

MINUTES

Public Safety Commission Meeting

April 11, 2024

Austin, TX

The Public Safety Commission met in Austin, Texas on April 11, 2024, at 10 a.m. for its regular meeting. Attending the meeting were Chairman Steven Mach, Commissioners Nelda Blair, Larry Long, Steve Stodghill, and Dale Wainwright. A quorum was present.

I. Call to Order (0:00:01)

Chairman Mach called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. Proper notice was posted.

II. Invocation (0:00:45)

Chaplain Ferman Carpenter provided the invocation.

III. Pledges (0:01:55)

Corporal Billy Ray led the pledge of allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flag.

IV. Approval of Minutes (0:02:40)

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on February 15, 2024, were approved.

V. Presentations (0:03:10)

25 Year Service Award

Phillip Adkins

Joseph Correa

Kelly Crable

Marisa Furman

Lisa Gavia

Wanda Pearson

Soo Tan

30 Year Service Award

Rebecca McManus-Mata

Kimberly Petrie

35 Year Service Award

Elizabeth Stineman

40 Year Service Award

Virginia Saldana
Joanne Scarbrough

45 Year Service Award

Johnnie Berkley

Purple Heart Award

Lyndon Johnson

Director's Award

Robert & Anjelica Saldana

Lifesaving Award

Matthew Davenport
Justyn Knowlton
Tyler Lewis
Henry Schultz
Aaron Doyle
Daniel Martinez
Carlos Molina
Benjamin Crowley
Ted Riojas
Alex Shelton
Juan Lopez

Unit Citation Award

Pipe & Drum Corps, Texas Highway Patrol

VI. Public Comment (0:46:40)

No comments.

VII. Director's Report

A. Case Update: Capitol Region Street Takeover (0:46:50)

Texas Highway Patrol Trooper Kyle Bradley provided a presentation on an Interdiction Protection of Children (IPC) traffic stop.

B. Operation Lone Star Update (0:56:10)

Director Steven C. McCraw and Deputy Director of Homeland Security Operations Freeman Martin provided an update on Operation Lone Star. Deputy Director of

Law Enforcement Services Walt Goodson provided an update on recruiting and status of the DPS Memorial construction.

Chairman Mach acknowledged attendance of legislative staff. (1:20:00)

VIII. New Business

A. Final Determination in Contested Cases – consideration and possible action on Proposals for Decision: (1:20:35)

1. SOAH Docket No. 405-24-01461.MVI – Michael Conover
2. SOAH Docket No. 405-23-25800.MVI – Mohammad Hashmi
3. SOAH Docket No. 405-24-03416.MVI – Mohamed Rahhal

General Counsel Phillip Adkins presented the proposal for decision for items (1)-(3). A motion was made by Commissioner Blair, seconded by Commissioner Wainwright, to adopt the proposal for decision issued by the administrative law judge of the State Office of Administrative Hearings for items VIII(A)(1)-(3) as the final determination of the Public Safety Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Report, discussion, and possible action on the following rule proposals for publication to receive public comment: (1:22:40)

1. Proposed amendments to 37 TAC Section 23.55, concerning Certified Emissions Inspection Station and Inspector Requirements
2. Proposed amendments to 37 TAC Section 23.62, concerning Violations and Penalty Schedule

Regulatory Services Division Chief Wayne Mueller presented the rule proposal for items (1)-(2). A motion was made by Commissioner Wainwright, seconded by Commissioner Blair, to approve for publication in the Texas Register items VIII(B)(1)-(2). Motion passed unanimously.

C. Intelligence Threat Briefing (Clearance Required – Executive Session Expected)

IX. Ongoing Business

A. Report, discussion, and possible adoption of the following previously published rules: (1:25:35)

1. Proposed amendments to 37 TAC Section 6.17, concerning Designations

Regulatory Services Division Chief Mueller presented the rule adoption for item (1). A motion was made by Commissioner Blair, seconded by Commissioner Long, to adopt the rule under IX(A)(1). Motion passed unanimously.

B. 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 (1:28:00)

None.

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

To be discussed during Executive Session.

