MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
December 21, 2017
AUSTIN, TX

The Public Safety Commission met in Austin, Texas on December 21, 2017. Attending the meeting were Chairman Steven Mach, Commissioners Cynthia Leon, Jason Pulliam, and Randy Watson. A quorum was present at the meeting. DPS staff members and guests were also present.

CALL TO ORDER (0:00:12)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mach at 10:01 a.m. Proper notice had been posted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (0:00:48)

A motion was made by Commissioner Leon, seconded by Commissioner Watson, approving the minutes from the Public Safety Commission meeting held October 12, 2017. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Mach recognized the tragic loss of Troopers Thomas Nipper and Damon Allen and issued a moment of silence for the families.

PRESENTATIONS (0:01:56)

Certificate of Recognition – presented by Sergeant Terry Jacklin, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Nick Hanna – Texas Ranger Randall Prince – Texas Ranger Division Director

Service Awards

Wendy Schmidt – 30 years
Elizabeth "Betty" Kostecka – 30 years
Fernando Aguilar Jr. – 35 years
Antonio Rico Jr. – 35 years
Jacquelyn Muehlbrad – 40 years
John Tucker III – 40 years
Alfonso Jarero Jr. – 40 years

Texas Flag Presentation

Family of Barbara Ann Jenkins

Lifesaving Award

Trooper James Glaze

Director's Award

Officer Penelope Bernal – Dallas Police Department Corporal Charles Jeffers – Dallas Police Department

Purple Heart

Emory King Jr. Trooper Danny Shaw Jr.

Unit Citation Award

ICT - Texas Ranger Analytical Support Unit

(0:33:42) Break 10:34 - 10:49 a.m.

Chairman Mach acknowledged the following in attendance: Fisher Reynolds – Legislative Budget Board Julie Davis and Gregg Girvan – Sunset Advisory Commission Libby Elliott and John Horchek – Office of the Governor

PUBLIC COMMENT (0:34:55)

None

DIRECTORS REPORT

A. Case Update: Operation Free Ride (0:35:08)

Update provided by Major Justin Owen and Lieutenant Javier Ortegon:

- -Region 4, Midland
- -Participating Agencies: Criminal Investigations Division/Odessa Police
 Department/Ector County Sheriff's Office/Drug Enforcement Agency/U.S. Attorney's
 Office Western District of Texas/Midland County District Attorney's Office/Ector
 County District Attorney's Office
- -Began in December 2014; local impact to address high auto theft rates in Midland/Odessa area

- -Focused primarily on subjects who were members of Aryan Circle (AC) and Aryan Brotherhood of Texas (ABT)
- -AC and ABT are Tier 2 Criminal Organizations
- -Collaborated to steal vehicles to further criminal enterprise
- -115 Total Seizures (34 drug seizures valued at \$58,644/26 Firearms Seizures valued at \$17,548/55 Vehicle Recoveries valued at \$719,817)
- -Charges filed: Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon/Burglary of a Habitation/Theft/Forgery/Prohibited Weapons/Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Felon
- -21 Indictments; 20 Convictions
- -Recognition of Special Agents Chris Goodman, Jerry Bell and Javier Ortegon

NEW BUSINESS

A. Report, discussion, and possible action regarding Need-Based Dismissal Report (0:48:31)

Brief provided by Director McCraw:

- -During the 85th Legislature, agencies were instructed to do a 4% reduction (\$50 million budget cut for DPS)
- -DPS was exempt from that deduction, at the time, due to securing the border
- -For DPS, this meant a reduction of 177 commissioned positions
- -DPS is now forced with having to reduce costs or risk overspending
- -Since 2009, we've had the Retire/Rehire Program on a needs-based approach
- -Retire/Rehire commissioned personnel are paid at a Senior Trooper salary plus 10%
- -117 commissioned individuals are currently in the Retire/Rehire Program and with attrition we should reach 177 positions
- -Recommend Commission approves the Need-Based Dismissal Report as presented with an effective date of May 31, 2018 (see attached report).

