



TEXAS COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Minimum Standards for Law Enforcement Agencies November 28, 2023

On Monday, November 28, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., an advisory committee meeting for the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) was held at the Nolan Ryan Center, 3110 Mustang Road, Alvin, Texas, 77511, and via videoconference.

Committee members attending were: Presiding Officer Roy Boyd, Assistant Presiding Officer Jaime Ayala, Chief Bill Avera (virtual), Paul Christ (virtual), Chief Solomon Cook, Bob Lydia (virtual – audio only), Chief Ronald Phillips, Marvin Ryals (virtual), and Chief Derreck Watson (virtual).

TCOLE Executive staff attending virtually were: Credentialing, Education, and Field Services Director Cullen Grissom; Information Technology and Special Services Director Jessica Capraro; Enforcement Major T.J. Vineyard; and Government Relations Director Gretchen Grigsby.

Agenda item 1, Call to order.

Presiding Officer Roy Boyd called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Welcoming remarks were made by Presiding Officer Roy Boyd.

Agenda item 2, Discuss and take action on Advisory Committee procedural and preliminary matters, if necessary.

Presiding Officer Boyd directed committee members to review the meeting minutes of the November 7, 2023, advisory committee meeting. Chief Bill Avera moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Assistant Presiding Officer Jaime Ayala. The motion passed.

Agenda item 3, Discuss and take action on matters related to developing minimum standards with respect to the creation or continued operation of a law enforcement agency based on the function, size, and jurisdiction of the agency as established under Texas Occupation Code §1701.163. This includes the review, discussion, and any action on: A matrix for the creation of a law enforcement agency; format of documents pertaining to recommendations by members and the committee as a body; and any guidance regarding the legislative intent as it pertains to Minimum Standards for Law Enforcement Agencies.

Paul Christ started the discussion on the matrix for law enforcement agency creation. Major T.J. Vineyard virtually presented an Excel Spreadsheet showing the matrix as previously discussed.

Committee members discussed the current standards necessary by TCOLE that are not part of the Occupations Code as it currently stands.

Paul Christ suggested a definition be determined for small, medium, and large agencies. Chief Avera suggested a standard number of licensees representing the size of the agencies as an alternative to be reviewed as a necessary portion of the new standards. Assistant Presiding Officer Ayala added the expectations for each agency should be addressed as standard regardless of size of the agency. Chief Avera agreed and suggested the classification of the agency should be more defining than the size. Presiding Officer Boyd suggested that Major Vineyard share the Excel Spreadsheet matrix to the rest of the Advisory Committee to review in greater detail in future meetings.

Committee members were encouraged to review the physical and digital handouts previously shared in relation to the Texas Transportation Code Chapter 720 in reference to sustainable funding sources, then discussed.

Additional points were briefly reviewed and designated to be discussed at future meetings.

Major Vineyard advised adding a method for allowing an annual or biannual reporting requirement by the agency to TCOLE, paired with racial profiling and similar reporting requirements, to reduce the need for an onsite inspection.

Major Vineyard suggested that new agency training be required before a new agency is created; this would help to inform and outline the requirements of a law enforcement agency for the decision maker. Presiding Officer Boyd advised making the training affordable and accessible for all types of governing bodies. TCOLE will assess the training curriculum and needs if the Advisory Committee mandates this type of training in the new minimum standards.

Agenda item 4, Discuss and take action on future Advisory Committee meeting dates and location, including videoconferencing.

Future meeting proposed dates, times, and locations were discussed. No future meeting date was confirmed.

Agenda item 5, Receive public comment on any topic, without action.

No public comment.

Agenda item 6, Adjourn.

Chief Ronald Phillips made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chief Avera. The meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.