



Ohio Private Investigation & Security Services Commission (OPISSC) August 28, 2014, Minutes

Commission Meeting Date and Location: August 28, 2014, Ohio Department of Public Safety (DPS), 1970 W. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223

Commission Members Present: Mr. Rodney Armstrong, Mr. Jay Beighley, Mr. John Born, Mr. Dennis Deskins, Mr. Dwight Holcomb, Mr. Gregg Hollenbaugh, Mr. Bryan Kirk, Mr. Anthony Macisco, Mr. Ted Owens, Mr. Ralph Portier, Mr. Chris Johnson for Mr. Paul Pride

Commission Members Absent: Mr. Brian Simms, Mr. Mark Wasylshyn

Also Attending: Aleta Dodson, Geoff Dutton, Julie Faulconer, James Hogan, Joe Montgomery, Eric Richmond, Andrew Spencer

Visitors Attending: Terry Myer, Columbus Detective Agency; Joseph Powell and Jeff Parsons, former OPISSC members

Mr. Rodney Armstrong, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Armstrong	Here	Mr. Macisco	Here
Mr. Beighley	Here	Mr. Owens	Here
Mr. Born	Here	Mr. Portier	Here
Mr. Deskins	Here	Mr. Johnson for Mr. Pride	Here
Mr. Holcomb	Here	Mr. Simms	
Mr. Hollenbaugh	Here	Mr. Mark Wasylshyn	
Mr. Kirk	Here		

A quorum was present to conduct business.

Mr. Armstrong introduced new commission members Jay Beighley (Class C) and Ted Owens (Class A). Both appointees have prior law enforcement experience and have been in the security and private investigation industry for many years. Mr. Owens has participated on several OPISSC committees.

Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 4749 Rewrite

Mr. Andrew Spencer, Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) Legislative Liaison, presented a brief update on the 4749. legislative rewrite. The Legislative Services Commission (LSC) prepared a draft document from the language ODPS submitted. Mr. Spencer said the LSC changed some language and is awaiting clarification on why those changes were made. Once that is resolved, the draft will be sent to OPISSC members. Mr. Spencer does not anticipate any action will be taken until after the November election. The hope is Senator LaRose will introduce the rewrite sometime after that.

Mr. Montgomery introduced Geoff Dutton, the new Executive Director of Private Investigator Security Guard Services (PISGS), replacing Mr. Arnie Schropp who retired in July. Mr. Dutton's experience includes working at the Columbus Dispatch, the Ohio Inspector General's office as part of a team to monitor and safeguard stimulus spending under ERA, and at the Department of Public Safety, Mr. Dutton has worked in the

Communications office and was part of a Process Improvement Team. His first team recommendations were improvements for the PISGS section. Mr. Dutton also serves on the Ohio Emergency Medical Services Board. Mr. Born added that Mr. Dutton is the perfect balance of intelligence and experience.

Gregg Hollenbaugh announced he was resigning from the Commission and this would be his last meeting. Mr. Montgomery and Director Born presented outgoing and previous commission members Gregg Hollenbaugh, Jeff Parson, and Joseph Powell with certificates of appreciation for their service.

Mr. Born said he ran into Mr. Deskins and they discussed the integral role the security and private investigator industry plays in Ohio's safety. ODPS will be working to integrate the industry with law enforcement training to develop a state-wide model to create more uniformity in response to security threats at malls. A table-top exercise is being planned and federal funding will be used to support that training. Mr. Born said he looks forward to the joint training that we will be doing together and thanked members for their time and service.

***** Mr. Born left the meeting *****

Mr. Montgomery reported that Anne Vitale will be on leave for six to eight weeks. Jim Hogan will be acting as her substitute during that time.

ACTION: Motion to approve the May 22, 2014, meeting minutes. Kirk first. Portier second. None abstained. None opposed. Motion approved.

STAFF REPORTS

Licensing & Registration Unit: Aleta Dodson reported as of June 4th, new registration applications are available for online processing. She reported IT is finalizing online employee terminations and expects it will be available next month. Mr. Dutton thanked Ms. Dodson for her involvement in the IT database project. He said it's extraordinarily complicated and a lot of people are putting time in on it, nobody more than Aleta, which is not easy given that we have a business to run. He believes when terminations are available online, it will be a huge benefit as several members have voiced frustration with keeping up on those.

Ms. Dodson reported that with the BMV customer service center closing at the end of June, PISGS discontinued its window service as the BMV center is where PISGS fees were collected for that service.

The presentation of the August 7th Informational Seminar was changed due to staffing issues. The positive feedback and constructive criticism has encouraged PISGS to implement some of the changes in future seminars. Mr. Dutton wants to ensure the process is useful to the industry and welcomes everyone's input. He will look into making the seminar available online so people would not have to travel to attend.