A motion was made by Commissioner Pulliam, seconded by Commissioner Leon, to approve the Need-Based Dismissal Report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Report, discussion, and possible action regarding Capitol Grounds Security Measures (1:05:27)

Brief provided by Director McCraw: and secure brief provided by Regional Director Joe Ortiz during Executive Session:

- -Groups seek violent confrontations during protests and equip themselves for physical combat
- -Recommend approval by Commission the list of prohibited items from the Capitol grounds unless worn and carried by a licensed police officer (see attached list)

- -Secure brief provided by Region VII Regional Director Joe Ortiz during Executive Session before making a motion
- C. Report, discussion, and possible action on the following rule proposals for publication to receive public comment:
- 1. Amendments to 37 TAC Section 2.3 and Section 2.9, concerning Capitol Access Pass (1:14:37)

A motion was made by Commissioner Leon, seconded by Commissioner Watson, to approve New Business, Item C1, to receive public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

2. New 37 TAC Section 23.63, concerning Hearings (1:16:12)

A motion was made by Commissioner Watson, seconded by Commissioner Pulliam, to approve New Business, Item C2, to receive public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

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

ONGOING BUSINESS

A. Report, discussion, and possible adoption of the following previously published rules:

- 1. Amendments to 37 TAC Section 6.1, concerning Definitions (1:17:23) No comments.
- 2. Amendments to 37 TAC Section 6.14 and Section 6.16, concerning Eligibility and Application Procedures for a License to Carry a Handgun No comments.
- 3. Amendments to 37 TAC Sections 6.32, 6.40, and 6.42, concerning Qualified Handgun Instructor License

No comments.

- 4. Repeal of 37 TAC Section 6.39, concerning Prior Notice of Training Required No comments.
- <u>5. New 37 TAC Sections 6.81 6.92, concerning Approved Online Course Providers</u> No comments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pulliam, seconded by Commissioner Watson, approving adoption of Ongoing Business, Items A1-5. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Amendments to 37 TAC Section 15.44, concerning Driver License Photograph (1:18:52)

No comments.

7. Amendments to 37 TAC Section 15.172, concerning Issuance by Counties and Municipalities

No comments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Leon, seconded by Commissioner Watson, approving adoption of Ongoing Business, Items A6-7. Motion passed unanimously.

- B. Update report, discussion and possible action regarding recruitment (1:21:11) Update provided by Division Director Sonia Garcia:
- -97 new troopers will graduate from the D-2017 School on 12/22/17 at 10:00 a.m. at the Austin Hilton (18 Females/79 Males). The class donated \$1,000 to the DPS Foundation for the Fallen Officer Memorial.
- -A-2018 School begins on 1/7/18 with 115 recruits
- C. Report, discussion, and possible action regarding the appointment, promotion, ratification, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a member of the Department or Commission management team (1:22:29)

 Director McCraw announced Regional Director Joe Ortiz will be retiring effective February 18, 2018.

Director is seeking advice and consent to promote Chance Collins as the new Region VII Capitol Complex Regional Director.

A motion was made by Commissioner Leon, seconded by Commissioner Pulliam, approving advice and consent to promote Chance Collins as the Regional VII Regional Director. Motion passed unanimously.

Director McCraw is seeking advice and consent to promote Wynn Reynolds to Assistant Division Director, Administration.

A motion was made by Commissioner Leon, seconded by Commissioner Watson, approving advice and consent to promote Wynn Reynolds to Assistant Division Director, Administration. Motion passed unanimously.

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

To be discussed during Executive Session.

REPORTS (1:37:15)

A. Commission member reports and discussion - none

B. Finance Report - none

- C. Chief Auditors Office none
- D. Division status reports on activities and action none

CONSENT ITEMS (1:37:23)

A. Advice and consent regarding director's determination that certain probationary employees were found unsuitable for work during October and November 2017

