



Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board

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

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 19, 2025, 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 February 19, 2025, at the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, located at 2643 E. University Drive, Phoenix, AZ.

Members Present (in person):

Deputy Director John Barcello, representing Director Ryan Thornell, Arizona Department of Corrections Rehabilitation & Reentry
Detective Yvette Bro, Phoenix Police Department
Chief Ken Cost, Mesa Police Department
Colonel Jeff Glover, Arizona Department of Public Safety
Chief Deputy Bill Mundell, representing Attorney General Kris Mayes, Arizona Attorney General's Office
Professor Kevin Robinson, Arizona State University
Ms. Leesa B. Weisz, Public Member

Members Present (via online video/telephone conferencing):

Jail Commander Matthew Figueroa, Coconino County Sheriff's Office
Chief Araceli Juarez, Somerton Police Department
Sheriff Doug Schuster, Mohave County Sheriff's Office

Members Absent:

Sheriff Mark Dannels, Cochise County Sheriff's Office, Chairman
Detective Benjamin Cook, Pinal County Sheriff's Office
Mr. Randy Schoch, Public Member

Staff in Attendance (in person):

Matt Giordano, Executive Director
Sean Donegan, Deputy Director
Richard Bradshaw, Compliance Specialist
William Caldwell, Compliance Specialist
Ryan Clark, Training Specialist
Marissa Escandon, Administrative Assistant
Mike Giammarino, Compliance Manager
Alfred Grijalva, Compliance Specialist
Bob Pinkerton, Training Specialist
Mark Post, Compliance Manager
Mike Rodriguez, Training Specialist
Tim Shay, Compliance Specialist

Sandy Sierra, Executive Assistant
Mike Thorley, Compliance Specialist
Dave Toporek, Compliance Specialist
Dale Wyman, AZPOST Specialist

Legal Counsel:

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

A. Call to Order

Sheriff Dannels was not available for today's meeting. Ms. Weisz will be acting chair. Ms. Weisz called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked newly appointed board member Detective Yvette Bro to lead everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Detective Bro introduced herself. Detective Bro is a member of the Phoenix Police Department and is the vice president/grievance chair of the Phoenix Law Enforcement Association (PLEA). She fills the certified law enforcement officer of a city police department position on the Board. We are pleased to welcome her to the Board.

B. Introductions, Presentations and Announcements

Matt Giordano, Executive Director

- Roll-call was conducted. Ten Board members are present: seven attending in person and three are participating via telephone/video conferencing. Sheriff Dannels, Mr. Schoch and Detective Cook are absent.
- Assistant Attorney General Ben Norris is our Independent Legal Advisor for all final action cases.

C. Executive Director's Report

Matt Giordano, Executive Director

- The Basic Training Unit recently held its inaugural 3-day training conference in conjunction with the Mesa and Chandler Police Departments. The conference was a great success, with attendee evaluations being overwhelmingly positive. Basic Training is already brainstorming ideas for next year's conference.
- The AZPOST 2024 Annual Report has been finalized and is now available on our website. It has also been sent to the Board via email. The report highlights that it was an exceptional year for us.
- AZPOST staff met with the Navajo Department of Public Safety to discuss certification of their police academy and officers. The meeting was very well attended and included their police chief and tribal chairman. We outlined the process for them to recertify their academy and the steps required for officers who went through their academy but were not certified. Having fully certified officers is advantageous for everyone, and we will continue to work with them moving forward.
- Last year, we implemented a new system for conducting training audits. This system is much more efficient, enabling us to audit a greater number of officers than before. If any officers are deficient in their annual training for 2024, we will bring this information to the Board at a later board meeting.

- There has been no movement on the state budget since it was introduced a few weeks ago.
- I continue to monitor any bills introduced at the legislature, so far no legislation has been introduced that would significantly impact AZPOST.

D. Consent Agenda

Deputy Director Barcello moved to approve the minutes. After a brief discussion, he amended the motion to reflect approval of all items on the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Colonel Glover and carried unanimously.

The following items were approved:

1. Minutes of the Board meeting held on January 15, 2025.
2. Consent Agreements for Voluntary Relinquishment/Denial of Peace Officer Certification. The following individuals, without admitting to any misconduct, request the Board accept their request to permanently relinquish their Arizona peace officer certification:

1. 2023-227	Jeffrey A. Maddux	Glendale Police Department
2. 2024-082	Jose L. Amaya	Gilbert Police Department
3. 2024-195	Johnny Hernandez	Glendale Police Department
4. 2024-197	John C. Byrd III	Maricopa County Attorney's Office
5. 2024-266	Ian W. Macfie	Pinal County Sheriff's Office
6. 2024-282	Charon Griswold	Surprise Police Department
7. 2024-316	Joshua K. Woolard	Phoenix Police Department
8. 2025-001	Luis A. Penate	Phoenix Police Department
9. 2025-004	Jonaneth Weight	Pinal County Sheriff's Office
10. 2025-007	Christian A. Kaufman	Maricopa 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):

1. Applicant Gregory J. Dahlgren	AZ Department of Corrections Rehabilitation & Reentry
2. Applicant Brian Ayon	Phoenix Police Department
3. Applicant Jordan Bismuth	Phoenix Police Department
4. Applicant Luis Alvarez	Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

- E. Review, Discussion and Possible Action on a Petition from the Lake Havasu City Police Department pursuant to A.A.C. R13-4-105(C) for Applicant William Brady.

