

Public Safety Commission Meeting

February 13, 2020, 9:00 a.m. 6100 Guadalupe, Building E Austin, TX 78752

Summary

(This report represents a summary of events of the meeting, and is not necessarily complete nor an exact transcript of testimony.)

The Public Safety Commission convened as posted to consider and take formal action, if necessary, on the following agenda items:

I. CALL TO ORDER

9:00 am – Chairman Steven Mach called the meeting to order. In attendance: Chairman Steve Mach, Commissioners Steve H. Stodghill, New Commissioner Nelda L. Blair, and New Commissioner Dale Wainwright. A quorum was present. Also present were, Director Steve McCraw, Deputy Directors Randall Prince, Skylor Hearn and Freeman Martin, as well as General Counsel Phil Adkins.



II. INVOCATION

An invocation was given by DPS Chaplain Ferman Carpenter.

III. PLEDGES

Chairman Steven Mach asked a Trooper to lead the room in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Steve Stodghill, and seconded Chairman Mach to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2019 PSC Meeting.

The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2019 PSC Meeting.

The motion carried.

V. PRESENTATIONS

Chairman Steven Mach presented a plaque to Commissioner Emeritus Jason Pulliam for his service on the Public Safety Commission and asked Texas Ranger Chief Chance Collins to present a plaque naming Commissioner Jason Pulliam as an Honorary Texas Ranger.





Chairman Mach then presented a plaque to Chair Emeritus Cynthia Leon and thanked her for her 9 years of service to the Public Safety Commission. He then went on to present a Proclamation from Lt. Governor Dan Patrick thanking her for her service to the state, and then read a second Proclamation, this one from Governor Greg Abbott again thanking her for her service to Texas and the country.





Director Steve McCraw then asked former Chief of Media and Communications, Catherine Cesinger Ray to come forward to accept a plaque of appreciation for her service to the Department of Public Safety and congratulated her on her recent marriage.



30 Year Service Awards:



Regina Kennedy, DLD - HQ



Judy Caculin, DLD - Central Texas Region

35 Year Service Awards:



Douglas Farber, THP - Northwest Texas Region



Harry Hoeischer, THP - HQ



Henry "Hank" Sibley, III, THP – HQ

45 Year Service Award:



Joe Keith Mitchel, Intelligence & Counter Terrorism - HQ

William P. Clements Awards for Excellence:



James Scoggins, TX Rangers Div. - Central Texas



Oscar Villareal, THP - West Texas Region

Life Saving Awards:



Damian DeLeon, THP - West Texas Region



Kobe Huett, THP - West Texas Region



Francisco rangel, THP, West Texas Region



Travis Payne, THP – West Texas Region



Dina Ortiz, THP - West Texas Region



Rachael King, ThP - West Texas



Germaine Gaspard, THP - North Texas Region



Oren Hennings, THP - North Texas Region



Adam Constancio, THP - Northwest Texas Region



JohnHenry Bradshaw, THP - South Texas Region



Nathaniel Taylor, CID - Southeast Texas Region



David F. Stewart, THP - North Texas Regio



Caleb Wall, atlanta Police Department

Director's Award:



Howard Garcia

Fusion Center Award for Excellence in the Field of Maritime Domain Awareness



Kim Jones, Intelligence & Counter Terrorism - HQ

Recognition for Work in Forensic DNA Identification



(Did not get this Gentleman's Name)

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

(Members of the public wishing to address the Commission are subject to a time limit of 5 minutes and must complete a Public Comment Registration Card located at the entry. Should a member of the public bring an item to the Commission for which the subject was not posted on the agenda of the meeting, state law provides that the Commission may receive the information but cannot act upon it at the meeting. The Commission may direct staff to contact the requestor or request that the issue be placed on a future agenda for discussion.)

There was no public comment presented.

