

ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND STANDARDS BOARD
500 S. 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING
Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort & Conference Center
3500 Midwest Road, Oak Brook, Illinois 60523

December 5, 2024
9:00 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The December 5, 2024 Quarterly Board meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Chairman Sean Smoot.

II. PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Public Meeting Announcement was read by John Keigher.

III. ROLL CALL ~ ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Roll was called by Michelle Mlinar, and a quorum of voting members was established.

Members in Attendance:

Sean Smoot
John Idleburg
Jo Ann Armenta
Nora Gomez
Brendan Kelly
Ghida Neukirch
Timothy Nugent
J. W. Price
Carla Redd
Timothy Tyler
Richard Watson

Designees in Attendance:

Marlon Parks for Thomas Dart
Steven Ryan for Latoya Hughes
John Carroll for Kwame Raoul
Migdalia Bulnes for Larry Snelling

Members Absent:

Mitchell Davis
Mariyana Spyropoulos

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR FALLEN OFFICERS

VI. INTRODUCTIONS OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

VII. CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS ~ Chairman Smoot

Chairman Smoot thanked the Board staff, Executive Institute staff, and the MTU’s for their past year of hard work and dedication.

VIII. REPORT & RECOMMENDATION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATING COMMITTEE ~ Committee Chairman, Brendan Kelly

Smoot asked that this item was tabled until Director Kelly could be present. Kelly was addressing the State’s Attorney Association and was expected to arrive soon.

Motion was made by Carroll, seconded by Neukirch, and carried by all members present, to table the report and recommendation of the Executive Nominating Committee until Committee Chairman, Brendan Kelly arrives.

IX. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Neukirch, seconded by Idleburg, and carried by all members present to approve the meeting minutes for the Curriculum and School Standards Advisory Committee meeting from September 25, 2024.

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Nugent, and carried by all members present to approve the meeting minutes for the Joint Finance & Legislative Committee and Executive Committee meeting from September 25, 2024.

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Redd, and carried by all members present to approve the meeting minutes for the Quarterly Board Meeting from September 26 2024.

X. REPORT OF STANDING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. Curriculum and School Standards Advisory Committee ~ Ghida Neukirch

Neukirch reported the Committee met yesterday and approved recertification of various academy courses which included the 2025 Basic Law Enforcement courses, Basic Corrections courses, Part-Time Basic Law Enforcement courses, Courtroom Security, 200-Hour Basic Arson Investigator course and the 120-Hour transition course for 2025. The policy for Mandatory Firearms Training was reaffirmed. The Committee approved courses for MTU’s including courses in High-Risk Traffic Stops, DWI Detection and Advanced Roadside Impairment Driving Enforcement. Dr. Schlosser presented on the POWER Test Work Group progress and recommended an agreement with FitForce. The Committee also supported the increase in academy tuition rates for 2025.

Motion was made by Redd, seconded by Tyler, and carried by all members present, to approve the Curriculum and School Standards Advisory Committee report and their recommendations.

B. Finance & Legislative Committee ~ John Idleburg

Idleburg reported the Committee met yesterday and discussed the FY25 expenditures through November 15, 2024. He stated the funds approved for FY25 are \$147,626,600, and the expenditures are \$52,689,762.22 as of November 15, 2024. He noted the academy tuition rates were all increased by 10%. The Board staff approved headcount budget allows for a total of 66 employees for FY25. As of October 31, 2024 staff headcount was at 45 employees, and 13 positions are in various stages in the hiring process.

Motion was made by Price, seconded by Watson, and carried by all members present, to approve the Joint Finance & Legislative and Executive Committee report and their recommendations.

C. Waiver Review Committee ~ John Keigher for Brendan Kelly

Keigher reported the Committee met yesterday and entertained three waiver appeals. The first was Aaron Gibson, and that appeal was denied. The second appeal was Derek Wilkerson, and that appeal was denied with a recommendation to re-review for activation. The third appeal, [Andrew] Haas was denied with a recommendation to re-review for activation.