X. Reports

A. Commission member reports and discussion (1:28:30)

None.

B. Finance Report (1:28:35)

None.

C. Chief Auditor's Office (1:28:40)

None.

D. Division status reports on activities and action (1:28:45)

Infrastructure Operations Division Chief Jason Hester provided an update on the Williamson County tactical training facility.

XI. Consent Items (1:30:55)

A. 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: Charles Booker, Jr., Marcos Esiquiel Damian, Randall Shane Davis, Richard Geron Eatherly, Ruben Garcia, Kevin Gregg McNeill, Jorge DeLuna Ortega, Jerald Anthony Sams, Kerry Alan Vore, and Billy Ray Watson, Jr.; Special Texas Rangers: Robert Brandon Bess

B. Donations:

1. Additional donation items, as needed

A motion was made by Commissioner Blair, seconded by Commissioner Wainwright, to approve all consent items under XI(A)-(B). Motion passed unanimously.

XII. Items for Future Agenda (1:31:25)

None at this time.

XIII. Date for Future Meeting (1:31:35)

Discharge hearings will be scheduled for June 12, 2024; and the regular Public Safety Commission meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2024.

XIV. Adjourn into Executive Session (1:31:45)

Executive Session began at 11:41 a.m. The Commission adjourned into executive session to discuss security issues; to consult with legal counsel regarding pending or contemplated litigation or settlement offers or to receive legal advice on items posted on this agenda; to deliberate regarding real estate matters; to consider any other items authorized by law, including personnel matters, the Director's action of discharging employees as identified in this agenda; and to discuss ongoing criminal investigations.

The Public Safety Commission reconvened in open session at 1:05 p.m. Chairman Steven Mach and Commissioners Nelda Blair, Larry Long, Steve Stodghill, and Dale Wainwright were present. A quorum was present. (1:32:10)

XV. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Read and approved this 13th day of June, 2024.



Steven P. Mach, Chairman
Public Safety Commission

DOCKET NO. 405-24-01461.MVI

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION	§	BEFORE THE
	§	
V.	§	STATE OF TEXAS
	§	
MICHAEL CONOVER, VEHICLE INSPECTOR	§	PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

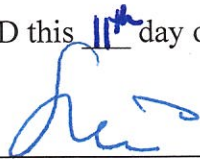
FINAL ORDER

On April 11, 2024, the Public Safety Commission held a public meeting and considered the Proposal for Decision issued in the above referenced case by the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) of the State Office of Administrative Hearings. For the purposes of this Order, the Commission adopts the findings of fact and conclusions of law reflected in the Proposal for Decision.

The Commission, after review and due consideration of the Proposal for Decision, accepts the recommendation of the ALJ that a \$500 administrative penalty should be assessed against Michael Conover’s vehicle inspection certification.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that a \$500 administrative penalty is assessed against Michael Conover’s vehicle inspection certification.

SIGNED this 11th day of April, 2024.



Steven P. Mach, Chairman
Public Safety Commission

DOCKET NO. 405-23-25800.MVI

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION	§	BEFORE THE
	§	
V.	§	STATE OF TEXAS
	§	
MOHAMMAD HASHMI, VEHICLE INSPECTOR	§	PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

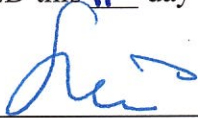
FINAL ORDER

On April 11, 2024, the Public Safety Commission held a public meeting and considered the Proposal for Decision issued in the above referenced case by the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) of the State Office of Administrative Hearings. For the purposes of this Order, the Commission adopts the findings of fact and conclusions of law reflected in the Proposal for Decision.

The Commission, after review and due consideration of the Proposal for Decision, accepts the recommendation of the ALJ that Mohammad Hashmi’s vehicle inspection certification should be suspended for 12 months and a \$500 administrative penalty be assessed.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the certification as a vehicle inspector of Mohammad Hashmi is suspended for 12 months and a \$500 administrative penalty is assessed.

SIGNED this 11th day of April, 2024.



