



Public Safety Commission Meeting

February 10, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

6100 Guadalupe, Building E

Austin, TX 78752

Summary

(This report represents a summary of events of the meeting, and is not necessarily complete nor an exact transcript of testimony.)

The Public Safety Commission convened as posted to consider and take formal action, if necessary, on the following agenda items:

I. CALL TO ORDER

10:00 am – Chairman Steven Mach called the meeting to order. In attendance: Chairman Steve Mach, Commissioners Steve H. Stodghill, Commissioner Nelda L. Blair, and Commissioner Dale Wainwright. A quorum was present. Also present were Deputy Director Freeman Martin and General Counsel Phil Adkins. Director McCraw and Deputy Director Dwight Mathis were not in attendance, with Deputy Director Freeman Martin filling in for Director McCraw.

Before we begin, I would like to take a moment of silence for Special Agent Anthony Solis. We ask God to protect him and his family.



II. INVOCATION

Chaplain Ferman Carpenter gave the invocation.

III. PLEDGES

Trooper Victoria Escolan led the meeting in the Pledge of Alliance and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion made by Commissioner Blair to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2021, Public Safety Commission Meeting, A motion was made by Commissioner Blair and was seconded by Commissioner Wainwright. The motion passed.

V. PRESENTATIONS

Deputy Director Freeman Martin made the following presentations:

The following press release was provided by DPS (photos added from the PSC Meeting presentation).



DPS Recognizes Two with William P. Clements Excellence Awards, 13 Other Awards at PSC Meeting

AUSTIN – The Texas Public Safety Commission (PSC), along with Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Deputy Director Freeman Martin, presented two *William P. Clements Excellence Awards*, 10 *Lifesaving Awards* and a *Unit Citation* to department personnel at the PSC meeting on Thursday, Feb. 10, at DPS Headquarters in Austin. Two *Director’s Awards* were also presented to members of partner agencies at the meeting.

“It is truly an honor to recognize the talent, dedication and innovation that happens within DPS, and the tremendous partnerships around the state that help protect the people of Texas,” said DPS Director Steven McCraw. “I am proud of the work these men and women have done and I hope these awards shed light on the incredible things they do each day.”

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE AWARDS

35 Year Service Award



40 Year Service Award



Victor Gails (THP)



Dorothy Hart (DLD)

WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS EXCELLENCE AWARD:

The *William P. Clements Excellence Award* is named in honor of the former governor and his commitment to excellence in government. The award honors a commissioned and non-commissioned employee for their exceptional performance of duties throughout the course of their DPS careers. Enterprise Program Specialist **TJ Olivarez** and Sergeant Tactical Flight Officer **James Morris** each received a 2022 *William P. Clements Excellence Award*.



James Morris,
Sergeant Tactical Flight Officer, AOD

TJ Olivarez, Infrastructure and Operations Division (IOD) — Austin, began his career with DPS in 2014 as a mailroom supervisor. Over the years he has increased productivity by modifying mailroom hours of operation, establishing cross-training and providing additional training opportunities and promoting accountability. His initiatives resulted in the purchase of mail processing equipment that saves DPS about \$100,000 annually. Olivarez also implemented a new process for priority mail at a discounted rate, saving an additional \$330,000 in its first year. In 2020, he was promoted to Distribution Manager of General Stores, and in 2021, promoted again to Enterprise Program Specialist. Olivarez made an impact on the organization by coordinating statewide logistics for COVID-19, as well as assisting the Operational Medicine Unit with the distribution of testing kits and the rollout of the vaccine. Olivarez loaded and delivered supplies and personal protection equipment to personnel at the capitol

during civil disturbances and disaster responses. He has consistently gone above the responsibilities of each position he's held, and been a consistent provider of superior service, solutions and support to the entire agency.



TJ Olivarez,
Enterprise Program Specialist, IOD

Sgt. James Morris, Aircraft Operations Division (AOD) — Alpine, began his career with DPS in 2002. His productivity, loyalty and devotion to duty have significantly enhanced the services provided to AOD. He’s worked with numerous pilots and agencies in the Big Bend area and is an expert tracker on the ground and in the air. Morris’ expertise has resulted in the apprehension of thousands of migrants and the seizure of tens of thousands of pounds of narcotics. Additionally, he’s been involved in numerous life-saving missions during natural disasters, active shooter events and other critical incidents. Morris has earned several awards and letters of commendation from the department and other agencies. Before joining DPS, he served in the United States Marine Corps. Morris is also a pillar of the community, and is a member of the Knights of Columbus, American Legion and Veterans of

Foreign Wars. He has been a youth sports coach for more than 18 years and was recently elected to serve as a trustee on the Alpine Independent School District Board.