VII. DIRECTORS REPORT

A. Case Update: THP Shooting Incident



Director Steven McCraw asked Acting Chief Hank Sibley, HP to show and comment on a video that is routinely shown to HP classes. The video showed multiple powerful, disturbing and heroic action that happens in the life of a trooper. "There are no routine days in the life of a trooper!"

Chief Sibley said that that the Department has had 66 active shooter situations in the last 4 years.



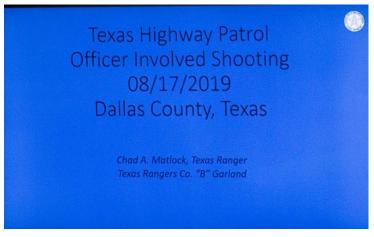


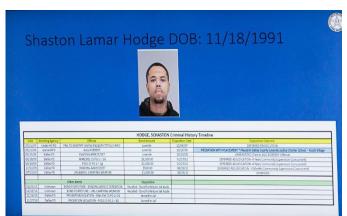
B. Case Update: THP In-Service School Video (No Routine Day in the Life of a Trooper)

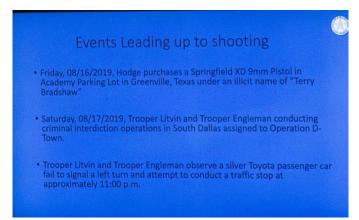
Director Steven McCraw asked Texas Ranger Chad Matlock to give a presentation of other cases of

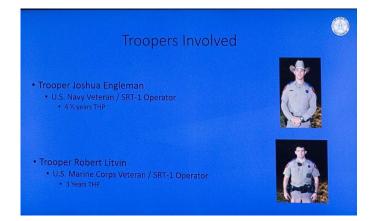
"shots fired" cases.



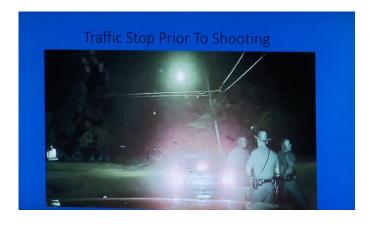










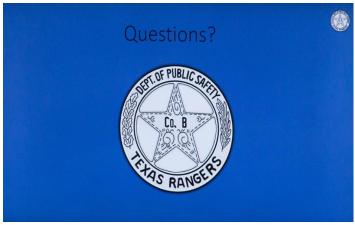












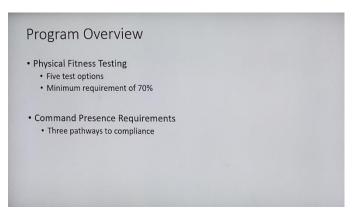
VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Report, discussion and possible action on the Health, Wellness, and Physical Fitness Policy – 2019 Fall Testing Cycle Report



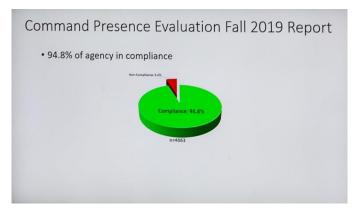
Director Steven McCraw invited Captain Greg Davis to provide an update on the Health, Wellness, and Physical Fitness Policy, including the 2019 Fall Testing Cycle Report. Captain Davis was joined by Michael Hufford (sp?). to provide further information.

They concluded their report by stating that they feel that the policy has had a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the Department, and that no changes are requested to the policy.





Physical Fitness Testing Fall 2019 Report • 500m Row Test pass rate of 99.6% (n=1883) • 4 Minute Row Test pass rate of 99.8% (n=1259) • Combat Fitness Test pass rate of 100% (n=379) • 2,000m Row Test pass rate of 100% (n=396) • Standard PRT pass rate of 100% (n=146)



- **B.** Final Determination in Contested Cases consideration and possible action on Proposal for Decision:
 - 1. SOAH Docket No. 405-19-5823.PSB Michael Walter Viator;
 - 2. SOAH Docket No. 405-20-0541.MVI Fouad Mohammad Bdeir;
 - 3. SOAH Docket No. 405-19-6538.MVI Raul Montalvo Equia

General Counsel Phil Atkins asked the Commission to approve the above final determinations.