Motion was made by Price, seconded by Watson, and carried by all members present, to approve the Waiver Review Committee report and their recommendations.

XI. EXECUTIVE MATTERS

A. Financial Items ~ Stormie DeJaynes for Steven Pingolt

DeJaynes reported the FY25 expenditures through November 15, 2024 can be found under Tab F in the Board book. Since the report was compiled, there has been an additional \$750,000 in bills paid out. Tab F also contains the cash flow balances as of November 15, 2024. DeJaynes stated there are no budget issues and the agency is on pace to outperform last year's numbers.

Motion was made by Nugent, seconded by Redd, and carried by all members present to approve the Financial Report.

B. Personnel Matters & DEIA Report ~ Ellen Petty

Petty reported her items can be found under Tab G in the Board book. She updated the Board on additional items the HR staff has been working on, and expects to have an additional five people hired by mid-January. Staff is working through interviews and making additional job postings. Petty noted the Employee Central database is now ready to be used. Chairman Smoot reminded

Board members to please complete their Ethics and DEIA training by December 31st so the agency does not receive an audit finding.

Motion was made by Gomez, seconded by Price, and carried by all members present to approve the Personnel Matters & DEIA Report.

C. Legislative and Litigation Update ~ John Keigher

Keigher reported the Veto Session wrapped up last week, few bills passed, and none involved the Board. He noted staff is still monitoring the Hate Crimes Bill. Keigher stated staff is preparing seven drafts for next session. There are no updates at this time for litigation. Keigher said staff has been researching the issue from last meeting around the need to recuse from voting. They did receive information on recusing when voting for decertification. It would be required if there is an active discretionary matter in front of the Board, an active employment relationship, or an active affiliation with an organization or family member. If it is a former relationship there is no need to recuse. Since there is still no direction regarding the waiver approval Keigher suggested the Waiver review be tabled until next meeting

Motion was made by Redd, seconded by Watson, and carried by all members present to approve the Legislative and Litigation Update.

D. Division of Professional Standards ~ Anthony Cobb & Pat Hahn

1. Professional Conduct Database Quarterly Report ~ Anthony Cobb

Cobb stated the Board has received 215 citizen complaints, and 314 Professional Conduct Reports as of November 30th. That is 57 citizen complaints, and 102 Professional Conduct Reports since the Board meeting in September.

2. Law Enforcement/Corrections/Court Security Waiver Disposition Quarterly Report ~ Anthony Cobb

Cobb reported the waiver report can be found under Tab H in the Board book. His division processed 600 waiver requests from August 1st through October 31st. During this time there were 535 Law Enforcement Officer waivers approved and 26 denied, 28 Correctional Officer waivers approved and three denied, and eight Court Security Officer waivers approved with none being denied.

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Tyler, and carried by all members present to approve Item D1.

Motion was made by Redd, seconded by Idleburg, and carried by all members present to table item D2 in accordance with legal counsel's advice.

3. Decertification ~ Pat Hahn

Hahn stated his report regarding nondiscretionary and voluntary decertification can be found under Tab I in the Board book. He stated none of the officers listed are active, Hahn then read through his report.

Motion was made by Nugent, seconded by Neukirch, and carried by all members present to approve the Decertification Report.

XII. PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONCEPTS

A. Illinois Law Enforcement Executive Institute ~ Heather Hotz

Hotz reported her office continues to facilitate trainings at the highest rates in their 31 years of existence. Hotz discussed their Executive Summits, and their numbers are up 60% over last year. She highlighted a current Summit, Grant Writing for Law Enforcement Agencies Workshop. Hotz then discussed the ASSIST program reporting that IROCC has vetted over 10,000 renewal and new applications this year. The program also acquired a VirTra machine for scenario simulation training where officers can train for mandated training credit. The program has also been working with state agencies to get courses certified to complete mandated hours.