LIFE SAVING AWARD



Pete Luna, Jr. (TRD)

Ranger Pete Luna Jr., Texas Rangers Division — Richmond, received a *Lifesaving Award* for his actions on Sept. 12 as part of Operation Lone Star (OLS). He and Special Agent Jamie Neault, Trooper Daniel Godina, Trooper Taylor Henriquez, Ranger Andres de la Garza and Staff Sgt. Lucas Patterson were working together that day. Luna, de la Garza, Neault, Godina and Henriquez were conducting migrant searches at a rail yard when two migrants flagged them down. They were clearly shaken and had blood on their clothes. They told de la Garza and Patterson a person had been struck by a train. De la Garza and Patterson found the victim next to the tracks. His right leg was amputated below the knee and he was losing a large amount of blood. De la Garza notified the rest of the team and Neault, who is a tactical medic, requested an ambulance. The pair applied two tourniquets to the victim’s upper leg and

treated him for shock. As Neault arrived, he administered IV fluids to stabilize him. Luna, Godina and Henriquez prepared and then transported the victim to the helipad. Neault continued care until the aircrew arrived and EMS personnel was able to take over. (*Special Agent Jamie Neault, Trooper Daniel Godina, Trooper Taylor Henriquez, Ranger Andres de la Garza and Staff Sgt. Lucas Patterson were recognized at the December PSC meeting.*)



Ryan Halfmann (THP)

Trooper Ryan Halfmann, Highway Patrol — Georgetown, received a *Lifesaving Award* for his actions on Sept. 10 in conjunction with Trooper Dorian Turner. The pair was helping at a homeless camp when a woman ran toward them, holding a hand on the back of her neck. When she got closer, the Troopers could see a large amount of blood on her chest. The woman said a person at the camp struck her with an axe. Turner assessed the woman's injury and saw a deep laceration to the back of her neck that was bleeding profusely. Halfmann gave Turner a towel to apply pressure, however, the bleeding continued. Halfmann had a Quick Clot bandage, which he and Turner used to apply pressure to the injury until EMS arrived. Turner accompanied the woman to the hospital to maintain pressure on the wound, and

Halfmann stayed on the scene to find the suspect, who was located a short time later. The woman survived her injuries. (*Trooper Dorian Turner was recognized at the December PSC meeting.*)



Chad Overton (THP)

Trooper Chad Overton, Highway Patrol — Albany, received a *Lifesaving Award* for his actions on July 21. That day several troopers, along with a Florida Highway Patrol Trooper, were working in Del Rio as part of Operation Lone Star. As they gathered at a restaurant for dinner, a man staggered to their table in distress and mouthed the words, "I'm choking." Overton performed the Heimlich maneuver and while the man improved slightly, he still wheezed, even after sitting down. Overton performed the Heimlich again, and the man improved once more. EMS arrived and, after evaluation, determined the man's lungs were clear.



David Patch (THP)

Trooper David Patch, Highway Patrol — Jourdanton, received a *Lifesaving Award* for his actions on Sept. 21. He spotted a passenger vehicle leave the road, drive into the median, then go across the southbound lanes and flip several times. Patch immediately drove toward the crash and spotted a female outside the vehicle with a severe injury to her right hand. He placed a tourniquet on her right arm due to excessive blood loss. The woman was frantic because of the trauma of the accident, however, Patch continued providing medical aid and emotional support. He controlled the bleeding and bandaged the woman's hand while waiting for EMS to arrive.



Garrett Sturgill (THP)

Trooper Garrett Sturgill, Highway Patrol — George West, received a *Lifesaving Award* for his actions on Aug. 3 when he responded to a call about a migrant who was injured while trying to jump from a train. The man's leg was severed by the train's wheels. When Sturgill arrived, he assessed the situation and applied a tourniquet to the victim's right thigh to prevent further blood loss. EMS arrived and continued medical treatment before the man was flown to a San Antonio hospital for emergency treatment. Paramedics said had it not been for Sturgill's actions, the man would not have survived.