A motion was made by Commissioner Blair and seconded by Commissioner Stodghill.

The Motion Passed.

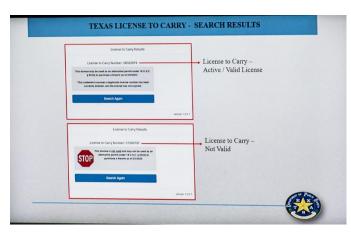
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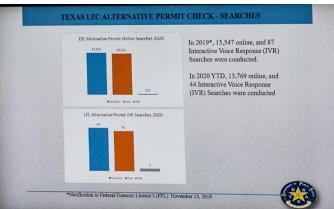
C. Update on License to Carry (LTC) Checker Initiative



Wayne Mueller, Chief of Regulatory Services, provided a report on DPS License to Carry (LTC) policy and procedures as requested by Deputy Director Skylor Hearn due to the recent tragic mass casualty shooting in El Paso. Chief Mueller explained that due to the stringent background check that holders of LTCs go through, their LTC card allowed them to bypass the otherwise required Brady Bill background check when purchasing a firearm. A somewhat of a loophole was identified in that if an individual with a license to carry had been charged or convicted of a crime and had their LTC permit revoked, they might still present their card to

avoid the background check while the card still showed a valid expiration date. Those individuals that have their LTCs revoked are required to forfeit (turn in) their cards, but about 75% never due since there is no penalty stipulated for not doing so.





DPS came up with an application that addresses this problem that allows anyone to open the application that is available through the DPS website and type in the LTC card number and immediately determine if the card is still active. Around 3,000 of the 1.4 million LTC cards are suspended or revoked.

This is phase 1 of this updated policy and tightening of security checks involving LTCs. The app has been accessed about 29,000 times so far, so we know that it is being utilized. We have also contracted with a new vendor to provide the LTC cards that will provide a higher level of security by laser etching the person's photo onto the card. While this new method will only provide a black and white image, it is much more difficult to copy or counterfeit.





D. Report, discussion, and possible action regarding the appointment of a member to the Vehicle Inspection Advisory Committee as authorized under TRC 548.006

Three of the services that the DPS Regulatory Services oversee require Committees that monitor the operations of those services. Chief Mueller asked the Commission to approve the appointment of a new member to the Vehicle Inspection Advisory Committee. I'm afraid I did not hear the name of the appointee.

- **E.** Report, discussion, and possible action on the following rule proposals for publication to receive public comment:
 - 1. Amendments to 37 TAC Section 10.4 and new Section 10.5 and Section 10.6, concerning General Provisions
 - 2. Amendments to 37 TAC Sections 10.11, 10.13, 10.14, and new Section 10.17, concerning Vendor Authorization
 - Amendments to 37 TAC Section 10.32, concerning Denial of Request for Approval; Revocation of Device Approval
 - 4. Amendments to 37 TAC Sections 23.1, 23.3, 23.5, and 23.6, concerning Vehicle Inspection and Vehicle Inspector Certification
 - 5. Amendments to 37 TAC Sections 23.12 23.14, concerning General Vehicle Inspection Station Requirements
 - 6. Amendments to 37 TAC Section 23.51 and Section 23.55, concerning Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance Program
 - 7. Repeal of 37 TAC Section 23.56, concerning Waiver for Low Volume Emission Inspection Stations
 - 8. Amendments to 37 TAC Section 23.62 and Section 23.63, concerning Violations and Administrative Penalties
 - 9. Amendments to 37 TAC Section 36.1, concerning Definitions
 - 10. Amendments to 37 TAC Section 36.11, concerning Application for Certificate of Registration
 - 11. Amendments to 37 TAC Section 36.34 and Section 36.36, concerning Practice by Certificate Holders and Reporting Requirements
 - 12. Amendments to 37 TAC Sections 36.51, 36.53, 36.55, and 36.56, and new Section 36.57, concerning Disciplinary Procedures and Administrative Procedures
 - 13. Repeal of 37 TAC Section 36.57 36.59, concerning Disciplinary Procedures and Administrative Procedures