Motion was made by Tyler, seconded by Redd, and carried by all members present to approve the Illinois Law Enforcement Executive Institute Report.

B. COPS Office ~ Deborah Spence, Assistant Director, U.S. Department of Justice - Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

Spence expressed that her team is pleased with the partnership with ILETSB and the COPS Training Portal. This portal allows officers in Illinois more ways to meet their training requirements. Spence stated that across the nation the COPS portal has had over 35,000 new enrollments this calendar year, which includes a little over 2,300 new registered users in Illinois. She discussed some of the technical issues Illinois officers had but appreciates the dedication from ILETSB. Spence reported that as well as the portal being a useful tool for officers, it was also opened up to individual agencies to be able to track training for their staff. It is appreciated that ILETSB saw an opportunity with the portal and chose to use it to help Illinois officers meet their goals. The COPS office is here to help in any way they can.

C. A Statewide System of In-Service Training (ASSIST) Program ~ Paul Petty

Petty reported the ASSIST program report can be found under Tab K and Tab E in the Board book. There are seven attachments that pertain to the fiscal and training responsibilities of the MTU's. Chairman Smoot spoke to the new model pursuit policy and stated the roll out involves using the COPS portal.

Motion was made by Neukirch, seconded by Tyler, and carried by all members present to approve the ASSIST Report.

D. CIT and Mental Health Training Update ~ John Keigher for Jennifer Wooldridge

Keigher stated the report can be found under Tab L in the Board book. He highlighted the CIT Conference is scheduled for June 25-26, 2025 in East Peoria. The theme will be Building Bridges. Keigher also noted that Trooper has been very active, he recently visited the Argo High School, and the Argo Elementary School. It was an event organized by the Tails of Redemption (TOR) program. The schools had been through a tragedy and Trooper and the other TOR dogs assisted; Trooper was a student favorite. Trooper and his TOR friends also spent time at Brookfield Zoo greeting children. Keigher said staff is looking into introducing a bill initiative for the CIT Crisis Response K-9 provider.

Motion was made by Redd, seconded by Watson, and carried by all members present to approve the CIT and Mental Health Training Update.

E. Specialty Training Update ~ Barbara Wood

Wood stated her report can be found under Tab M in the Board book. She reported that no one sat for the Crash Reconstruction Specialist exam since the last board meeting. Neukirch asked if there is any SRO training for School Administrators, how it pertains to their role, and when to call in their officers. Wood responded that there is no training for them at this time however, they are encouraged to attend Board certified conferences. Smoot suggested we collaborate with the state Association of School Administrators and possibly speak at their conferences. It was noted that Eric Arnold [with Executive Institute] works directly with schools on their threat assessments and speaks at their conferences.

Motion was made by Neukirch, seconded by Redd, and carried by all members present to approve the Specialty Training Update.

F. Information Technology Update ~ Kelly Ingram

Ingram noted his report is under Tab N in the Board book. He added that the updates to the Chicago office are underway, this includes adding workstations, cameras, badging systems, and things are running smoothly with the help of Director Calloway. Ingram also stated a second developer has been hired to the team with Andrew Oldfield working as his mentor. The goal is to have LEDI, LETM and PTB applications all on one platform. One additional goal is to have all testing online by end of 2025.

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Tyler, and carried by all members present to approve the Information Technology Update.

XIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Mandated Annual Training for Board Members ~ Pat Hahn

Hahn reminded Board members and staff to be sure to complete all mandated trainings by December 31, 2024, and to contact him with any issues.

B. SAFE-T Act Update ~ John Keigher

Keigher noted the top priority is getting the certification Review Panel up and running. Staff is currently working on the Administrative Rules for conducting proceedings. The Rules were filed in October, and three public meetings were offered for discussion. He stated 40% of the comments received from the public meetings were adopted, 40% of the comments were not applicable, and 20% were rejected. Keigher noted a revised draft of the rules can be found in Tab I of the Board book and went on to discuss some of the changes and the public meeting process.

