



Ohio Private Investigation & Security Services Commission January 15, 2013 Minutes

FINAL

Commission Meeting Date and Location: January 15, 2013, Ohio Department of Public Safety, 1970 W. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223

Commission Members Present: Mr. Mike Cohen, Mr. Steven Cotner, Mr. Dennis Deskins, Mr. Dwight Holcomb, Mr. Gregg Hollenbaugh, Mr. Bryan Kirk, Jeffrey Parson, Mr. Ralph Portier, Mr. Joseph Powell, Mr. Brian Simms, Mr. Mark Wasylshyn

Commission Members Absent: Mr. Rodney Armstrong, Mr. John Born

Also Attending: Aleta Dodson, Julie Faulconer, Jerome Ferguson, Tiffany Gehrlich-Orr, Joe Montgomery, Paul Rapp, Arnie Schropp, Jr., Anne Vitale

Visitors Attending: Ted Owens, Ohio Special Services Group

Mr. Mike Cohen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Rodney Armstrong		Mr. Gregg Hollenbaugh	Here
Mr. John Born		Mr. Bryan Kirk	Here
Mr. Mike Cohen	Here	Mr. Jeffrey Parson	Here
Mr. Tom Charles	Here	Mr. Ralph Portier	Here
Mr. Steven Cotner	Here	Mr. Joseph Powell	
Mr. Dennis Deskins	Here	Mr. Brian Simms	Here
Mr. Dwight Holcomb	Here	Mr. Mark Wasylshyn	Here

A quorum was present to conduct business.

***** Mr. Powell Arrived 1:08 PM *****

Mr. Schropp introduced newly appointed Commission member Bryan Kirk, who fills the law enforcement seat. Mr. Kirk gave a brief bio of his Ohio State Patrol experience. Mr. Schropp then introduced Tiffany Gehrlich-Orr as the newly hired investigator who will cover southwestern Ohio. He also introduced intern, Jerome Ferguson, Jr., who will be helping with office work.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes from the November 7, 2012, Ohio Private Investigation and Security Services Commission (OPISSC) meeting. Ms. Vitale wanted to clarify that Mr. Born and Mr. Charles were listed under “also attending” in the minutes but are actually members of the Commission. Their attendance does not count toward the quorum, and only Mr. Born is able to vote on Commission matters.

ACTION: Motion to approve the November 7, 2012, meeting minutes with the noted corrections regarding Mr. Born and Mr. Charles. Wasylyshyn first. Parson second. None opposed. None abstained. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen opened nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair for 2013.

ACTION: Motion to nominate Mr. Cohen as chair of the Ohio Private Investigation & Security Services Commission (OPISSC). Hollenbaugh first. Wasylyshyn second. None opposed. None abstained. Motion passed.

Mr. Cohen said he has been here since the inception of the Commission. He said the Commission this past year has the ball rolling in the right direction with support from the current Ohio Department of Public Safety (DPS) administration and staff. He said a lot of time has been spent rewriting the revised code, which DPS is reviewing and putting in the proper order to move forward with the legislation. The last time it was updated was in 1978.

ACTOIN: Motion to nominate Mr. Hollenbaugh as vice-chair of the Ohio Private Investigation & Security Services Commission (OPISSC). Cotner first. Parson second. None opposed. None abstained. Motion passed.

Mr. Hollenbaugh said it appears the Commission has made progress. Over the years the biggest obstacle we had in the industry is the constant change of the faces of the people we deal with. Things seem to be moving in the right direction this year and hopefully will continue to move that way. We get promises from every new person on the block and they move out before anything is finished. We seem to be making progress and have gotten legislation to you; hopefully it will come about.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative Committee

Mr. Moran was not in attendance. Mr. Hollenbaugh said there is nothing new to report.

Portability Committee, Gregg Hollenbaugh

Mr. Hollenbaugh said there have been no meetings.