Chief Mueller discussed briefly what each of the amendments #1-12 were as well as the repeal listed in #13 to the Commission and asked for approval to publish these changes in the Texas Register for

A motion was made by Commissioner Wainwright and seconded by Commissioner Stodghill. The motion passed.

IX. Intelligence Threat Briefing (Clearance Required – Executive Session Expected) *This agenda item was taken up in Executive Session.*

X. ONGOING BUSINESS

- **A.** Report, discussion and possible adoption of the following previously published rules:
 - 1. Amendments to 37 TAC Section 2.8, concerning Expiration
 - 2. Amendments to 37 TAC Section 6.13, concerning Photographs
 - 3. Amendments to 37 TAC Section 13.1, concerning Definitions
 - 4. Repeal of 37 TAC Sections 13.11, 13.12, 13.14, 13.15, 13.20, and 13.22, concerning Precursor Chemical Laboratory Apparatus (PCLA)
 - 5. Amendments to 37 TAC Sections 13.13, 13.16, 13.19, 13.21, and 13.23, concerning Precursor Chemical and Laboratory Apparatus (PCLA)
 - 6. Repeal of 37 TAC Sections 13.31 13.44, concerning Peyote Distributors

Chief Mueller discussed these previously posted amendments and repeal (1-6) and stated that there was no public comment and asked for their approval.

- 6. Amendments to 37 TAC Section 15.6, concerning Motorcycle License
- 7. Amendments to 37 TAC Section 15.27, concerning Signature by Parent or Guardian for a Driver License
- 8. Amendments to 37 TAC Section 15.55, concerning Waiver of Knowledge and/or Skills Tests



Driver License Assistant Chief Sheri Gipson discussed amendments 7-9 and noted that she had received no public comments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Blair and seconded by Commissioner Wainwright. The motion passed.

B. Report, discussion, update and possible action regarding Driver License Action Plan

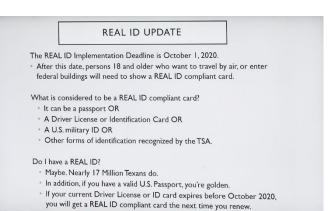
Driver License Assistant Chief Sheri Gipson reported that they have had 96 new hires in the DL Division, they still have 272 vacancies. She stated that the DL staffing has gone from 1,923 to 2,212, but 180 of the positions were filled through promotions within the Division.

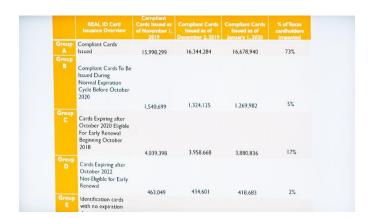
Assistant Chief Gipson also reported that on January 1, 2020,73% of DLs were "Real IDs", and by February 1, 75% were Real IDs. Notices have been issued to the other 20%.

Funding for additional staff As of January 1, 2020, DL has provided conditional job offers to 1484 candidates. Of these, 901 individuals have been hired and are in training. 336 candidates failed the background check, 140 candidates declined the position, The remaining 107 are still in the hiring process, including the background check. As of January 1 2020, DL has 326 remaining vacancies to fill that are in the hiring process. Preparation stage – 89.3 Posted for hire – 163 Conditional job offer/Background – 66.5 Hire date set – 7.5 Filled positions – 2158