Earnest Parker (THP)

Trooper Bradley Fein, Highway Patrol — Mt. Pleasant; **Trooper Alan Owens**, Highway Patrol — Tyler; **Cpl. Earnest Parker**; Highway Patrol — Baird; and **Trooper Michael West**, Highway Patrol — Eastland, each received a *Lifesaving Award* for their actions on Oct. 11. The team was on patrol that day for Operation Lone Star when a driver notified West of a woman lying on the side of the road. When West arrived he saw the woman being swarmed by bees. West contacted another Trooper off scene who is a beekeeper, and was advised to spray the woman with a fire extinguisher, douse her in water to minimize the bees' aggression and have her walk away from the hive. As West sprayed the woman, the bees attacked him, forcing him to retreat. West called communications, asking for additional units and EMS. Fein arrived and used his public address system to tell the woman

to walk toward their patrol vehicles. As she did, West continued to spray her with the fire extinguisher. Owens arrived and also used his fire extinguisher to spray the woman, then doused her in water. Parker arrived and assisted West, Fein and Owens. The woman was taken to the EMS staging area. As the troopers cleared the scene, Parker spotted a second woman on the side of the road who had also been attacked and was having difficulty breathing. Fein had an Epi-pen and drove back to the scene. While Parker and Owens waited, they poured water on the woman and swatted bees away. Once the Epi-pen was administered, the woman was driven in West's patrol vehicle to the EMS staging area. The bee stings were life-threatening to both women, but they survived.



LIFE SAVING AND DIRECTOR'S AWARD



Ricardo Vergara (THP)

Trooper Ricardo Vergara, Highway Patrol — Rio Grande, received a *Lifesaving Award* and **Agent Arnold Cantu**, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, received a *Director's Award* for their actions on Sept. 12. Vergara was a member of a Special Operations Group that was assisting U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agents near the Rio Grande River as part of Operation Lone Star. They spotted a boat with multiple people inside crossing the river from Mexico. Once the boat got to the U.S. side of the river, officials saw what appeared to be drugs loaded into a Ford Expedition. As the vehicle began to leave, Special Operations Group operators and Border Patrol agents converged on the vehicle. People fled, jumping into the river to swim back to Mexico. One of the men couldn't swim and struggled to stay afloat. Vergara and Cantu quickly paddled out to assist the man. They brought him ashore, assessed him for possible injuries and then transported him for processing.



Arnold Cantu
(US Customs & Border Protection)

DIRECTOR'S AWARD



Oscar Garcia (Brookshire PD)

Capt. Oscar Garcia, Brookshire Police Department, received a *Director's Award* for his professionalism and dedication as a Task Force Officer in the Criminal Investigations Division of DPS. Garcia has served as a Task Force Officer in CID since 1994. Since that time, he has conducted thousands of undercover narcotics and weapons purchases from drug traffickers and facilitated arrests and asset seizures, as well as played a critical role in the investigations of gangs, fraud, public corruption, corrupt law enforcement officers and human trafficking. In 2020, during an investigation involving the Hiram Clarke Bloods Gang and a Houston-based drug trafficking organization, Garcia

conducted undercover purchases that led to the arrest of 35 drug traffickers and gang members, as well as the seizure of 16 kilograms of methamphetamine and 14 firearms. In 2021, Garcia's expertise infiltrating criminal organizations with direct links to Mexican Drug Cartels allowed the department to seize more than 200 kilograms of methamphetamine and two clandestine laboratories. Garcia also provides instruction and leadership to officers with less experience, he mentors colleagues and is a senior instructor at the DPS Covert Operations School.

UNIT CITATION

Sgt. Jerrod Burtnett, Highway Patrol — Lubbock; **Lt. Aaron Fritch**, Highway Patrol — Headquarters; **Sgt. Chris Germany**, Highway Patrol — Headquarters; **Sgt. Scott Hewitt**, Highway Patrol — Headquarters; **Sgt. Hope Hohertz**, Highway Patrol — Headquarters; **Sgt. James Jones**, Highway Patrol — Headquarters; **Sgt. Rae Lee**, Highway Patrol — Headquarters; **Sgt. Kenneth Morgan**, Highway Patrol — Headquarters; **Sgt. Jason Rolison**, Highway Patrol — Headquarters; **Sgt. Allen Stanton**, Highway Patrol — Headquarters; and **Sgt. C.J. Villarreal**, Highway Patrol — Headquarters, received a *Unit Citation* for their hard work and dedication that began in June 2018. The Highway Patrol's Crash Reconstruction Team was restructured, creating a decentralized regional model that now provides expertise to each region of the state. The newly-created approach provides training, operating procedures, technology and partnerships to the regions. Each team member must undergo months of training to become a Technical Crash Investigator. After serving a minimum of four years in that capacity on a District Crash Reconstruction Team, they are eligible to apply for the State Reconstruction Team. Once on that team, after completing continuing education and passing an exam, Highway Patrol members become Crash Reconstructionists. Team members are instructors in more than 20 topics, including crash investigations, the transportation code, traffic incident management and drones. As subject-matter experts, these team members have created source documents, including a 247-page field enforcement guide, legislation summaries, student manuals, drone operation guides, reference sheets and comprehensive templates. Many are experts in the use of reconstruction software. A few of the team's accomplishments since the 2018 restructuring include: Reconstruction of three major crashes, review of 22 district crash reconstructions, the training of 130 drone pilots and the issuance of 118 aircraft in the Highway Patrol division. Team members also taught classes to five DPS recruit schools and conducted 11 drone operations in support of border security mass gatherings.