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: Richard H. Barnes, Michael A. Black, Christopher K. Boggs, Teodoso J. Cespedes, Gary A. Chandler, Mark W. Coonce, Scott A. Ellis, Enrique V. Garcia, Casey G. Goetz, Luis A. Gonzalez, Samuel L. Gonzalez, Dwight M. Hardin, Harold G. Kornegay, Timothy A. Lite, Audra C. Livingston, Walter P. Mezynski, Paul T. Middleton, Kevin Ray Odom, Charles J. Palcer, Jose P. Perez Jr., John R. Riper, Jeffrey W. Pirtle, Willie C. Ross, Steve Torres, James K. Verner, Dennis K. Westerman; Special Texas Rangers: None

C. Donations:

- 1. Texas Highway Patrol Stable Donation use of property to stable horses owned by the Department of Public Safety
- <u>2. Texas Highway Patrol Eagle Scout Project building a small pavilion for DPS use</u> and making improvement to an existing Fallen Trooper monument flower bed
- 3. Texas Highway Patrol Twelve Flat Bottom Boats, Motors and Trailers
- 4. Texas Rangers Use of Lonesome Oak Ranch for meeting/lodging/training
- 5. Additional donation items, as needed

A motion was made by Commissioner Leon, seconded by Commissioner Watson, approving all Consent Items. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA (1:37:57)

None at this time.

DATE FOR FUTURE MEETING (1:38:06)

Any discharge hearings will be scheduled on February 21, 2018, and the regular Public Safety Commission meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2018.

ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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; 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. Executive Session began at 11:54 a.m.

(1:39:18) The Public Safety Commission reconvened in open session at 2:55 p.m. Commissioners present were Chairman Steven Mach, Commissioners Cynthia Leon, Jason Pulliam and Randy Watson.

NEW BUSINESS

B. Report, discussion, and possible action regarding Capitol Grounds Security Measures

A motion was made by Commissioner Leon, seconded by Commissioner Pulliam, to approve the Capitol Grounds Security Measures as proposed (see attached). Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Commissioner Watson, seconded by Commissioner Pulliam, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Read and approved this 22 hd day of Februay , 2018.

Chairman

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO:

Steven McCraw, Director

FROM:

A

Skylor Hearn, Deputy Director

DATE:

December 18, 2017

SUBJECT:

Need-Based Dismissal Report

During the Legislative Appropriations Request development for the 85th Texas Legislature, state agencies were instructed by the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) to conduct a 4% reduction exercise to identify where budget cuts could be made. The Department determined and reported to the LBB that to achieve the targeted 4% budget cut the Department would be required to eliminate 320.4 FTEs, which included 177 commissioned positions. The 85th Legislature instituted a 4% reduction for the 2018-19 biennium which amounts to over \$50 million in budget reduction for the agency. As such, the Department must take steps to implement the plan that includes the identified reductions in staff and other budgetary cuts.¹

Reductions in FTEs for non-commissioned positions were accomplished through the elimination of vacant positions. Due to the low number of vacant commissioned positions and a recent trend of reduced rates of attrition by commissioned personnel, it will be necessary to require the dismissal of a number of commissioned employees due to a financial exigency to effectuate the required budgetary cuts. The following report has been prepared in accordance with the policy directives and is being submitted for your review and approval.

Recommendation

Multiple methodologies were analyzed to determine where the 177 commissioned officer positions could be eliminated. Attrition will account for some of these eliminated positions, but not all. A reasonable course of action to effectuate the necessary cuts to commissioned FTEs is to eliminate the positions of those reemployed under the Department's now defunct Retire/Rehire program. The elimination of these positions will provide significant budgetary savings, provide a reorganization of the current commissioned hiring cycle and have the least impact on the long term operations of the affected divisions.

Background of Retire/Rehire Program

In 2002, the Department experienced a significant retention problem in the commissioned ranks as many experienced officers were retiring as soon as eligible and going to other agencies to work for higher salaries. This combined with recruiting difficulties resulted in a record number

¹ See Attached for information from the DPS Four Percent General Revenue Reduction FY2018-19 plan.

of vacant commissioned positions statewide. To address these issues the Department initiated a program that allowed retired DPS officers to be rehired as commissioned officers. This program, commonly referred to as the Retire/Rehire program, served the dual purpose of ensuring sufficient staffing of Highway Patrol and enabled the Department to continue to leverage the experience and expertise of our retired officers in training and mentoring less experienced officers. The Retire/Rehire program was essential for the period of time during which the Department was unable to recruit, train and graduate an adequate number of troopers.

