

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
Private Security Services Advisory Board

March 17, 2021

NOTE: This meeting was held by electronic means, via ZOOM meeting software, in response to the Governor’s Declaration of a State of Emergency due to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Member(s) Present

Mr. Jagdish Katyal, Jr., Chairman
Mr. Michael Ashley, Vice Chairman
Mr. David Bourne
Mr. Rodney Budd
Mr. Dave Killip
Mr. Charles Law
Mr. John Frazer
Mr. Thomas Gallemore
Mr. Frank Kollmansperger
Mr. Christopher Mortensen
Mr. Michael Niner
Mr. Eric Pohland
Mr. Frank Weaver, Jr.

Public Attendance

Courtney P.
Lauren Sledzinski
Lily Zarghami

DCJS Staff Present

Mr. Leon Baker, Division Director
Ms. Anika Cleman, Licensing Mgr.
Ms. Brenda Cardoza, Criminal Specialist

1. Meeting Called to Order/Roll Call: Chairman Jagdish Katyal, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Chairman Katyal asked Ms. Cardoza to call roll. Ms. Cardoza advised that there was a quorum of Board members to conduct business.

Chairman Katyal acknowledged the resignation of two PSSAB members Ed DePolo, effective 12/2020 and Eric Pohland, effective 05/2021 both Private Security Business providing security officers, armed couriers, detector canine handlers or security canine handlers Representatives.

2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: Vice Chairman Michael Ashley made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 2, 2020 meeting; Mr. Eric Pohland seconded the motion. With no objections, the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. 1st Public Comment Period (2 minutes per speaker): There were no public comments made.

4. Board Member/Committee Reports:

The subcommittees to discuss 1099 contracting of personal protection specialists and mandatory training on human trafficking; and to discuss definition of uniforms and provide reports/updates

to the PSSAB are in the process of being established.

5. DCJS Report:

Mr. Leon Baker provided the DCJS report.

PSSAB Vacancies

Mr. Edward Depolo, submitted his resignation on December 22, 2020 with an effective date of December 31, 2020. Mr. Eric Pohland submitted his resignation on March 16, 2021 with an effective date of May 14, 2021. Mr. Leon Baker thanked them for their service on the PSSAB and wished them the best in future endeavors. DCJS will be advertising for two PSS Business Representatives of businesses providing Security Officers in the very near future. There is still a vacancy on the Board for the Armored Car Representative Position. The Nominations & Appointments Subcommittee of the CJSB will meet on March 25, 2021 to consider a candidate to fill that position.

DCJS Staffing Update

Ms. Cymondria Smith has joined our Customer Service Unit and will be a member of our call center as well as performing many other customer service related duties. Cymondria brings a lot of experience to this position as well as a great, positive customer service mindset.

Ms. Jennifer Winters has joined our Adjudication Unit, as an Adjudication Specialist. Jennifer has over 13 years of experience as an Adjudication Specialist at two other state agencies. She has already had a tremendous impact on addressing our adjudication case backlog. We are very happy to have both Jennifer and Cymondria join our team.

DCJS plans to have someone from the Adjudication Unit as well as DCJS' Human Trafficking Manager provide a presentation at one of the future meetings of the PSSAB.

DCJS continues to work remotely for the near future. DCJS is currently planning what a return to office will look like as some positions within the agency may continue to work remotely even post COVID 19. The goal is to provide the same quality service to our constituents whether we are working remotely or in the office.

Online Credentialing Management System

As previously reported, there is a very strong possibility that DCJS will have a new vendor and online system in place once the current vendor's contract expires. DCJS will continue to update the Board on the progress of this initiative and as previously stated we intend to reach out to our constituents at the proper time to seek input on how our online services can be improved

Legislation

The regular legislative cycle was just completed. It was a very light year for bills that required input from the Division of Licensure and Regulatory Services. In fact, we only had to respond to

one bill, which died in subcommittee. That bill would have required DCJS to license and regulate Charitable Bail Bond Organizations.

Mr. Baker ended the DCJS by opening the floor for any issues or concerns that Board members have, or are hearing from their respective industry.

7. Old Business: None for discussion.

8. New Business:

Discussions Regarding Firearms Endorsement Requirements:

Armed security officers and other armed categories have to qualify twice for the same course and pay twice for the same training. It is suggested that training waivers carryover for alike trainings for all DCJS programs.

There are different programs with different regulatory program training requirements to meet for each program. If an individual's training requirements expire within 90 days of each other, the training will apply to each program. The credentialing system looks for ones within the timeframe and satisfies the training requirement. DCJS will check to ensure that this feature is operating properly. No inquiries or complaints received that it is unfair to pay again or stay for additional firearms course when they shot thirty minutes earlier for the armed security officer training.

The firearms endorsement verifies completion of training requirement have been met and does not authorize anybody to carry a concealed weapon. The employer must submit written authorization for their employee to carry a firearm while working. Should an individual decide to carry their weapon concealed they must have approval to carry a firearm they are required to have a valid firearms endorsement and a valid concealed weapons permit. The employer must maintain records of authorizing their employee(s) to work with a concealed weapon.

The Code specifies that should a company allow their technicians to be armed they are not required to have a DCJS firearms endorsement however use with a valid concealed weapon permits is approved. A firearms endorsement does NOT allow anyone to carry a concealed firearm.

It was Regulatory change based on a firearms subcommittee of the PSSAB. It was determined that an armed security officers require additional training over what someone who would get a firearms endorsement because they are a private investigator and have it for their personal protection while on the job versus someone in a position that the probability that they would have to use a firearms on duty is greater. This went through the regulatory process; it was discussed, vetted, heard by the public and it was passed.

It was written in the Regulations that anyone that carried or was in the possession of a weapon while on duty had to have a firearms endorsement. This was changed in the Code several years

ago to address Electronic Security personnel not to include locksmiths specifies if a company Technicians do not need a firearms endorsement.

Raising the passing score for firearms training must happen when regulations are up for review. It is a long process that could take up to two years. The Governor would have the final say whether the final regulations will go through based on comments received regarding the final regulations.

Motion:

Chairman Katyal made a motion that Mr. Michael Niner would like to Board to vote to reduce the number of individuals to make up a subcommittee from four to one or more. Mr. Dave Killip seconded the motion. With one objection, the motion carried.

Ms. Anika Coleman provided the link to Townhall where they can obtain information on regulatory activities.

9. 2nd Public Comment Period (5 minutes per speaker): There were no public comments made.

10. Announcements/Board Member Remarks: The next PSSAB meeting is Wednesday, May 2021.

11. Adjournment: Vice Chairman Michael Ashley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Frank Weaver seconded the motion. With no objections, the motion was unanimously approved; Chairman Jagdish Katyal adjourned the meeting at 11:21a.m.