Jerrod Burtnett (THP)
Aaron Fritch (THP)
Chris Germany (THP)
Scott Hewitt (THP)
Hope Hohertz (THP)
James Jones (THP)
Rae Lee (THP)
Kenneth Morgan (THP)
Jason Rolison (THP)
Allen Stanton (THP)
C.J. Villarreal (THP)

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Deputy Director Freeman Martin said that it was unfortunate that Director McCraw was not present for the sendoff for Chief Tom Ruocco, CID. He went on to list the huge job that Chief Ruocco undertook shortly after Director McCraw had taken the reins as Director. He stated that he was hired with the intention that the division was in need of change and that he knew that Tom Ruocco was the man for the job. As always, change does not come easy nor without detractors, and Tom Ruocco was faced with many. But he stood steadfast, knowing that the changes were necessary and would benefit the department. DD Martin credited Chief Ruocco with transforming the CID to a modern crime fighting enterprise and a model for law enforcement agencies across Texas and the country.



Chief Tom Ruocco addressed the Commission and the audience and thanked DPS for the opportunity to work with such a great group of people. He also related a story or two that were fond memories for him.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

(Members of the public wishing to address the Commission are subject to a time limit of 5 minutes and must complete a Public Comment Registration Card located at the entry. Should a member of the public bring an item to the Commission for which the subject was not posted on the agenda of the meeting, state law provides that the Commission may

receive the information but cannot act upon it at the meeting. The Commission may direct staff to contact the requestor or request that the issue be placed on a future agenda for discussion.)

There was no public comment.

Before the Directors Report, Chairman Mach announced that Governor Abbott has released an update report regarding his Legislative Priorities, and stated that the DPS priorities begin on page 31 of the report and he recommended that everyone should read it.

Deputy Director Freeman Martin asked to give a brief recruit class update before the Director's report also. He stated that the legislature authorized funding for an additional recruit class at the end of the last session. So in December, we began a B-21 class that currently has 109 cadets. On Monday, February 14, 2022, our A-22 class will commence with 60 cadets. On May 9, 2022, we will begin our B-22 class, and a C-22 class will begin on October 17. So we will have three classes in 2022, and one class in 2023.

VII. DIRECTORS REPORT

A. Case Update: Operation "G.P."

Deputy Director Freeman Martin asked CID Lieutenant Chris Armstrong and Special Agent Tonya Peron to discuss Operation "G.P." They talked about stopping a vehicle in Rockwall, TX, that had a large quantity of fentanyl. They stated that 1 kilo of fentanyl can kill 500 people. They noted that 1 pill is sold for as little as \$5. They said that while the criminal activity around the drug trade is terrible, the real tragedy will be measured in body counts. This was not an isolated incident, but this is happening all across Texas and the country. Previously most of the drug flow was moving through Texas on its way to the North East, but now we are seeing a lot more of the trade staying in Texas. Below are the slides that they presented:

CID Criminal Enterprise Investigation
Fentanyl Investigations

Region 1 (North)

Investigation #1

- The investigation was initiated on August 31, 2020, after a traffic stop by DPS Highway Patrol in Hunt County.
- A search of the vehicle led to the discovery of 12 kilograms of fentanyl and the arrest of two suspects. The seized fentanyl represents six million potential lethal doses.
- CID responded to the scene and conducted a follow-up investigation.