Assistant Attorney General Mark Brachtl addressed the Board regarding a petition submitted by the Lake Havasu City Police Department on behalf of Applicant William Brady. During the hiring process, Applicant Brady disclosed that he used cocaine, one time, within the last seven years, which is considered disqualifying conduct under AZPOST rules. Chief Troy Sterling of the Lake Havasu City Police Department also addressed the Board, requesting approval of the petition. Applicant William Brady provided statements to the Board as well.

Professor Robinson moved that, based on the petition submitted by the Lake Havasu City Police Department and in accordance with A.A.C. R13-4-105(C), the Board approve the waiver for Applicant William Brady. The motion was seconded by Chief Cost and passed unanimously.

- F. Review, Discussion and Possible Action on a Petition from the City of Eloy Police Department pursuant to A.A.C. R13-4-103(G) requesting a restriction of peace officer certification for Chief Sergio M. Banales.

Assistant Attorney General Mark Brachtl addressed the Board regarding a petition submitted by the City of Eloy Police Department for a restricted certification on behalf of Chief Sergio M. Banales. Chief Banales will be restricted from being assigned any duty likely to result in the need to apply physical force. Captain Byron Gwaltney of the Eloy Police Department also addressed the Board, requesting approval of the petition. Chief Sergio Banales provided statements to the Board as well.

Chief Cost made a motion that, based upon the petition submitted by the City of Eloy Police Department and in accordance with A.A.C. R13-4-103(G), the Board approve the waiver for a restricted peace officer certification for Chief Sergio M. Banales. This certification restricts Chief Banales from being assigned any duty likely to result in the need to apply physical force. The motion was seconded by Colonel Glover and passed unanimously.

- G. Review, Discussion and Possible Action on a Petition from the Tempe Police Department pursuant to A.A.C. R13-4-105(C) for Applicant Eric Anderson.

Assistant Attorney General Mark Brachtl addressed the Board regarding a petition submitted by the Tempe Police Department on behalf of Applicant Eric Anderson. During the hiring process, Applicant Anderson disclosed that he used cocaine, one time, within the last seven years, which is considered disqualifying conduct under AZPOST rules. Assistant Chief Dan O'Neil of the Tempe Police Department also addressed the Board, requesting approval of the petition. Applicant Eric Anderson was available for any questions the Board may have.

Colonel Glover moved that, based on the petition submitted by the Tempe Police Department and in accordance with A.A.C. R13-4-105(C), the Board approve the waiver for Applicant Eric Anderson. The motion was seconded by Chief Deputy Mundell and passed unanimously.

H. Final Action Cases:

1. 2024-092 – Estrellita Sandoval – Bullhead City Police Department

The Board considered comments from Assistant Attorney General Mark Brachtl, attorney for the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, who provided a brief summary of the proposed consent agreement. Ms. Samantha Caplinger, attorney representing Ms. Sandoval, also addressed the Board to answer any questions. Chief Cost moved to approve the proposed consent agreement, imposing a 60-day suspension of Ms. Sandoval's peace officer certification, beginning February 20, 2025, and ending April 22, 2025. The motion was seconded by Chief Deputy Mundell and passed unanimously.

2. 2024-057 – Alice A. Balandis – Peoria Police Department

The Board heard oral argument on the Request for Rehearing from Assistant Attorney General Joe Dylo, attorney for the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board. Mr. Dylo recommended that the Board deny the rehearing request. Ms. Balandis was present and provided statements to the Board requesting approval of her rehearing request.

After additional arguments by the parties, including follow-up questions, legal advice provided by Independent Legal Advisor Ben Norris, and deliberation by the Board, Chief Cost moved to deny Respondent’s Request for Rehearing and affirm the Board’s Decision and Order to revoke peace officer certification. The motion was seconded by Colonel Glover and passed with one nay vote recorded for Chief Deputy Mundell.

I. New Charging Cases:

1. 2024-255 – Ricky F. Garcia Diaz – Pima County Sheriff’s Department

The Board considered comments from Compliance Specialist Richard Bradshaw, who provided a brief summary of the case. Chief Cost moved to initiate proceedings to deny peace officer certification to Mr. Garcia Diaz. The motion was seconded by Colonel Glover and passed unanimously.

2. 2024-139 – Andres V. Angulo – Yuma Police Department

The Board considered comments from Compliance Specialist Tim Shay, who provided a brief summary of the case. Colonel Glover moved to initiate proceedings against Mr. Angulo’s peace officer certification. The motion was seconded by Deputy Director Barcello and passed unanimously.

J. Future Agenda Items

There are no items to add.

K. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.