



Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board

2643 East University Drive Phoenix, Arizona 85034-6914 Phone (602) 223-2514

MINUTES OF THE MAY 15, 2024, MEETING OF THE ARIZONA PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING BOARD PHOENIX, ARIZONA

A public meeting of the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board was convened on May 15, 2024, at the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, located at 2643 E. University Drive, Phoenix, AZ.

Members Present (in person):

Sheriff Mark Dannels, Cochise County Sheriff's Office, Chairman
Detective Benjamin Cook, Pinal County Sheriff's Office
Colonel Jeff Glover, Arizona Department of Public Safety
Detective Joseph Krajcer, Tempe Police Department
Division Chief Bill Mundell, representing Attorney General Kris Mayes, Arizona Attorney General's Office
Director Ryan Thornell, Arizona Department of Corrections Rehabilitation & Reentry
Ms. Leesa B. Weisz, Public Member

Members Present (via online video/telephone conferencing):

Professor Kevin Robinson, Arizona State University
Sheriff Doug Schuster, Mohave County Sheriff's Office

Members Absent:

Commander Matthew Figueroa, Jail Commander, Coconino County Sheriff's Office
Mr. Randy Schoch, Public Member

Staff in Attendance (in person):

Matt Giordano, Executive Director
Sean Donegan, Deputy Director
Michele Blanco, Compliance Specialist
Richard Bradshaw, Compliance Specialist
William Caldwell, Compliance Specialist
Mike Deltenre, Compliance Specialist
Marissa Escandon, Administrative Assistant
Mike Giammarino, Compliance Manager
Alfred Grijalva, Compliance Specialist
Arlene Heckel, Compliance Specialist
Darcy Nichols, Compliance Manager
Mark Post, Compliance Specialist
Michael Rodriguez, Training Specialist
Tim Shay, Compliance Specialist
Sandy Sierra, Executive Assistant

Dave Toporek, Compliance Specialist
Rick VanKeuren, Training Specialist
Lori Wait, Basic Training Manager

Legal Counsel:

Mark Brachtl, Assistant Attorney General
Joe Dylo, Assistant Attorney General
Ben Norris, Independent Legal Advisor

A. Call to Order

Chairman Dannels called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked Detective Cook to lead everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Introductions, Presentations and Announcements

Matt Giordano, Executive Director

- Roll-call was taken. Nine Board members are present; seven are here in person and two are participating via telephone/video conferencing. Mr. Schoch and Commander Figueroa are absent.
- The positions of large city and small city Chiefs of Police remain vacant on the Board. The office of Boards and Commissions is aware of these vacancies and we will continue to push for these positions to be filled.
- Ben Norris is our Independent Legal Advisor for this meeting.
- Two employees will be retiring in the upcoming weeks. Cindy Sawyer, who has been with AZPOST since October 2016, will be leaving at the end of this month. Cindy began her career at AZPOST as a Compliance Specialist and transferred to the IT department a few years ago. Darcy Nichols, who has been with AZPOST since October 2020, will be leaving the first week of June. Darcy began her career at AZPOST as a Training Specialist and promoted to Compliance Manager in 2023. She has been instrumental in keeping the Compliance Unit running smoothly. Both Cindy and Darcy have done a great job for us; they will be sorely missed. Mark Post will be promoted to Compliance Manager to replace Darcy.

C. Executive Director's Report

Matt Giordano, Executive Director

- We are waiting for the Legislature to start budget discussions and approve the state's budget.
- Met with staff from the Governor's Office to discuss the vacancies on the Board and the proposed rulemaking package. Once we receive approval from the governor's office, the rules will be presented to the Board at a future meeting for review and approval, then submitted to the Governor's Regulatory Review Council for its approval.
- AZPOST is hosting the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST) annual conference from June 2-5 at the Arizona Grand Resort in Phoenix. So far, 400 individuals have registered. Governor Hobbs has graciously agreed to give the opening remarks at the conference.
- Attended the following meetings the past month: PCLEA Meeting in Casa Grande, Chief's Meeting in Payson; AACOP Meeting in Tucson.

- This year the Law Enforcement Summit will be the week of our July Board meeting. With the Board’s approval, we will cancel our July meeting as most Board members will be at the Law Enforcement Summit in Flagstaff.

D. Consent Agenda

Ms. Weisz made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Colonel Glover and passed unanimously.

The following items were approved:

1. Minutes of the Board meeting held on April 17, 2024.
2. Consent Agreements for Voluntary Relinquishment/Denial of Peace Officer Certification. The following individuals, without admitting to any misconduct, requests the Board accept their request to permanently relinquish their Arizona peace officer certification:

1. 2023-237	Carlos D. Harris	Phoenix Police Department
2. 2024-012	Marlon D. Hatcher	Phoenix Police Department
3. 2024-056	Amanda L. Stucky	Peoria Police Department
4. 2024-069	James R. McPheeters	Surprise Police Department
5. 2024-073	Nicholaus A. Phillips	La Paz County Sheriff’s Office
6. 2024-087	Alejandro M. Espinoza	AZ Department of Public Safety
7. 2024-101	Jesus R. Carrillo	Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office

3. Petitions for Waiver pursuant to R13-4-105(C). The Applicant’s only disqualifying conduct is legally consuming marijuana more than six months, but within two years of appointment, in violation of R13-4-105(A)(10):

Applicant Jason P. Kingman	AZ Department of Corrections Rehabilitation & Reentry
Applicant Imani Etter	Phoenix Police Department
Applicant Phyllis Zobel	Scottsdale Police Department
Applicant John Zobel	Scottsdale Police Department

4. Academy Facilities Inspection. The following academy had their academy facility inspected by AZPOST staff. The facility was determined to meet or exceed the current minimum recommendations to be used for basic training curriculum:

- Pima Community College Law Enforcement Training Academy (PCCLETA)
10001 S. Wilmot Road, Tucson, AZ.