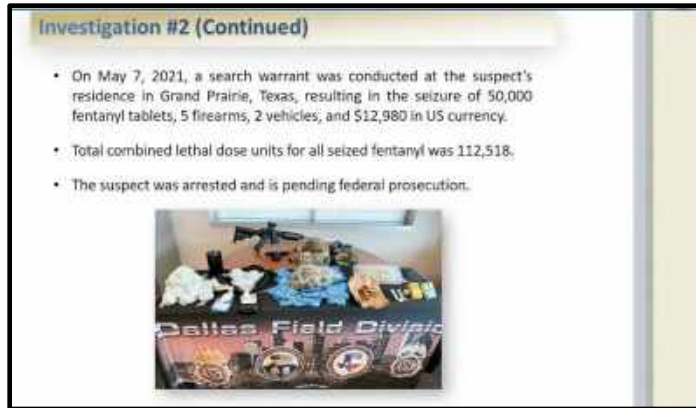
Investigation #1 (Continued)

- Based on the CID investigation, the fentanyl is suspected to have been smuggled into the El Paso area from Juarez, Mexico, by members of the Sinaloa Cartel, with a final destination of North Carolina.
- Both suspects were charged with Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distributed Controlled Substance.
- In November 2021, one of the arrested suspects pled guilty to federal charges and was sentenced to 144 months. He is also awaiting sentencing from additional federal charges in Oklahoma.
- The second suspects is still awaiting sentencing.

Investigation #2

- The investigation was initiated in March 2021 after CID special agents developed a lead regarding a suspected high-volume narcotics trafficker operating in the DFW area.
- The suspect was believed to be in possession of 5,000–10,000 fentanyl pills disguised as Percocet, which he was selling for \$5.00 per pill.
- CID special agents coordinated with the DEA and Lewisville Police Department to conduct surveillance and complete multiple controlled purchases.

Purchase Date	Purchase Amount	
	Number of Pills	in Lethal Doses
March 2	100	110
March 25	90	100
April 15	1,200	992

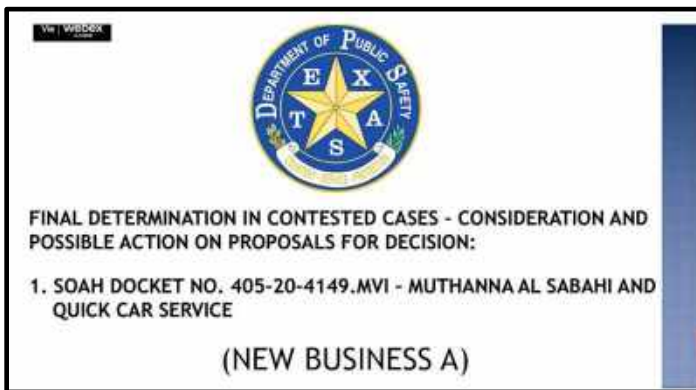


Chairman Mach thanked the presenters for their report and commented that it was very sobering and eye opening.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Final Determination in Contested Cases – consideration and possible action on Proposals for Decision:

1. SOAH Docket No. 405-20-4149.MVI – Muthanna Al Sabahi and Quick Car Service

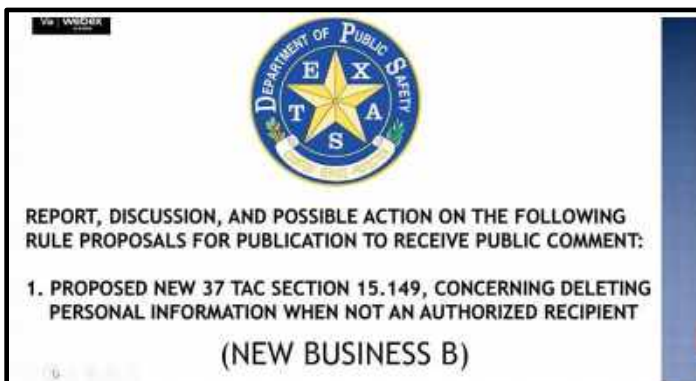


General Counsel Phil Adkins said that this case involved clean scanning vehicles (using a good car as a substitute when monitoring exhaust quality). SOAH recommended a one-year license suspension for both Mr. Sabahi and for the facility. Counsel Adkins asked the PSC to approve this request for licensing suspensions.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wainwright and seconded by Commissioner Stodghill to approve the recommended action.

The motion carried.

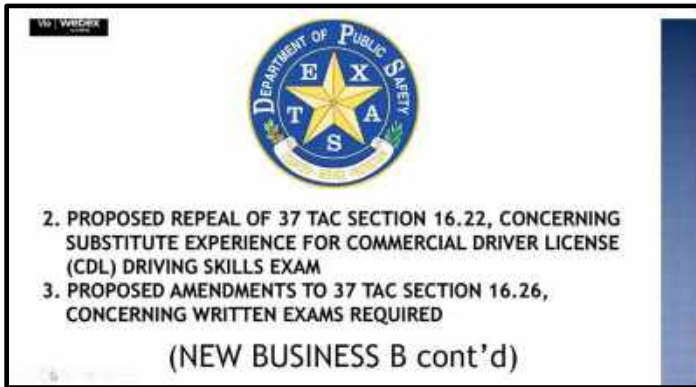
B. Report, discussion, and possible action on the following rule proposals for publication to receive public comment:



1. Proposed new 37 TAC Section 15.149, concerning Deleting Personal Information When Not An Authorized Recipient

Chief Sheri Gipson stated that item 1 is an addition required by legislative changes; item 2 is the repeal of a rule that is no longer applicable due to legislative

changes; and item 3 is to amend a rule as required by legislative changes.