Progress Made on Hiring DL Positions	Sept 2019	Oct 2019	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	Jan 2020
onditional Job Offers made	923	1072	1232	1323	1484
Individuals who have begun with DPS and are in training	459	514	563	805	901
Individuals who failed background check	225	275	301	314	336
Individuals who declined position	110	116	124	133	140
Individuals still in hiring process, pending background check	129	167	244	71	107
Remaining Driver License Office (DLO) vacancies – Total	560.8	475.8	418.3	362.8	326.3
Remaining DLO vacancies Preparation stage	171.8	167.3	126.8	91.3	89.3
Remaining DLO vacancies Posted for hire	170.5	156	203	188	163
Remaining DLO vacancies Conditional Job Offer/In background check	176.5	130	55	69	66.5
Remaining DLO vacancies Hire date set	42	22.5	33	14.5	7.5

ADDITIONAL DL UPDATES Third Party Study on the Driver License Program This contract was awarded to the University of Texas at Austin and they have begun reviewing requested data elements. Class C Drive Test Task Force: Partnering with Texas Highway Patrol, to conduct Class C drive tests. Since the initiative began, over 35,000 drive tests have been conducted by our THP partners.





C. Report, discussion, and update regarding Mass Casualty Attacks including progress on Executive Order GA-07 issued September 5, 2019

Director Steven McCraw reported that in the aftermath of the El Paso shootings, Governor Greg Abbott assembled law enforcement and other first responder leaders from across the state to discuss an action plan for Mass Casualty Attacks, both public accessible information, and other classified responses. DPS participated.



D. Report, discussion, and possible action regarding the modification of the DPS organizational structure and the appointment, promotion, ratification, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a member of the Department or Commission management team

Director Steven McCraw asked the Commission for approval of the following changes/reassignments to the Department management team:

 Regional Director (North Texas Region) Jeoffry Williams is recommended to replace Lt. Colonel Skylor Hearn as the Deputy Director of Law Enforcement Services. Lt. Colonel Hearn will be retiring at the end of February.

A motion to approve promotion of Jeoffry Williams to Deputy Director of Law Enforcement Services was made by Comm. Stodghill and seconded by Comm. Wainwright.

The motion carried.

 Regional Director (Capitol Region) Dwight Mathis is recommended to replace Chief Ron Joy as the Chief of the Texas Highway Patrol Division. Chief Joy will also be retiring at the end of February.

A motion to approve promotion of Dwight Mathis to Chief of Highway Patrol was made by Comm. Wainwright and seconded by Comm. Bair.

The motion carried.

- Driver License Chief Amanda Arriaga will serve as a member of the Director's staff. No motion was required on this appointment.
 - Driver License Assistant Chief Sheri Gipson is recommended to serve as the Chief of the Driver License Division.

A motion to approve promotion of Sheri Gipson to Chief of the Driver License Division was made by Comm. Stodghill and seconded by Comm. Wainwright.

The motion carried.

• Texas Highway Patrol Acting Chief Hank Sibley is recommended to serve as the Regional Director of the North Texas Region.

A motion to approve promotion of Hank Sibley to Regional Director for the North Texas Region was made by Comm. Blair and seconded by Comm. Wainwright.

The motion carried.

 Major David Cabrera, Intelligence and Counterterrorism Division, is recommended to serve as the Regional Director of the Capitol Region.

A motion to approve promotion of David Cabrera to Regional Director of the Capitol Region was made by Comm. Stodghill and seconded by Comm. Bair.

The motion carried.

 Chief of Government Relations Kevin Cooper is recommended to serve as the Chief over both the Office of Government Relations and the Office of Media and Communications upon the departure of Chief Katherine (Cesinger) Ray at the end of February.

A motion to approve promotion of Kevin Cooper to Chief over both the Office of Government Relations and the Office of Media and Communications was made by Comm. Blair and seconded by Comm Stodghill.

The motion carried.

Director also asked to promote Lindsy Dennis as the Assistant Chief, Driver License Division.

A motion to approve promotion of Lindsey Dennis to Assistant Chief of the Driver License Division was made by Comm. Stodghillt and seconded by Comm. Wainwright.

