



## Ohio Private Investigation & Security Services Commission (OPISSC) February 25, 2016 Minutes

Commission Meeting Date and Location: February 25, 2016, Ohio Department of Public Safety (DPS), 1970 W. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223

Commission Members Present: Mr. Rodney Armstrong, Mr. Dwight Holcomb, Mr. Anthony Macisco, Mr. Joseph Montgomery for Mr. John Born, Mr. Terry Myer, Mr. Ted Owens, Mr. John Pezzino, Mr. Brian Simms, Ms. Kimberly Spears-McNatt, Mr. Mark Wasylyshyn

Commission Members Absent: Mr. Jay Beighley, Mr. Christopher Johnson for Mr. Paul Pride

Also Attending: Christy Clark, Aleta Dodson, Geoff Dutton, Anne Vitale

Visitors Attending: Russell Baron, Shawnee Hills Police Department; Jason Lewis

Mr. Rodney Armstrong, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Armstrong	Here	Mr. Myer	Here
Mr. Beighley		Mr. Owens	Here
Mr. Holcomb	Here	Mr. Pezzino	Here
Mr. Johnson for Mr. Pride		Mr. Simms	Here
Mr. Macisco	Here	Ms. Spears-McNatt	Here
Mr. Montgomery for Mr. Born	Here	Mr. Wasylyshyn	Here

A quorum was present to conduct business.

**ACTION: Motion to approve the minutes of October 22, 2015.** Holcomb first. Macisco second. Motion passed.

Commission members discussed nominations for the chair and vice-chair position. The nomination for vice-chair was tabled pending Mr. Holcomb's re-appointed to the commission; term expired end of 2015 and this is the last meeting he can officially attend.

**ACTION: Motion to nominate Rodney Armstrong for Chair.** Wasylyshyn first. Macisco second. Armstrong abstained. Motion passed.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

Geoff Dutton distributed copies of revised informational brochures highlighting the service Private Investigator Security Guard Services provides. Enforcement investigator Tiffany Gehrlich-Orr was promoted to the newly created position of Training & Outreach Coordinator. PISGS is expanding their reach through social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter and a Text-a-Tip number. Copies of the Ohio Department of Public Safety "Safer Ohio" magazines were distributed to members with articles featuring PISGS staff performing compliance field checks and working with the Ohio Investigative Unit during liquor permit visits.

If members agree, Mr. Dutton would like to get photos and comments of OPISSC members to use in social media. A photographer will be available after the meeting to take photos of those interested.

Under the umbrella of Homeland Security, enforcement personnel have been trained on the Intelligence Liaison Office (ILO). Investigator Borntrager attended a two-week in-residence Basic Intelligence and Threat Course (BITAC-M) which provides skills to be a successful Homeland Security Intelligence Analyst, all investigators have submitted for secret security clearances, and Enforcement Supervisor Clark and Director Dutton attended SAIC briefings in November, December and January. Mr. Dutton reported that last year there were four terror suspects arrested in Columbus; one was a current registered guard and two others had previously been registered guards. This highlights the importance of individuals working in the security industry who are on the front-line of safety and protect critical infrastructures.

The second tabletop exercise was held at the Tanger Outlet Mall in Jeffersonville in January with the after-action held in February. The next scheduled exercise will be held at Franklin Park Mall in Toledo. Mr. Dutton attended an Ohio EMA active-shooter tabletop at Indian Mound Mall in October and an FBI active-shooter awareness conference in Cincinnati in January. Work continues on developing a template for these exercises.

PISGS staff have been involved in preparations for the Republican National Convention (RNC). Mr. Dutton and Investigator Borntrager are attending Venue Committee meetings and Mr. Dutton and Ms. Dodson are attending Director Born's monthly RNC meetings. Mr. Dutton met with the Densus Group and made contact with Assistant Public Safety Director Barry Withers in Cleveland regarding Cleveland's firearm ordinance. One company indicated they would be reaching out to a commissioner there regarding this issue. Ms. Vitale said there had been language inserted into legislation, but it was removed due to the Ohio Supreme Court ruling on home rule.