2. Proposed repeal of 37 TAC Section 16.22, concerning Substitute Experience for Commercial Driver License (CDL) Driving Skills Exam
3. Proposed amendments to 37 TAC Section 16.26, concerning Written Exams Required
4. Proposed amendments to 37 TAC Section 16.29, concerning Waivers From Skills Exam

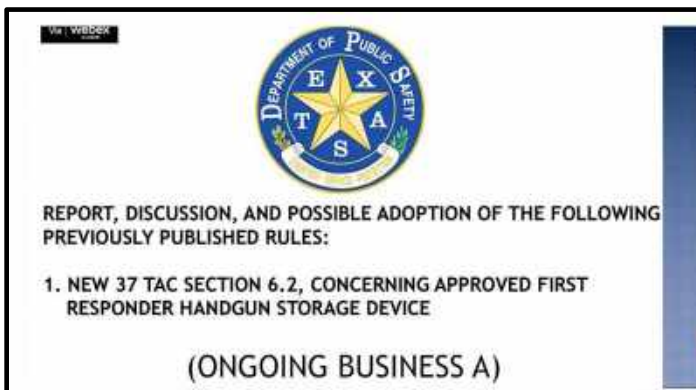
A motion was made by Commissioner Blair and seconded by Commissioner Stodghill to approve items 1-4 for publication in the Texas Registry for public review and comments.

The motion carried.

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

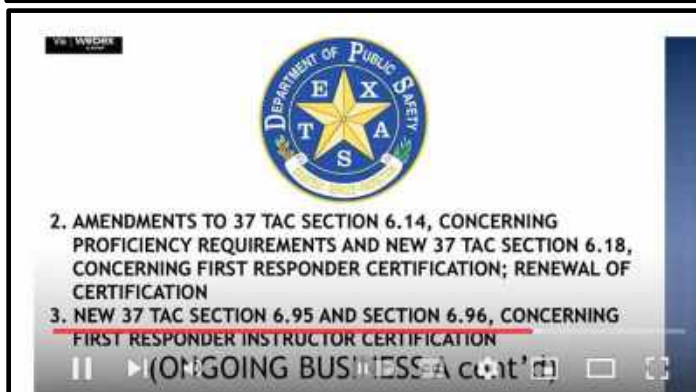
This item was handled in Executive Session.

IX. ONGOING BUSINESS



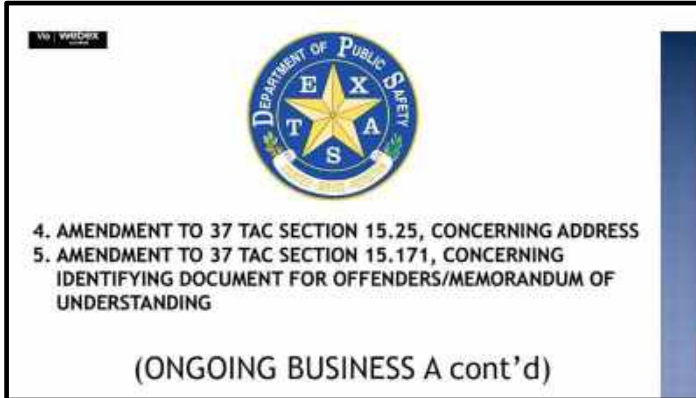
- A.** Report, discussion and possible adoption of the following previously published rules:
1. New 37 TAC Section 6.2, concerning Approved First Responder Handgun Storage Device
 2. Amendments to 37 TAC Section 6.14, concerning Proficiency Requirements and new 37 TAC Section 6.18, concerning First Responder Certification; Renewal of Certification
 3. New 37 TAC Section 6.95 and Section 6.96, concerning First Responder Instructor Certification

Chief Wayne Mueller, Regulatory Services Division, stated that he had received no public comment on any of the 5 items previously posted to the Texas Register.



A motion was made by Commissioner Wainwright and seconded by Commissioner Stodghill to approve items 1-3 as posted in the Texas Register.

