

MINUTES

Public Safety Commission Meeting

August 7, 2025

Austin, TX

The Public Safety Commission met in Austin, Texas on August 7, 2025, at 10 a.m. for its regular meeting. Attending the meeting were Chairman Steven Mach, Commissioners Nelda Blair, Dan Hord III, Larry Long, and Steven Stodghill. A quorum was present.

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

Chairman Mach called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Proper notice was posted.

II. Invocation (0:00:30)

Chaplain Ferman Carpenter provided the invocation.

III. Pledges (0:02:40)

Corporal Larry Harrison led the pledge of allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flag.

IV. Approval of Minutes (0:03:15)

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on June 12, 2025, were approved.

V. Presentations (0:03:35)

30 Year Service Award

Gary Durham

Jennifer Norman-Thacker

Purple Heart Award

Joseph Sherman

Director's Award

Mike Taylor

Lifesaving Award & Director's Award

Jesus Cantu, Jr.

Cesar Davila

Irving Torres

Marina Lujan

John Barron

Luke Lee

Lifesaving Award

Colin Kolupski
Danielle McBryde
Carlton Christian
Cody Durham
Seth Foster
Daniel Walker

Unit Citation

DPS Drill Team

Chief Financial Officer Suzy Whittenton and Assistant Chief Katie Conley were recognized for their service upon their departure from the agency.

VI. Public Comment (0:41:10)

None.

VII. Director's Report**A. Colonel's Update (0:41:25)**

Colonel Freeman F. Martin provided the Colonel's update.

VIII. New Business**A. Report, discussion, and possible action on the Fiscal Year 2026 Internal Operating Budget (0:58:40)**

Chief Financial Officer Suzy Whittenton provided the proposed fiscal year 2026 internal operating budget. A motion was made by Commissioner Blair, seconded by Commissioner Hord, to approve the proposed fiscal year 2026 internal operating budget. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Discussion and possible action to consider increase of Colonel's salary to amount authorized by the 89th Legislature (1:04:35)

General Counsel Phillip Adkins presented a proposal for a salary increase for the Colonel's salary as authorized by the legislature under the General Appropriations Act at an amount not to exceed \$390,908 annually. A motion was made by Commissioner Blair, seconded by Commissioner Long, to approve the Colonel's salary to the amount of \$390,908 annually. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Discussion and possible action to consider the reinstatement of a program which will allow retirees to return to employment in commissioned positions under certain conditions (1:06:35)

Colonel Martin presented a proposal to reinstate a retire-rehire program for commissioned positions. A motion was made by Commissioner Blair, seconded by Commissioner Hord, to reinstate the practice of allowing retirees to return to employment in commissioned positions under certain conditions. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Final Determination in Contested Cases – consideration and possible action on Proposals for Decision: (1:12:20)

1. SOAH Docket No. 405-25-11816.PSB – Gregory Ortiz Soza - Denial

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

E. Report, discussion, and possible action on the following rule proposals for publication to receive public comment: (1:13:55)

1. Proposed amendments to 37 TAC Section 4.13, concerning Authority to Enforce, Training and Certificate Requirements
5. Proposed amendments to 37 TAC Section 14.51 – 14.54, concerning School Bus Safety Standards

Texas Highway Patrol Chief Bryan Rippee presented the rule proposals for items (1) and (5). A motion was made by Commissioner Blair, seconded by Commissioner Stodghill, to approve for publication in the Texas Register items VIII(E)(1) and (5). Motion passed unanimously.

2. Proposed amendments to 37 TAC Section 12.11, concerning Application for License
3. Proposed amendments to 37 TAC Section 12.23, concerning Revocation
4. Proposed new 37 TAC Section 12.35, concerning Security of Satellite Locations

Regulatory Services Division Chief Wayne Mueller presented the rule proposals for items (2)-(4). A motion was made by Commissioner Blair, seconded by Commissioner Long, to approve for publication in the Texas Register items VIII(E)(2)-(4). Motion passed unanimously.