Mr. Dutton, Mr. Owens, Mr. Beighley and Mr. Armstrong participated in OPOTC Curriculum Review of firearm training, insurance/liability, and portions of the 140-hour security course offered by 18 community colleges and high school career programs. Mr. Dutton plans to reach out to schools. Mr. Armstrong will send the draft of liability curriculum to OPISSC members. Mr. Dutton indicated OPOTC curriculum addressed some, but not all of the concerns the commission has raised, such as problems related to programs not following the required curriculum.

#### Enforcement:

- Franklin Harris, Jr. plead guilty in Toledo Municipal Court to one count of violating ORC 4749.13(A)(1) for engaging in unlicensed private investigation/security guard services. He was fined and assessed court costs. This was his second conviction in the past year. His activities were discovered when Investigator Gehrish investigated several shootings at locations where Mr. Harris was providing unlicensed armed security.
- During 2015, 1,756 compliance checks were conducted, 374 law enforcement contacts were made, 30 cases were sent to legal, 30 violation notices were issued, and 16 criminal charges were filed.
- Since October, 89 letters were sent to event hosts and businesses to educate them about hiring licensed providers.
- Ms. Clark wore the new Enforcement Unit uniforms to help identify investigators when working in the field. Mr. Armstrong said they help with credibility.

#### Licensing and Registration:

- Tammy Foster was promoted to a lead worker position and works with IT on database developments and testing. Two recent additions include Frannie Wikle and Lisa Payton.
- A more robust and faster printer was purchased to better handle the card printing.
- Last year the section completed the first company license transfer. Guidelines are being developed.
  - The license renewal deadline is March 1. To date, 667 (77%) renewals have been received with 95% done online, and 485 (72%) renewals have been completed. The renewal season is going very smoothly this year with updates to the online system.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **S.B. 183**

Mr. Dutton, Mr. Armstrong, DPS Legislative Liaison Andy Bowsher, and Director Born have attended several legislative hearings and met with Senators to get legislation advancing. Discussion took place regarding peace officers working and whether they need to be registered. Ms. Vitale said they do not need to be registered, but when they are, they believe they would fall under the regulations of 4749. Ms. Vitale will research. The question was broached if the roster will no longer be necessary with implementation of SB 183. Mr. Dutton will research for next meeting.

### **OPISSC Committees**

Portability - Mr. Armstrong said this committee can be eliminated.

Training - Mr. Dutton said he made progress on the training module, but needs to submit to training developers.

Legislative – Mr. Armstrong said this committee is on hold until SB 183 passes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **GPS Legislation**

Mr. Armstrong said there is legislation in place in Michigan on use of GPS as well as drones. He would like the legislative committee to draft legislation to protect industry members when doing investigations. Ms. Spears-McNatt said law enforcement have to get a warrant to use GPS. Mr. Wasylyshyn cautioned bringing the subject up. Mr. Myer said they can use as long as they do not trespass on property to install it. The subject will be tabled until SB 183 is passed and Mr. Armstrong will email a copy of the Michigan legislation to everyone.

### **Bail Agent License**

Mr. Owens understands judges aren't fans of bail agents, the Ohio Constitution Modernization Committee is looking at eliminating this license, and the Ohio Bail Agents Association indicates there is a national push to eliminate the license. If the license is eliminated, it could have secondary impact on the private investigator industry. Mr. Armstrong requested that the Department let OPISSC members know if they hear anything on this issue. Mr. Simms said some companies are discounting bonds and then surrender them so they don't have to testify. This practice hurts other reputable local bondsmen. Mr. Dutton will discuss with the Department's legislative liaison.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Jason Louis attended the meeting and is looking to advance his investigation career.

The meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.