Motion was made by Carroll, seconded by Price, and carried by all members present to approve the SAFE-T Act Update.

Director Kelly arrived and was added to the roll.

C. Grant Updates ~ John Keigher

Keigher reported that all three FY25 grants are now open. NIBIN Grant has \$2 MM in funding, the Recruitment and Retention Grant has about \$6.5 MM in funding and the Camera Grant currently has \$30 MM in funding. All three grants are now available for advance payment as well as reimbursement.

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Redd, and carried by all members present to adopt the Grant Updates.

D. POWER TEST: Work Group Report ~ Mike Schlosser

Dr. Schlosser commended ILETSB for implementing wellness within the academy, and for officers throughout their career. He discussed the disadvantage of using the Cooper Test, which lacks validation for public safety personnel, and stated the Work Group recommends moving forward with FitForce. Schlosser discussed how FitForce specializes in validation, they confirm legal compliance, they make sure there is fairness and inclusivity, they offer transportability, and they will defend if necessary. Keigher then spoke to the success Wisconsin is having using FitForce. A discussion followed noting the importance of ongoing officer wellness, both physical health and mental health.

Motion was made by Price, seconded by Watson, and carried by all members present to approve the POWER TEST: Work Group Report and to explore procurement opportunities to move forward with implementation of a new fitness test.

E. Military Police and Department of Army Civilian Police – State Reciprocity ~ Chris Haubrich

Haubrich stated his September presentation can be found under Tab B in the Board book. Haubrich then introduced Steven Herman, a Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for the State of Illinois. Herman discussed the disservice to Military Police (MP) in not allowing them to continue what they are trained to do once retired. He went on to discuss that if they were given credit for their service, and for what they have been trained to do, Illinois would become an attractive place for MPs to move to continue their career and serve in a police capacity.

Motion was made by Neukirch, seconded by Gomez, and carried by all members present to support [allowing Military Police reciprocity], subject to final review by the Director and Legal Counsel, and once IACP gives feedback on the training component as it pertains to reciprocity to make sure Military personnel are getting the appropriate training to what Illinois Law Enforcement Officers are receiving at the academies.

At this time Chairman Smoot suggested the Board move back to the tabled item.

Motion was made by Kelly, seconded by Watson, and carried by all members present to remove the report and recommendation of the Executive Nominating Committee from the table for consideration by the Board.

Executive Nominating Committee Chair Brendan Kelly stated the Committee met recently, and noted the positions of Board Chairman and Vice Chairman were opened up to anyone wanting to be considered for the positions. No members of the Board expressed any interest except for the current Chair, Sean Smoot, and current Vice Chair, John Idleburg. Kelly presented Smoot and Idleburg to the Board for a vote, and nominations were opened up from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor.

Motion was made by Kelly, seconded by Redd, and carried by all members present via roll call, with Smoot and Idleburg abstaining, to accept the recommendation of the Committee for Sean Smoot as Chairman for another term.

Motion was made by Kelly, seconded by Redd, and carried by all members present via roll call, with Idleburg abstaining, to accept the recommendation of the Committee for John Idleburg as Vice Chairman for another term.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of updated “Basic Guidelines of Officer-Worn Cameras” ~ John Keigher

Keigher reported that the Body Camera act requires the Board to establish guidelines for any agency using body cameras. Now that the Act is more mandated the guidelines need to be updated. Keigher stated the draft was distributed at the last meeting, and it can be found under Tab I with changes noted in red. It should be noted all of the changes were taken from the Act itself. A discussion followed and one change was suggested, Keigher stated it will be corrected before publishing.

Motion was made by Carroll, seconded by Price, and carried by all members present to approve the updated Basic Guidelines of Officer-Worn Cameras.

B. Officer Reimbursement Agreements ~ John Keigher

Keigher reported staff is waiting on guidance from the Department of Labor. He noted the case that brought this issue to light was settled out of court without Board involvement. Keigher asked the Board to table this issue at this time.