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

Chairman Mach acknowledged attendance of legislative staff. (1:22:20)

IX. Ongoing Business

A. Texas Compassionate Use Program (TCUP) Update (1:22:50)

Regulatory Services Division Chief Mueller presented the implementation plan for compliance with House Bill 46, 89th Leg., R.S. (2025). A motion was made by Commissioner Blair, seconded by Commissioner Stodghill, to approve the implementation plan for expansion of the Texas Compassionate Use Program in compliance with House Bill 46. 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 (1:57:20)

Colonel Martin made a recommendation to combine the Intelligence and Counterterrorism Division and Homeland Security Operations in the newly created Homeland Security Division under Senate Bill 36, 89th Leg. R.S. (2025) and to appoint Southeast Texas Region Chief Gerald Brown as the Chief of the Homeland Security Division. Colonel Martin also made a recommendation to appoint Mike George from Homeland Security Operations as Assistant Chief of the Homeland Security Division and to reassign Intelligence and Counterterrorism Division Assistant Chief Amy Hauck as Assistant Chief of the Homeland Security Division. A motion was made by Commissioner Stodghill, seconded by Commissioner Blair, to create the new Homeland Security Division, appoint Gerald Brown as the Chief of the Homeland Security Division, appoint Mike George as Assistant Chief of the Homeland Security Division, and reassign Amy Hauck as Assistant Chief of the Homeland Security Division, effective September 1, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Colonel Martin made a recommendation to appoint Training Operations Division Acting Chief Derek Prestridge as the Chief of the Training Operations Division and to appoint Training Operations Division Major Jason Griffin as the Assistant Chief of the Training Operations Division. A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Hord, to appoint Derek Prestridge as the Chief of the Training Operations Division and to appoint Jason Griffin as the Assistant Chief of the Training Operations Division, effective September 1, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Colonel Martin made a recommendation to appoint Criminal Investigations Division Assistant Chief Kyle Matheson as the Region Chief of the Southeast Texas Region. A motion was made by Commissioner Blair, seconded by Commissioner Stodghill, to appoint Kyle Matheson as the Region Chief of the Southeast Texas Region, effective September 1, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Colonel Martin made a recommendation to appoint Texas Ranger Division Assistant Chief Corey Lain as the Region Chief of the Northwest Texas Region. A motion was made by Commissioner Blair, seconded by Commissioner Long, to appoint Corey Lain as the Region Chief of the Northwest Texas Region, effective September 1, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Colonel Martin made a recommendation to appoint Texas Rangers Division Major Jason Bobo as the Assistant Chief of the Texas Rangers Division. A motion was made by Commissioner Blair, seconded by Commissioner Stodghill, to appoint Jason Bobo as the Assistant Chief of the Texas Rangers Division, effective September 1, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Colonel Martin made a recommendation to appoint Criminal Investigations Division Major Devin Gonzales as the Assistant Chief of the Criminal Investigations Division. A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Stodghill, to appoint Devin Gonzales as the Assistant Chief of the Criminal Investigations Division, effective September 1, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Colonel Martin made a recommendation to appoint Infrastructure Operations Division Director Benjamin "Eddie" Wilson as the Assistant Chief of the Infrastructure Operations Division. A motion was made by Commissioner Hord, seconded by Commissioner Blair, to appoint Benjamin "Eddie" Wilson as the Assistant Chief of the Infrastructure Operations Division, effective September 1, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

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 (2:29:05)

None.

B. Finance Report (2:29:10)

None.

C. Chief Auditor's Office (2:29:15)

None.

D. Division status reports on activities and action (2:29:20)

None.

XI. Consent Items (2:29:25)

A. Advice and consent regarding Colonel's determination that certain probationary employees were found unsuitable for work during June and July 2025

B. Discussion and possible action on appointments of Special Rangers and Special Texas Rangers pursuant to Government Code Chapter 411, Secs. 411.023 and 411.024: Special Rangers: Scott Gavin Avant, Bruce Wyman Bradley, Jaworski Renee Crawford, Gregory Lee Hendry, Kevin Kent Miller, Kevin Scott Napier, David Lee Palmer, and Kevin Richard Vreeland; and Special Texas Ranger: Dewayne Alan Dockery

C. Donations:

1. Texas Highway Patrol's Radiological/Nuclear Detection Unit – Texas Trucking Association (TXTA), 2025 GMC SCL 2500 truck, 2023 Diamond Cargo 7x18 YA-3500 trailer, 5 six-foot tables and 10 folding chairs, wireless networking equipment, miscellaneous cables, 55" monitor and cases, Inert Mobile QSA unit (radiography camera), inert mobile, and Instrotek unit (soil density gauge)
2. Additional donation items, as needed

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

XII. Items for Future Agenda (2:29:50)

None at this time.