In recent years, the Texas Legislature increased commissioned officer salaries, significantly improving the Department's ability to recruit high quality candidates, compete with local law enforcement agencies, and enhance the retention efforts for commissioned officers. Since 2015, the Department has held 11 recruit schools, commissioned more than 1,050 new officers, and resolved the underlying issue which necessitated the Retire/Rehire program. The Department eliminated the routine practice of rehiring retired officers in 2013. At the cessation of the program, the Department had sufficient FTEs and budget to allow the retired employees to continue employment. Those circumstances have changed.

<u>Identification of Impacted Employees and Divisions</u>

DPS currently employs 118 officers who returned to duty under the Retire/Rehire program. The elimination of these 118 positions would account for 67% of the identified 177 positions that need to be eliminated. The remaining eliminations can be achieved through attrition.

The following divisions and positions will be affected: 37 Highway Patrol (HP) Troopers, 31 Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) Troopers, 15 Criminal Investigations (CID) Special Agents, nine CVE Corporals, five Tactical Training Center Troopers, five CVE Sergeants, four Training Sergeants, three HP Corporals, one HP Sergeant, one HP Lieutenant, one Intelligence and Counter Terrorism (ICT) Special Agent, one ICT Lieutenant, one Motor Carrier Bureau Lieutenant, one CID Lieutenant, one Executive Protection Bureau (EPB) Trooper, one EPB Corporal, and one EPB Special Agent. The attached spreadsheet identifies the employees and duty stations affected by this needs-based dismissal.

Cost Savings

Commissioned employees are paid in accordance with Salary Schedule C which is set by the Legislature. Employee pay under Schedule C is determined by rank and number of years of service and there is no flexibility in setting salary. The majority of these rehired retirees have more than 20 years of service and must therefore be paid at the highest salary level of the Schedule C pay scale for their respective rank. Moreover, DPS must pay a 10% surcharge for each retiree who was rehired after September 1, 2009. At this time the Department is paying the surcharge for 30 rehired commissioned officers in addition to their statutorily set salary. The elimination of the FTEs currently filled by rehired retirees will have greater fiscal impact than the elimination of positions held by equal or lower rank employees performing the same duties. Additionally, these retired employees do not pay into the state retirement system like other employees which can have an overall impact on the long term stability of the retirement system.

The agency appreciates the knowledge and perspective these rehired commissioned officers provide to less experienced troopers, but that benefit comes at significant cost. The estimated cost for each non-retired trooper, including overtime costs, averages more than \$111,733 per year, not including vehicle and equipment costs. The comparable figure for the rehired commissioned officer averages \$125,700 not including the return to work surcharge. Over the course of a single fiscal year, the elimination of these 118 positions represents a savings of \$15.1 million for the agency. This cost savings would help ease the current financial hardship to the agency, particularly to the Texas Highway Patrol Division, which is currently experiencing a General Revenue budget shortfall of \$11.2 million.

Operational Impact

The natural lifecycle for the Department's commissioned ranks is designed to routinely bring new troopers in at lower salaries to fill vacancies and to have more experienced troopers mentor and train them. As troopers gain experience, move up the salary scale and are able to train others they assume the more senior roles of those who promote or retire and their spots are filled back in by entry level troopers. Without officers consistently retiring and permanently separating from DPS, the opportunities for the more junior officers do not open up and leads to stagnation in the annual hiring cycle. Disruption of the cycle can lead to tenured FTE gaps several years in the future, result in negative impact on internal promotional pools and create adversely large retirement groups. The healthiest systems require regular steady infusions of new employees and perspectives to maintain long term balance in the existing structure. This one time reorganization of the cycle will serve the purpose of meeting budgetary needs as well as adjusting the cycle in a manner that will better ensure long term viability of the commissioned structure and prevent a repeat of the situation that necessitated the implementation Retire /Rehire program in 2002.