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Redd, and carried by all members present to table XIV, B. under New Business.

C. Police Pursuit Guidelines ~ Paul Petty

Petty stated the Police Pursuit Guidelines can be found under Tab I. The guidelines were originally adopted in 1994 and revised in 2019. Petty discussed the recommended changes and asked for approval.

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Redd, and carried by all members present to approve the Police Pursuit Guidelines as presented.

D. Academy Tuition Increase ~ John Keigher for Cheryllynn Williams

Keigher discussed the concerns from the academies relating to the significant increase in the costs of services and goods. The academies submitted reports relating to this issue, and after staff review it was determined that an across the board 10% increase would be justifiable. The proposed 10% increase would begin in calendar year 2025. It must be noted these numbers are the maximum allowed. In addition, the Cook County Sheriff's Correctional Academy has not received an increase in several years. After review of their records staff determined their increase should be a bit more to bring them in line with the other academies. The new academy tuition recommendations can be found under Tab F in the Board book.

Keigher noted that any Board member who has an academy would need to recuse themselves from this vote.

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Neukirch, and carried by all members present, with Marlon Parks, Brendan Kelly and Migdalia Bulnes recusing, to approve the recommended Academy Tuition Increases.

XV. PUBLIC INPUT

Barron Alston, Cook County Sheriff Department, Retired Investigator: Mr. Alston asked the Board why he cannot acquire his IROCC card. He discussed an incident that occurred while he was out of state where a person he previously arrested approached him. He said his family was involved in this incident and he wants to know why as a former Corrections Officer, and then Investigator, why he cannot have an IROCC card.

Marcus Hargrett, Cook County Sheriff Department, Retired Sergeant: Mr. Hargrett stated the IROCC Program Director had sent letters to his fellow retirees stating they are being refused IROCC cards as they are not entitled to receive the privileges granted by LEOSA. Hargrett asked how the Cook County Corrections Officers do not meet these criteria. He referred to 730 ILCS 125/26-1. He then asked why Chairman Smoot has not been removed from the Board and prosecuted for fraudulently obtaining an IROCC card while denying their rights. Hargrett noted the IROCC issues started when Dart became sheriff, as prior to Dart, retired Corrections Officers were given IROCC cards.

Luis Chaves, Illinois Department of Corrections, Staff Development Specialist: Mr. Chaves stated that he will never be able to qualify for IROCC based on the LEOSA guidelines. Chaves referenced the same Administrative Code that Hargrett mentioned earlier. He mentioned that LEOSA is a federal act, and he finds it concerning that the Board is using the definition of a law enforcement officer from the Illinois Police Training Act, and the federal act prevails in this incident. He is detailed to the Department of Corrections Parole Division and discussed the dangers of the job. Chaves noted that they have statutory powers of arrest and LEOSA does not give a limit to this. He wonders why the Board is sticking with a state statute instead of the federal act. He also spoke to the fitness of officers and noted how overworked officers currently are.

Tiffany Brand, Illinois Department of Corrections, Parole Agent: Ms. Brand stated she has 26 years with IDOC, with 21 years of that as a parole agent. Like all officers, Corrections Officers take an oath to uphold the law, and to serve and protect the State of Illinois. They carry this oath into retirement, and because of all they have done and seen they should be protected into retirement. She asked for HB4667 to be placed on the agenda at the March meeting to start the process to implement protection for Correctional Officers, Parole Agents, Cook County Sheriffs and others not able to receive an IROCC card.

It was noted there was an incorrect graduation date for PTI Academy it should be April 24, 2025, not April 4, 2025.

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Smoot announced the next Curriculum and School Standards Advisory Committee meeting, and the Joint Finance & Legislative and Executive Committee meeting, will be held on March 5, 2025 in Springfield, Illinois. The next Board meeting will be held on March 6, 2025 in Springfield, Illinois.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Nugent, and carried by all members present to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