E. Review, Discussion and Possible Action on a Petition from the Chandler Police Department pursuant to A.A.C. R13-4-105(D) for Applicant Derek DeRaad.

Assistant Attorney General Mark Brachtl addressed the Board regarding a Chandler Police Department petition for Applicant Derek DeRaad. Applicant DeRaad, during the hiring process, disclosed he accepted payment for unused prescription medication when he was 15 years old and in high school. Per AZPOST rules, this is a disqualifying conduct. Chief Brian

Chapman, Chandler Police Department, addressed the Board to request that the petition be granted. Applicant Derek DeRaad also addressed the Board.

Colonel Glover made a motion that based upon the petition submitted by the Chandler Police Department and pursuant to A.A.C. R13-4-105(D), the Board grant the petition for waiver on Applicant Derek DeRaad. The motion was seconded by Detective Krajcer and passed unanimously.

F. Final Action Cases:

1. 2023-082 – Ismael A. Verdugo – Gila River Police Department

The Board heard oral argument on the Administrative Law Judge's Decision from Assistant Attorney General Joe Dylo, attorney for the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board. Mr. Verdugo was not present.

Ms. Weisz made a motion to accept the Administrative Law Judge's Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law. The motion was seconded by Colonel Glover and passed unanimously. Colonel Glover then made a motion to permanently deny peace officer certification to Mr. Verdugo. The motion was seconded by Division Chief Mundell and passed unanimously.

2. 2023-145 – Danielle L. Trouton – Peoria Police Department

The Board considered comments from Assistant Attorney General Joe Dylo, attorney for the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, who provided a brief overview of the Motion for Rehearing request submitted by Ms. Trouton. Ms. Trouton was not present. The Board received legal advice from Independent Legal Advisor Ben Norris. Director Thornell made a motion to grant the Motion for Rehearing on the grounds that an irregularity in the administrative proceedings occurred and Ms. Trouton was not provided notice of the January 17, 2024, Board meeting, depriving her of the opportunity to appear before the Board and offer mitigation. The motion was seconded by Colonel Glover and passed unanimously.

3. 2023-234 – Nathen S.L. Truss – AZ Department of Public Safety

Colonel Glover recused himself from this case. The Board considered comments from Assistant Attorney General Mark Brachtel, attorney for the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, who provided a brief overview of the proposed consent agreement. Mr. Truss was not present. Ms. Weisz made a motion to accept the proposed consent agreement for a 24-month temporary denial of certification for Mr. Truss, beginning December 13, 2023, and ending December 13, 2025; after which he may be eligible to reapply for certified status. The motion was seconded by Division Chief Mundell and passed with one nay vote recorded for Detective Krajcer.

G. New Charging Cases:

1. 2023-201 – Anthony V. Taylor – Prescott Police Department

The Board considered comments from Compliance Specialist Michele Blanco, who provided a brief overview of the case. Detective Krajcer made a motion to Initiate

Proceedings against Mr. Taylor's peace officer certification. The motion was seconded by Colonel Glover and passed unanimously.

2. 2024-086 – Geoffrey M. Gomez – Payson Police Department

The Board considered comments from Compliance Specialist Richard Bradshaw, who provided a brief overview of the case. Colonel Glover made a motion to Initiate Proceedings against Mr. Gomez's peace officer certification. The motion was seconded by Director Thornell and passed unanimously.

3. 2024-074 – Isaias A. Reyes – Phoenix Police Department

The Board considered comments from Compliance Specialist Mike Deltenre, who provided a brief overview of the case. Detective Krajcer made a motion to close this case with No Action with Agency Discretion. The motion was seconded by Detective Cook and passed unanimously.

4. 2024-075 – Brian Alvarado – Phoenix Police Department

The Board considered comments from Compliance Specialist Mike Deltenre, who provided a brief overview of the case. Detective Cook made a motion to Initiate Proceedings against Mr. Alvarado's peace officer certification. The motion was seconded by Colonel Glover and passed unanimously.

5. 2024-022 – JayQuinn D. Brown – AZ Department of Public Safety

Colonel Glover recused himself from this case. The Board considered comments from Compliance Specialist Arlene Heckel, who provided a brief overview of the case. Detective Cook made a motion to Initiate Proceedings to deny peace officer certification to Mr. Brown. The motion was seconded by Director Thornell and passed unanimously.

6. 2024-057 – Alice A. Balandis – Peoria Police Department

The Board considered comments from Compliance Specialist Mark Post, who provided a brief overview of the case. Colonel Glover made a motion to Initiate Proceedings against Ms. Balandis' peace officer certification. The motion was seconded by Detective Cook and passed unanimously.

H. Future Agenda Items

There are no items to add.

I. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.