The proposed needs-based dismissal of the 118 employees who took advantage of the Retire/Rehire program will not leave an insurmountable experience deficit. DPS officers perform the same functions and have the same responsibilities regardless of whether or not they have previously retired. The agency currently has 144 commissioned employees with 20 or more years of service who have not previously retired. There are an additional 411 commissioned employees with over 16 years of service who have not previously retired. These employees will continue to fill the senior role in the standard career cycle.

Other Considerations

The Department considered methodologies other than the elimination of commissioned positions, but other avenues did not lead to the level of fiscal savings necessary to achieve the required budget cut. The Texas Legislature mandated the agency cut 4% of the budget and the reduction in commissioned FTEs; however, they also funded and required that we hire 250 new troopers under Goal B, Secure Texas. Unfortunately, funding source restrictions prevent the Agency from simply hiring the net commissioned FTE increase. Rider 61 of the agency's appropriations specifically prohibits transferring funds from Goal B to fund these 177 commissioned positions. Rider 61 also prohibits the transferring of funds from Goal F, Driver License Services and Driver Safety, and Strategy E.1.1, Crime Laboratory Services, to fund the

² This figure includes the return-to-work surcharge the Department is currently paying for 30 rehired retirees.

177 commissioned positions. Due to eliminating these potential funding sources to retain these positions, alternative options such as job sharing, pay freezes/cuts, and demotions are unavailable. Texas Government Code §657.007 requires a veteran's preference be considered as part of a reduction in workforce, but subsection (b) specifically states that the section only applies to employees of a similar type or classification. Because DPS seeks to eliminate all positions within the Retire/Retire category, no preference is applicable.

Implementation

- The positions will be eliminated effective May 31, 2018. Advanced notification will be provided in writing to all affected personnel regarding the elimination of these 118 positions.
- Representatives from the Human Resources department will meet with the members of the affected group to answer questions regarding the process and provide assistance in seeking other employment.
- An analysis will be conducted to determine whether any of the positions held by these retired/rehired employees can be converted to non-commissioned positions utilizing current non-commissioned vacancies. While the managers and executives of the impacted divisions will review the functional job responsibilities and make a determination regarding whether that position requires a commissioned officer to perform the job duties, the positions of Trooper and similar front line positions will not meet this criteria because the positions require they be filled by commissioned officers.

Based upon the information contained in this report, I recommend the 118 FTEs held by commissioned employees who returned to duty under the Retire/Rehire program be dismissed from employment pursuant to the Need-Based Dismissal Policy.

Texas Department of Public Safety FY2018-19 LAR

4% General Revenue & GR-Dedicated Reduction Targets

50,237,400

DIV#	<u>Division</u>			FIES
0102	Chief Auditor's Office	‹›	139,021	1.0
0103	Inspector General	٠V	243,314	1.0
0117	General Counsel	ጭ	369,076	4.0
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0131	DD Homeland Security (including SAA)	↔	810,745	5.0
0120	DD Law Enforcement	ጭ	1,062,042	1
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Assumptions:

Operations & Capital Budget GR reductions Subject to LBB's Base Reconciliation confirmation

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m New Business, Item



obligation to maintain order and protect citizens from injury Every citizen has a right to peacefully assemble and protest but no one has a right to engage in violence or other criminal acts while they protest. Government has an and death.

exercise their right to peacefully assemble and protest the and equip themselves for physical combat. To ensure the Some groups seek violent confrontations during protests following is prohibited from the Capitol Grounds unless safety and security of the public and those who seek to worn or carried by a licensed peace officer:



- Firearms and other deadly weapons except when authorized under License to Carry authority
- Improvised items used to lock a person to another person or object
- Plastic bottles containing alcohol or non-consumable substances
- Open flame torches
- Metal signs
- Metal, plastic and wood objects longer than 12 inches
- Sticks or other objects with protruding nails
- Balloons not filled with air, oxygen or helium
- Bricks, stones or rocks





Spray paint cans

Gas masks or similar equipment

Glass bottles

Hammers

Crow bars

Toxic fluid, gas or solids in any container

Improvised shields

Helmets

Drones

Pepper spray



- Tasers
- Any item manifestly designed, made or adapted for the purpose of preparing a person to engage in physical combat

authorized to instruct individuals failing to comply with these measures to leave the Capitol grounds until the person is in Additionally, citizens have the right to counter protest but within the Capitol Complex they must do so at a distance sufficient to avoid physical altercations. Officers are compliance.