The motion carried.



4. Amendment to 37 TAC Section 15.25, concerning Address
5. Amendment to 37 TAC Section 15.171, concerning Identifying Document for Offenders/Memorandum of Understanding *Chief Jessica Ballew, Infrastructure and Operations Division, stated that she had received no public comment on items 4 and 5 and asked for their approval.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Blair and seconded by Commissioner Wainwright.

The motion carried.

- 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

Deputy Director Freeman Martin said that he had no changes to the DPS organizational chart to announce. Chairman Mach joked asking Director Martin if he was sure....this is a big opportunity...!

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

This item was handled in Executive Session.

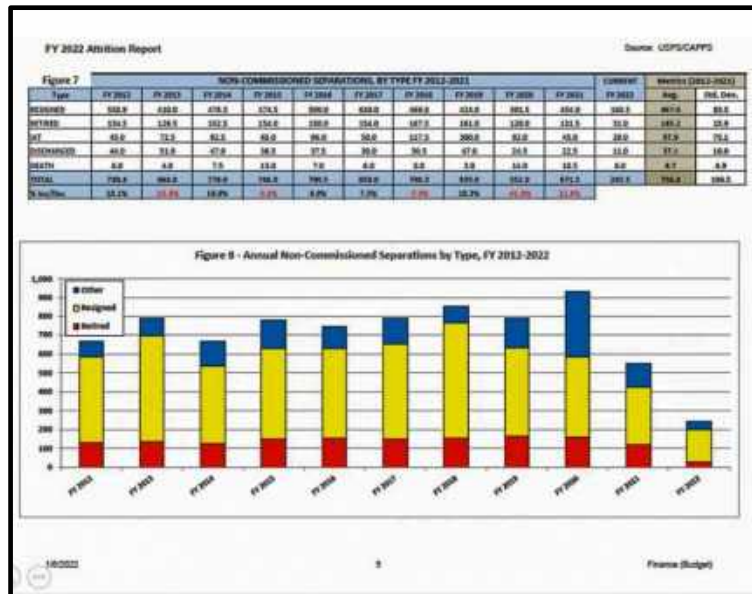
X. REPORTS

- A.** Commission member reports and discussion

Commissioner Wainwright, PSC liaison to the Chief Auditor's Office, would weigh in with the Auditors report.

- B.** Finance Report

Chief Suzy Whittenton, CFO, stated that the Legislature and the Governor had authorized \$8.8 million for Operation Lone Star through the end of August 2022. She pointed out that the operation is quite costly, mentioning costs of housing, meals, fuel, overtime pay and other expenses. She is monitoring the costs closely, and so far, she feels that they are just about on pace to make it to the end of August without overruns. It will be very close and unforeseen expenses could crop up that may require additional funding.

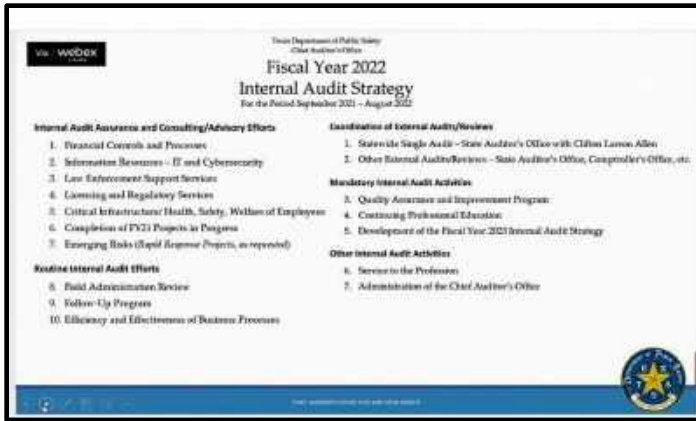


C. Chief Auditors Office

Chief Catherine Melvin, Chief Auditor, provided the Mid-Year report on the Chief Auditor’s Office as requested by Commissioner Wainwright and the Public Safety Commission. There was discussion about how the Chief Auditor had historically been a somewhat adversarial division within the department but that now the focus was more on streamlining and improving processes for productivity and efficiency, and the Auditor’s Office works more as a partner with the various divisions within the department. Of course, there still is the oversight element to the Auditor’s Office, but this is still handled professionally, and the divisions generally welcome the input and help.

Commissioner Wainwright stated that he met with the Auditor’s Office over the holidays and was very pleased with their attention to detail, and the professional way they carry out their duties. He thanked Chief Melvin for her dedication and leadership.





