoid investing significant effort into the legacy system when improved reporting capabilities are forthcoming.

Mr. Moninger acknowledged the challenges but emphasized the potential usefulness of the information. He noted that understanding which offenses require more resources or which categories see more frequent acceptance of proposed discipline could benefit the department operationally, beyond its value for public reporting. He concluded by reiterating that he believes the information could be beneficial, even if collecting it may be complex.

6. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Items

a) Company Representative continuing education rule.

The committee is revisiting a previously proposed amendment to §35.41, Company Representative, and §35.161, Continuing Education Requirements, requiring company representatives to obtain continuing education credits.

Chairwoman Patti James asked that the motion be restated for clarity. A motion was then made to accept the document distributed that morning regarding continuing education requirements for company representatives as the committee's recommendation to the division. The motion was seconded.

All members present voted in favor of the motion, and it passed unanimously.

b) Transparency of meetings, agendas, minutes, and webpage, to enhance public involvement and awareness.

Mr. Moninger initiated an extended discussion on transparency and industry engagement. He emphasized that industry stakeholders and the public often do not know the advisory committee exists, contributing to a perception that the committee has little influence. He expressed concern that members frequently report having "nothing to report," which he felt indicated diminished relevance of the committee since its transition from a regulatory board to an advisory committee. Mr. Moninger suggested that increased transparency—such as publishing agendas, minutes, and meeting recordings—could help restore visibility and encourage more substantive industry input.

Chief Luna stated the division would be better able to evaluate transparency ideas if the committee documented them in writing. He noted that some suggestions may be feasible, while others may depend on modernization efforts or coordination with other divisions, and some may not be attainable.

Mr. Wade Hayden questioned the underlying problem these transparency efforts were intended to solve. He noted the committee has not received complaints about access to meetings or information and expressed that the committee already fulfills its advisory mandate.

Mr. Felini shared how Security Industry inquiries related to the Advisory Committee are currently handled. All such questions or concerns that are directed at RSD are routed to Mr. Felini, who responds directly to individuals. He stated that no complaints have been received regarding access or communication. Mr. Felini added that he remains active in professional organizations and agrees that, while the committee should not operate like a formal board, the question raised by Mr. Moninger—how stakeholders know how to reach the committee—remains valid. He noted that the current process works well for the physical security industry but may affect other industries differently.

Chairwoman Patti James acknowledged that she has not received complaints either but stated she supports posting agendas and minutes to the website, as this could allow industry members to provide input beforehand. She noted that individuals in their professions are likely the only ones with interest in committee activity.

Mr. John Helweg and Ms. Debbra Ulmer expressed concerns about declining communication from industry members since Sunset. Both noted that when they previously served on trade association boards, they had open dialogue with industry stakeholders. Mr. Helweg further explained that legislative restrictions prevent him from serving on trade association boards while sitting on the advisory committee, reducing his access to industry information. Ms. Ulmer added that industry groups previously viewed board members as having meaningful authority but now view the committee as having limited influence.

The committee elected to defer this discussion to a later meeting in the interest of time.

c) Enhancements to complaint letters and notice of action letters

Mr. Moninger raised concerns that current administrative action letters restate rule language without explaining the specific conduct at issue, leaving recipients uncertain about what violation allegedly occurred. He stated that this fails to meet statutory requirements for summarizing violations and can prompt unnecessary appeals or legal costs.

Chairwoman Patti James agreed, noting the letters require recipients to guess which rule they violated. Mr. Moninger suggested the committee could formally state that the letters are insufficient.

Chief Luna responded that the division is already working to revise the letters, aiming to make them more descriptive and compliant by the first meeting of FY 2027. He stated that while a formal recommendation from the committee is welcome, it is not needed for these improvements to proceed. After this clarification, Mr. Moninger withdrew his suggestion for a formal recommendation and proposed tabling the item until the committee can review the updated letters.

d) Proposed Rule to allow private Security Guards to carry rifles or short-barreled rifles either in addition to or in place of shotguns and Level II Enhanced discussion so that unarmed security can carry non-lethal with certification

Mr. Louis Felini presented two related proposals: creation of an "Enhanced Level 2" (Level 2-E) designation allowing non-lethal tools, and expansion of rifle capability for certain security assignments. He explained that Enhanced Level 2 would fill the gap between the current unarmed Level 2 and armed Level 3 classifications by permitting officers to carry less-than-lethal options such as pepper spray or Tasers without creating an entirely new license level. He noted this would benefit environments such as private schools and hospitals that prefer non-lethal security tools.

Mr. Felini also described the need for expanded rifle capability to address industry gaps, particularly for assignments involving schools and critical infrastructure. He stated that he has worked extensively on the proposal, coordinating previously with former Compliance and Enforcement Service Director, Ron Joy, and shared the materials with the full committee and Capt. Mark Berry prior to the meeting. He emphasized that all oversight and responsibility for the deployment, authorization, and management of enhanced tools or rifles would rest entirely with the licensed company, including responsibility for assignments, ammunition, and supervision of officers.

Mr. Felini requested a motion to form a joint subcommittee with RSD to refine both proposals and prepare them for rulemaking.

Chief Luna expressed support for the collaborative approach, stating that when new capabilities are proposed for the industry, it is beneficial for the regulatory agency and industry representatives to work together. He confirmed RSD's willingness to participate in a subcommittee and to provide subject-matter experts.

Chairwoman Patti James asked whether a formal motion was needed. Since Mr. Felini had already made a motion, she requested a second. Mr. John Helweg seconded the motion. The motion to establish a joint subcommittee with RSD to advance the Level 2-E and rifle capability proposals was approved unanimously.

7. Future agenda items

No future agenda items were proposed.

8. Date of next meeting

Date of the next meeting will be held October 14, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

9. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.