On December 21, 2017, 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 A
Section 6.1

The Texas Department of Public Safety (the department) adopts amendments to §6.1, concerning Definitions. This rule is adopted without changes to the proposed text as published in the October 27, 2017 issue of the *Texas Register* (42 TexReg 5991) and will not be republished.

The changes to §6.1 are intended to clarify the meaning of terms used in the administrative rules.

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, and §411.197 which authorizes the director to adopt rules to administer this subchapter.

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, Section 2001.033.

Steven P. Mach, Chairman Public Safety Commission

On December 21, 2017, 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 6.14 and Section 6.16

The Texas Department of Public Safety (the department) adopts amendments to §6.14 and §6.16, concerning Eligibility and Application Procedures for a License to Carry a Handgun. These rules are adopted without changes to the proposed text as published in the October 27, 2017 issue of the *Texas Register* (42 TexReg 5992) and will not be republished.

Amendments to §6.14 and §6.16 are made as a result of 85th Legislative Session, HB 3784 and SB 16 respectively. Additional changes have been made to §6.14 to clarify proficiency requirements.

No comments were received regarding the adoption of these rules.

These rules are 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, and §411.197, which authorizes the director to adopt rules to administer this subchapter.

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, Section 2001.033.

Steven P. Mach, Chairman Public Safety Commission

On December 21, 2017, 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 C Sections 6.32, 6.40, and 6.42

The Texas Department of Public Safety (the department) adopts amendments to §§6.32, 6.40, and 6.42, concerning Qualified Handgun Instructor License. These rules are adopted without changes to the proposed text as published in the October 27, 2017 issue of the *Texas Register* (42 TexReg 5992) and will not be republished.

Amendments to §6.32 and §6.40 are made as a result of 85th Legislative Session, HB 3784. The amendment to §6.42 is made to clarify a record retention obligation of instructors.

No comments were received regarding the adoption of these rules.

These rules are 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, and §411.197, which authorizes the director to adopt rules to administer this subchapter.

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, Section 2001.033.

Steven P. Mach, Chairman Public Safety Commission

On December 21, 2017, 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 C
Section 6.39

The Texas Department of Public Safety (the department) adopts the repeal of §6.39, concerning Prior Notice of Training Required. This repeal is adopted without changes to the proposed text as published in the October 27, 2017 issue of the *Texas Register* (42 TexReg 5993) and will not be republished.

The department has determined the requirement imposed by this rule is unnecessary to the effective administration of the statute.

No comments were received regarding the adoption of this repeal.

This repeal 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, and §411.197, which authorizes the director to adopt rules to administer this subchapter.

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, Section 2001.033.

Steven P. Mach, Chairman Public Safety Commission

On December 21, 2017, 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 E
Sections 6.81 – 6.92

The Texas Department of Public Safety (the department) adopts new $\S\S6.81 - 6.92$, concerning Approved Online Course Providers. These rules are adopted without changes to the proposed text as published in the October 27, 2017 issue of the *Texas Register* (42 TexReg 5994) and will not be republished.

The proposal of new §§6.81 - 6.92 is necessary to implement the requirements of the 85th Legislative Session, HB 3784 which adds approved online course providers for the classroom instruction part of the handgun proficiency course.

No comments were received regarding the adoption of these rules.

These rules are 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, and §411.197, which authorizes the director to adopt rules to administer this subchapter.

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, Section 2001.033.

Steven P. Mach, Chairman Public Safety Commission

On December 21, 2017, the Public Safety Commission (the commission) by majority vote approved rules concerning:

Driver License Rules
Title 37 T.A.C. Part I, Chapter 15
Subchapter B
Section 15.44

The Texas Department of Public Safety (the department) adopts amendments to §15.44 concerning Driver License Photograph. This rule is adopted without changes to the proposed text as published in the October 27, 2017 issue of the *Texas Register* (42 TexReg 5996) and will not be republished.