CAO Completed Projects

	Financial Controls & Processes	Information Resources	Law Enforcement Support Svcs	Licensing & Regulatory Svcs	Critical Infrastructure & Health, Safety, Welfare of Employees	Emerging Risks
Completed Projects						
Fleet – Controls Over New Vehicles 2023-09-08	✓					
DL Appointment Scheduling 2023-09-02				✓		✓
Performance Measures 2023-12-13	✓					
Payroll Processes 2022-01-07	✓					

D. Division status reports on activities and action

Chief Jessica Ballew, Infrastructure and Operations Division, and Regional Director Orlando Alanis, Texas Highway Patrol, gave a report on the ballistic resistant glass that was authorized and funded through the passage of SB 2222. There was \$22 million funded through the bill, and DPS awarded a contract in November of 2021 to Dana Fleet Safety to install bullet resistant windshields, front driver and passenger windows and front door panels in both existing (with fewer than 105,000 miles) and new DPS fleet vehicles. Since DPS is the first state police agency to install this type of equipment, we are proceeding cautiously, and the initial installs will be in the Austin area where we can monitor the process and any issues that might come up. We are running tests at EVOC (DPS Emergency Vehicle Operations Center) in Florence on 16 vehicles. The target date for completing all of the vehicles is June 30, 2023.

So far, one vehicle is being duty tested in Georgetown. The trooper reported issues with the windshield fogging under certain conditions, and our dash mounted radar was having a hard time pinpointing vehicles in rolling tests. Dana Fleet Safety is addressing the fogging and we are considering options to correct the radar issue.

The thicker glass (a sample of which was on display at the meeting as well as a vehicle equipped with the glass for the Commission to examine) adds about 200 lbs. to the weight of a patrol vehicle, so a fully well geared up car with necessary equipment could weigh 600 – 900 lbs. more than without the equipment and glass. So handling and fuel economy is also going to be tested and monitored. The new Tahoes that DPS is ordering comes equipped with a heavier duty independent suspension that may be better equipped to handle the load. We are also looking at adding stabilizing bars to improve handling.

Commissioner Stodghill thanked the Governor and the Legislature for funding this safety initiative for our troopers. Chairman Mach and Commissioner Wainwright echoed Commissioner Stodghill’s sentiments.

XI. CONSENT ITEMS

All of the following items may be enacted with one motion. These items are typically self-explanatory or have been previously considered by the Commission. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a commissioner so requests.

- 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: Kristopher Scott Hall; Special Texas Rangers: James Bennett Holland
- B.** Donations:
 - 1. North Texas Region Commissioned Personnel – use of Bluebonnet Ranch for lodging and training purposes
 - 2. Additional donation items, as needed

Chairman Mach asked Deputy Director Martin if he had reviewed the Consent Items and if there was anything that should be discussed.

DD Martin said that all items were reviewed and all looked OK.

A motion was made by Commissioner Blair and seconded by Commissioner Wainwright.

The motion Carried.

XII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Chairman Mach asked that the Commissioners refer any items for future agendas to General Counsel Adkins or to Sophie Yanez.

XIII. DATE FOR FUTURE MEETING

The regular Public Safety Commission meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2022.
Discharge hearings will be scheduled for April 15, 2022.

Chairman Mach stated that the next Public Safety Commission Meeting will be held on April 14, 2022.

XIV. ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

(If required) 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

Chairman Mach adjourned the Public Safety Commission Meeting to Executive Session at 12:06 pm.

XV. ADJOURN

The Commission may take items out of the order in which they are posted on this agenda. Also, an item that has been adopted, passed upon, delayed or tabled for a later meeting may be considered or reconsidered at the same meeting.

The Public Safety Commission may meet and discuss in Executive Session and have action taken in an Open Meeting where required on the following items:

Government Code Sec. 551.071 Consultation and deliberation with legal counsel about

pending or contemplated litigation or a settlement offer, or on a matter where the Commissioners seek the advice of their attorney as privileged communications under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas, and to discuss the Open Meetings Act and the Administrative Procedures Act with their attorney

Government Code Sec. 551.074 Appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of director, assistant director, and persons appointed to management team positions pursuant to Govt. Code Sec. 411.0071 Government Code Sec. 551.076 Deliberations about security audits, security devices, including deployment and implementation of security personnel and devices Government Code Chapter 411, Sec. 411.0041 Ongoing criminal investigations

Government Code Sec. 551.072 Deliberation of the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the government body in negotiations with a third person Government Code Sec. 551.073 Deliberation of a negotiated contract for a prospective gift or donation to the state or the governmental body if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person