Training Committee, Mike Cohen

Mr. Cohen said two vendors made presentations for the proposed mandatory eight-hour online training January 11, 2013. Another presentation is scheduled for January 30, 2013, which will be given by representatives of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. The committee will review all three vendors and make their recommendation for selection of the vendor to the Commission. This training is contained

in the drafted legislation the Commission will move forward requiring mandatory eight-hour online training for all new security guards and private investigators. Mr. Wasylyshyn asked whether the Attorney General's office Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG) could be utilized for training and keeping track of the hours. Mr. Cohen said a lot of conversations were held in the past with Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA), and appears we are moving away from OPOTA in the private industry. He doesn't think they are excited about our industry and doesn't think the industry is real excited about them. Mr. Hollenbaugh said OHLEG would be doable, but tried to work with the academy in 2006 and the turn-around time to process was prohibitive for the private section when companies have to hire individuals at a faster pace.

Anne Vitale provided a brief update regarding the proposed revisions to 4749. that the Commission approved. She has reviewed with PISGS staff and hoped to submit to Director Charles in December, but did not get that accomplished. Ms. Vitale said it is 90% done and will be submitted to the Director's office very shortly. She said with the lame duck session, she did not see it being introduced until January at the earliest. Mr. Schropp said once legislation is ready to introduce, Andy Spencer, DPS legislative liaison, will take over the process. Mr. Cohen asked once it is approved, would it be returned to the Commission and Ms. Vitale said yes. Mr. Cotner asked for a copy and Ms. Vitale said it will be brought back to the Commission once DPS has reviewed so members can see any changes. Mr. Cohen would like a final draft for the Commission's review before it goes to legislators or anywhere else. Ms. Vitale said it can be sent to the Legislative committee. Mr. Holcomb said he would like it e-mailed to all members. The consensus was to e-mail the document to Commission members when complete.

Investigative Report, Paul Rapp

A copy of the 2012 Investigative Compliance report was distributed. Investigations are ramping up now that there are three full-time investigators. Mr. Cohen asked about unlicensed activity and the type of cases being handled. Mr. Rapp said there are criminal cases in Cleveland where charter schools are using peace officers. Mr. Hollenbaugh asked if legislation will address convicted felons not being allowed to operate a company. Ms. Vitale said PISGS has discussed doing background checks on owners and adding language to include officers and owners of the companies be held to the integrity standard as the QA. A QA can still be denied due to felony convictions. Mr. Schropp said it is not spelled out but could add it so company president owners can't shut down after discipline and reopen a new company. Ms. Vitale said the discussions for percentage of ownership would be around 10 to 20 percent. Mr. Rapp said PISGS has no avenue to prevent it. It is basically "rent a QA" who is not actively involved in the company activities.

Mr. Rapp reported the department has received calls from several companies regarding unions contacting their employees and asking if PISGS provided the information. Mr. Rapp said such information has not been disclosed by PISGS to unions nor has any public record requests for such information been received. Mr. Rapp said another issue is he has received calls about guards armed with assault rifles. He said OPOTA does not certify assault rifles and FAB does not cover them. PISGS has no control over Tasers being used. Reports of non-FAB registrants carrying without their companies' knowledge have also been received.

ALRS Phase I of III Database Rewrite, Arnold Schropp and Aleta Dodson

Ms. Dodson said Phase II has been initiated with the ability to renew companies and Qualifying Agent's (QA) online. PISGS is encouraging providers to renew online to alleviate the volume of paperwork received. She thanked Commission members who participated in testing the system. Mr. Parson said he

has three QA's in central Ohio and can see all of them. Instead of having to get information from each one of them, he was able to upload all the information quickly. Mr. Cohen said all his company's folks thought it was great. We are renewed and I have my new card.

Mr. Cohen asked Mr. Schropp about the status of the new ID cards. Mr. Schropp said we have to wait on the Ohio Revised Code changes. But as far as the card goes, we are ready to go as was discussed before. There will be a two-year registration card and an annual Firearm Bearer (FAB) card. The cards will be much more professional looking. Mr. Cotner said we worked so hard rewriting 4749. to remove the term guard, yet we are still using Private Investigators and Security Guard Services and wondered if you were moving toward getting rid of that term or changing it. Mr. Schropp said that would be a separate change in legislation and has impact on PISGS forms and revising documents, which will involve a cost.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Cohen reported the next meeting will be February 28th at 1:00 PM at the Department of Public Safety, 1970 W. Broad Street, Columbus.

ACTION: Motion to adjourn the meeting. Cotner first. Wasylyshyn second. None opposed. None abstained. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.