This amendment strikes the word color according to House Bill 1345 and House Bill 3050 enacted by the 85th Texas Legislature.

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, and Texas Transportation Code, §521.005, which authorizes the department to adopt rules necessary to administer Chapter 521 of the Texas Transportation Code.

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

On December 21, 2017, the Public Safety Commission (the commission) by majority vote approved rules concerning:

Driver License Rules
Title 37 T.A.C. Part I, Chapter 15
Subchapter K
Section 15.172

The Texas Department of Public Safety (the department) adopts amendments to §15.172 concerning Issuance by Counties and Municipalities. This rule is adopted without changes to the proposed text as published in the October 27, 2017 issue of the *Texas Register* (42 TexReg 5996) and will not be republished.

These amendments add municipalities as authorized entities to issue certain renewal and duplicate driver licenses and identification cards according to House Bill 3050 enacted by the 85th Texas Legislature.

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, and Texas Transportation Code, §521.005, which authorizes the department to adopt rules necessary to administer Chapter 521 of the Texas Transportation Code.

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

IN THE MATTER OF	§	BEFORE THE
THE DISCHARGE OF	§	PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES	§	IN AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TX

Advice and Consent

In accordance with Government Code Section 411.007(f), the Director found that the following named probationary employees were unsuitable for continued employment in the Department of Public Safety. The Public Safety Commission has consented to discharge these employees:

Employee Name	Employee Title/Division	Date of Discharge
Sandra Salinas	Customer Service Representative/Driver License	10/09/17
Jeremy Keys	Probationary Trooper/Highway Patrol	10/25/17
Paul Allen	Customer Service Representative/Driver License	10/30/17
Filiberto Cardenas	Probationary Trooper/Highway Patrol	11/21/17

Approved:

Steven P. Mach, Chairman Public Safety Commission Date: December 21, 2017

SPECIAL RANGER/SPECIAL TEXAS RANGER APPLICANTS December 21, 2017



Special Ranger Applicants:

Name	Division	Service/Station	Retire Date	Years of Service	Approved
Barnes, Richard H.	THP	Amarillo	08/31/2002	31	
Black, Michael A.	THP	Capitol	8/31/2017	21	
Boggs, Christopher K.	THP	Sulphur Springs	11/30/2005	24	
Cespedes, Teodoso J.	THP	Brownsville	08/31/2003	26	*
Chandler, Gary A.	THP	Columbus	08/31/2017	32	D
Coonce, Mark W.	THP	Archer City	08/31/2014	26	
Ellis, Scott A.	CID	Conroe	08/31/2017	28	
Garcia, Enrique V.	CID	Austin	09/30/2000	25	
Goetz, Casey G.	THP	Austin-Capitol	08/31/2017	25	
Gonzalez, Luis A.	THP	Austin	07/31/2017	29	
Gonzalez, Samuel L.	THP	San Angelo	08/31/2017	29	
Hardin, Dwight M.	CID	Austin	08/31/2004	23	
Kornegay, Harold G.	THP	Lubbock	08/31/1992	27	
Lite, Timothy A.	RSD	Austin	08/31/2017	27	
Livingston, Audra C.	THP	Tyler	08/31/2017	32	
Mezynski, Walter P.	THP	Temple	12/31/2009	23	
Middleton, Paul T.	THP	Lubbock	08/31/2017	29	
Odom, Kevin Ray	CID	Beaumont	12/31/16	20	
Palcer, Charles J.	RSD	Austin	08/31/2017	27	
Perez Jr., Jose P.	CID	Austin	8/31/2002	24	
Piper, John R.	THP	Amarillo	08/31/2017	29	
Pirtle, Jeffrey W.	THP	Nacogdoches	08/31/2017	27	
Ross, Willie C.	THP	Paris	8/31/1987	30	
Torres, Steve	THP	San Angelo	08/31/2017	29	
Verner, James K.	THP	Bonham	08/31/2017	29	
Westerman, Dennis K.	CID	Austin	08/31/2017	27	

Approved by the Public Safety Commission on: _

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Date: 12/1/17