Steven P. Mach, Chairman
Public Safety Commission

DOCKET NO. 405-24-03416.MVI

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION	§	BEFORE THE
	§	
V.	§	STATE OF TEXAS
	§	
MOHAMED RAHHAL, VEHICLE INSPECTOR	§	PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

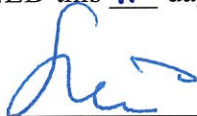
FINAL ORDER

On April 11, 2024, the Public Safety Commission held a public meeting and considered the Proposal for Decision issued in the above referenced case by the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) of the State Office of Administrative Hearings. For the purposes of this Order, the Commission adopts the findings of fact and conclusions of law reflected in the Proposal for Decision.

The Commission, after review and due consideration of the Proposal for Decision, accepts the recommendation of the ALJ that Mohamed Rahhal’s vehicle inspection certification should be suspended for 12 months and a \$500 administrative penalty be assessed.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the certification as a vehicle inspector of Mohamed Rahhal is suspended for 12 months and a \$500 administrative penalty is assessed.

SIGNED this 11th day of April, 2024.



Steven P. Mach, Chairman
Public Safety Commission

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
ORDER ADOPTING A RULE

On April 11, 2024, the Public Safety Commission (the commission) by majority vote approved rules concerning:

License to Carry Handguns
Title 37 T.A.C. Part I, Chapter 6
Subchapter B
Section 6.17

The Texas Department of Public Safety (the department) adopts amendments to §6.17, concerning Designations. This rule is adopted without changes to the proposed text as published in the March 1, 2024, issue of the *Texas Register* (49 TexReg 1244) and will not be republished.

The proposed amendments add additional designations on a license to carry a handgun, clarifying the requirements for each designation, and renaming the rule accordingly as "Designations."

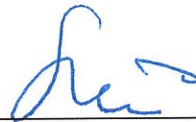
No comments were received regarding the adoption of this rule.

This rule is adopted pursuant to Texas Government Code, §411.004(3), which authorizes the Public Safety Commission to adopt rules considered necessary for carrying out the department's work; Texas Government Code §411.197, which authorizes the director to adopt rules to administer this subchapter; and Texas Government Code §411.179, which authorizes the department to adopt the form of the license by rule, for which House Bill 918 and House Bill 2675, 87th Leg., R.S. (2021), added designations for individuals who have a protective order or are at-risk of becoming a victim of violence.

This agency hereby certifies that the adoption has been reviewed by legal counsel and found to be a valid exercise of the agency's legal authority.

The effective date of the rules is 20 days after the rules are filed with the Texas Register Division, Office of the Secretary of State.

This order constitutes the order of the commission required by the Administrative Procedures Act, Government Code, §2001.033.



Steven P. Mach, Chairman
Public Safety Commission

SPECIAL RANGER/SPECIAL TEXAS RANGER APPLICANTS
April 11, 2024

Special Ranger Applicants:

Name	Division at Ret.	Svc./Station at Ret.	Retire Date	Yrs. of Svc. at Ret.
Booker, Jr., Charles	THP	Waco	02/29/2024	22
Damian, Marcos Esiquiel	THP	Austin	01/31/2024	20
Davis, Randall Shane	CID	Austin	02/29/2024	28
Eatherly, Richard Geron	CID	San Antonio	08/31/2023	33
Garcia, Ruben	THP	Austin	10/31/2023	24
McNeill, Kevin Gregg	CID	Conroe	01/31/2024	22
Ortega, Jorge DeLuna	TRD SWAT	Austin HQ	02/29/2024	27
Sams, Jerald Anthony	THP	Austin Capitol	02/29/2024	28
Vore, Kerry Alan	TRD SWAT	Odessa	02/29/2024	21
Watson, Jr., Billy Ray	THP	Seguin	02/29/2024	28

Special Texas Ranger Applicants:

Name	Division at Ret.	Svc./Station at Ret.	Retire Date	Yrs. of Svc. at Ret.
Bess, Robert Brandon	TRD	Liberty	02/29/2024	27

Approved by the Public Safety Commission on: _____



Date: _____

4/11/24