XIII. Date for Future Meeting (2:30:05)

Discharge hearings will be scheduled for October 8, 2025; and the regular Public Safety Commission meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2025.

XIV. Adjourn into Executive Session (2:30:30)

Executive Session began at 12:37 p.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 2:15 p.m. Chairman Steven Mach and Commissioners Nelda Blair, Dan Hord III, Larry Long, and Steven Stodghill were present. A quorum was present. (2:30:55)

XV. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Read and approved this 9th day of October, 2025.



Steven P. Mach, Chairman
Public Safety Commission

TEXAS PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
ORDER APPROVING SALARY INCREASE

1. The General Appropriations Act for 2026-2027, Article IX, Part 3, Section 3.04(f), authorizes the Public Safety Commission to increase the salary of the Director of the Department of Public Safety up to an amount not to exceed \$390,908 for each year of the biennium.
2. The Appropriations Act for 2026-2027, Article IX, Section 3.04(d) directs that any salary increase from appropriated funds within the limits provided by Section 3.04 and salary increases within the limit established under an agency's bill pattern must be: (1) in writing; (2) signed by the presiding officer of the governing board; (3) submitted to the Governor, the Legislative Budget Board and the Comptroller; and (4) approved by the governing board in a public meeting.
3. The Public Safety Commission met in public session on August 7, 2025 in a duly noticed public meeting and authorized an increase in salary for the Director from \$345,250 to \$390,908 authorized by the Appropriations Act. The Commission further directed that the increase be reduced to writing as documented in this order, be signed by the presiding officer of the Public Safety Commission and submitted to the Governor, the Legislative Budget Board and the Comptroller as provided by law.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED AND APPROVED by the Public Safety Commission that the Director of the Department of Public Safety salary be increased to \$390,908 for each year of the 2026-2027 biennium effective September 1, 2025. The Commission further directs that this document be submitted to the Governor, the Legislative Budget Board and the Comptroller as notification as provided by the Appropriations Act.

ENTERED AND SIGNED on the 7th day of August, 2025.



Steven P. Mach, Chairman
Public Safety Commission

DOCKET NO. 405-25-11816.PSB

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY –	§	BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION	§	
	§	
V.	§	STATE OF TEXAS
	§	
GREGORY ORTIZ SOSA,	§	
APPLICANT	§	PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

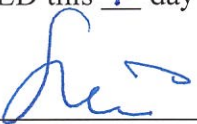
FINAL ORDER

On August 7, 2025, 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 Gregory Ortiz Sosa's application for a commissioned security officer license be denied.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Gregory Ortiz Sosa's application for a commissioned security officer license is denied.

SIGNED this 7th day of August 2025.



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(e), 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
Allen Cedillo	Trooper Trainee/Training Operations	06/12/2025
Priscilla Martinez	Trooper Trainee/Training Operations	07/02/2025
Tamara Olan	Trooper Trainee/Training Operations	07/02/2025

Approved:

Steven P. Mach, Chairman
Public Safety Commission

Date: August 7, 2025

SPECIAL RANGER/SPECIAL TEXAS RANGER APPLICANTS
August 7, 2025

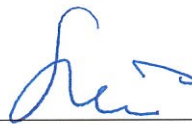
Special Ranger Applicants:

Name	Division at Ret.	Svc./Station at Ret.	Retire Date	Yrs. of Svc. at Ret.
Avant, Scott Gavin	CID	Laredo	11/30/20	26
Bradley, Bruce Wyman	THP	Henderson	8/31/18	20
Crawford, Jaworski Renee	TOD	Garland	3/31/25	20
Hendry, Gregory Lee	THP	Luling	4/30/25	22
Miller, Kavin Kent	CID	San Antonio	5/31/25	28
Napier, Kevin Scott	DLD	Austin HQ	8/31/10	29
Palmer, David Lee	THP	Austin HQ	5/31/25	29
Vreeland, Kevin Richard	THP	Austin Capitol	7/31/07	27

Special Texas Ranger Applicants:

Name	Division at Ret.	Svc./Station at Ret.	Retire Date	Yrs. of Svc. at Ret.
Dockery, Dewayne Alan	TRD	Garland	8/31/15	28

Approved by the Public Safety Commission on:



Date:

8/7/25