With the resignation of Mr. Powell, a Class B seat is available and anyone interested needs to apply by September 5th. The Ohio Association of Security and Investigation Services (OASIS) and Class B providers were notified. With Mr. Hollenbaugh's resignation, OASIS and Class A providers will be notified of this vacancy.

Enforcement Unit: Mr. Dutton introduced the new Enforcement Administrator, Christy Clark, who has over twenty years of state service in both the Licensing and Registration and Enforcement Units of PISGS. She has fourteen years of military service in the Ohio Air National Guard and is an active member of the 121st refueling wing as a tech sergeant.

Christy Clark pointed out that random compliance checks are up for 2014, but violation notices issued are down, which shows an increase in compliance. There has been an increase in 2014 in criminal charges filed for unlicensed activity. She and Mr. Dutton met with Richard Cologie of the Office of Criminal Investigations Investigative Unit and discussed possible partnerships and information sharing with the liquor agents. The agents run across a lot of security at liquor establishments which could be unlicensed activity. DPS has submitted her military federal clearance for approval so she can participate in the Homeland Security monthly classified briefings to gain more information sharing with other agencies.

Copies of the Enforcement Statistical Summary report were distributed. Ms. Clark reported year-to-date enforcement statistics: 63 complaints received (53 workable), 13 of which are pending criminal charges. There are 21 cases pending notice of opportunity for hearing. Ms. Clark clarified that the number of field checks includes stops where no guards are found.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Due to recent resignations, Mr. Armstrong discussed the need for additional members for the three OPISSC committees: Legislative, Portability and Training. He expects the training committee to be the most active in the future once legislation is passed. A large part of the pending legislation is creating a training requirement as well as the need to pass an exam before an individual can become a registered security officer or private investigator. A lot of groundwork was done regarding potential vendors for training and the decision was made due to price concerns to have the state provide the online training. The committee was concerned with people making \$8 or \$10 an hour would need to pay a vendor \$60 or more to take a course, and another \$40 or more to take a test. The concern for using the state is that each person needs a user name, and with the industry turnover rate, the 20,000 individuals a year could bog down the system as well as possible public record requests for those records.

Mr. Kirk and Mr. Beighley volunteered to be on the Training Committee. Mr. Owens agreed to remain on the committee. Mr. Armstrong will reach out to other members to see if they remain interested in participating. Mr. Owens suggested contacting OASIS to see if any of their members are interested in participating. Mr. Dutton said it would be helpful if he could use the committee as a resource in the redesigning of the information seminar and assisting with the table-top exercise.

Mr. Armstrong said he does not see an immediate need for the Portability Committee, but once legislation is returned from LSC, the Legislative Committee might need to meet again. Mr. Dutton said Mr. Spencer is working with LSC to make sure the language is consistent with what the Commission submitted; however, when it goes to the State House, anything can happen. It would be good to have someone keep an eye on if it evolves to committee or amendments get added.

Mr. Armstrong said chairs for the Portability and Training committees can be voted on at another meeting.

ACTION: Motion to appoint Jay Beighley and Bryan Kirk to the OPISSC Training Committee. Portier first. Holcomb second. None opposed. Beighley, Kirk abstained. Motion passed.

Mr. Armstrong said with Mr. Hollenbaugh's resignation, a new vice-chair is needed.

ACTION: Motion to elect Dwight Holcomb as Vice-Chair of the Commission. Hollenbaugh first. Kirk second. None opposed. Holcomb abstained. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Deskins expanded on what Mr. Born had earlier discussed about coordinating with DPS to hold a table-top exercise at the Polaris Fashion Place. The intent is to develop a template and best practice for responding to a shooting or terrorist event at malls. The hope is to hold this training in February 2015. Mr. Dutton said Director Born impressed upon him that the training and new legislation is a great thing, but don't sit around waiting for the legislation to pass. There are a lot of things that can be worked on while waiting, one of which is this exercise, and the other is finding opportunities to work together and build on each other's resources. This is a perfect example where we utilize the Emergency Management Agency, which has tons of experience doing such exercises, and Homeland Security, who has experience responding to active shooter and terrorism.

On a side note, Mr. Deskins wanted to say the ability to process new registrations online is the greatest thing he has seen since coming to the security industry. It has made things much smoother. Mr. Deskins said this is one of the biggest things ODPS has hit a home run on. Mr. Hollenbaugh said he has been in the industry since 1988 and it used to take six months or more to get a registration card. Now the cards are sometimes received in a week. That's how much DPS has improved things and Mr. Dutton said that is good to hear.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments or questions from the public.

The next OPISSC meeting will be September 25, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. at 1970 West Broad Street, Columbus, 43223 in conference room 134.

ACTION: Motion to adjourn. Owens first. Kirk second. The meeting adjourned at 1:53 PM.