The motion carried.

The Department of Public Safety is blessed with extraordinary talent at all levels, and the above recommended changes were challenging to make because of the many leaders at DPS who are well qualified for these positions. Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to thank Lt. Colonel Skylor Hearn, Chief Ron Joy and Chief Katherine Ray for their outstanding service to the department and the state of Texas, and we wish them well as they each begin a new chapter in their lives.

E. Report, discussion, and possible action regarding ongoing criminal investigations pursuant to Government Code § 411.0041 (Executive Session anticipated)

This item was handled in Executive Session.

XI. REPORTS

A. Commission member reports and discussion

There was no additional Commission member reports or discussion.

B. Finance Report

Nothing additional to report.

C. Chief Auditors Office

Nothing additional to report.

D. Division status reports on activities and action *Nothing additional to report.*

XII. CONSENT ITEMS

All of the following items may be enacted with one motion. These items are typically self-explanatory or have been previously considered by the Commission. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a commissioner so requests.

- **A.** Advice and consent regarding director's determination that certain probationary employees were found unsuitable for work during December 2019.
- **B.** Discussion and possible action on appointments of Special Rangers and Special Texas Rangers pursuant to Government Code Chapter 411, Secs. 411.023 & 411.024: Special Rangers: Laurance P. Adams, Sr., Jay C. Alexander, Robbie L. Barrera, Kenneth E. Bratton, Shannon M. Cloe, Chad S. Estes, Louis Lopez II, Donald R. Lundy, Joseph M. Marino, and Mark S. Phillips; Special Texas Rangers:

Eustacio Galvan, Skylor D. Hearn, and Joel D. Kite; and National Insurance Crime Bureau Special Ranger: James A. Vignali, Jr.

C. Donations:

- South Texas Region SRT and SOG Operators use of La Copa Ranch for lodging and training purposes
- 2. Additional donation items, as needed

With no discussion, a motion was made to approve items XII A, B, and C by Commissioner Wainwright and seconded by Commissioner Stodghill.

The Motion Carried.

XIII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Chairman Mach asked the Commissioners to get any suggestions for agenda items to General Counsel Phil Adkins.

XIV. DATE FOR FUTURE MEETING

No discharge hearings are scheduled, and the regular Public Safety Commission meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2020.

The next Public Safety Commission Meeting will be held on April 17, 2020.

XV. ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

(If required) to consult with legal counsel regarding pending or contemplated litigation or settlement offers or to receive legal advice on items posted on this agenda;

deliberation regarding real estate matters; consideration of any other items authorized by law, including personnel matters, the director's action of discharging employees as identified in this agenda; ongoing criminal investigations

Chairman Mach recessed the Public Safety Commission Meeting to go into Executive Session at 11:40 am.

XVI. ADJOURN

The Commission may take items out of the order in which they are posted on this agenda. Also, an item that has been adopted, passed upon, delayed or tabled for a later meeting may be considered or reconsidered at the same meeting. The Public Safety Commission may meet and discuss in Executive Session and have action taken in an Open Meeting where required on the following items:

Government Code Sec. 551.071 Consultation and deliberation with legal counsel about pending or contemplated litigation or a settlement offer, or on a matter where the Commissioners seek the advice of their attorney as privileged communications under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas, and to discuss the Open Meetings Act and the Administrative Procedures Act with their attorney

Government Code Sec. 551.074 Appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of director, assistant director, and persons appointed to management team positions pursuant to Govt. Code Sec. 411.0071 Government Code Sec. 551.076 Deliberations about security audits, security devices, including deployment and implementation of security personnel and devices Government Code Chapter 411, Sec. 411.0041 Ongoing criminal investigations Government Code Sec. 551.072 Deliberation of the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the government body in negotiations with a third person Government Code Sec. 551.073 Deliberation of a negotiated contract for a prospective gift or donation to the state or the governmental body if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person