



Public Safety Commission Meeting

April 8, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

5805 North Lamar Blvd, Building A

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

9:00 am – Chairman Steven Mach called the meeting to order. In attendance: Chairman Steven Mach, Commissioner Nelda Blair, Commissioner Larry Long, Commissioner Dan Hord III, and Commissioner Steve Stodghill. A quorum of the Public Safety Commission was present. Also present were Director Freeman Martin, Lt. Colonel Jason Taylor and General Counsel Phil Adkins.

II. INVOCATION

Chaplain Ferman Carpenter delivered the invocation.

III. PLEDGES

Trooper Donnell Thomas led the meeting in the Pledge of Alliance and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Blair to approve the minutes for the February 11, 2026, Public Safety Commission Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Long. The motion passed.

V. PRESENTATIONS

(The DPS Public Information Office provided the following information from today's meeting.)

February 2026 Public Safety Commission Awards Presentations

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE AWARDS:

The following employees will be presented with a certificate in recognition of their 30 years of service and accomplishment with the Texas Department of Public Safety:



John C. Adams III (Texas Highway Patrol Division)



Andre Crathers (Texas Highway Patrol Division)



Joe Dennett (Texas Highway Patrol Division)



Genaro Hinojosa, Jr. (Texas Highway Patrol Division)



Bryan Rippee (Texas Highway Patrol Division)



Scott Stevenson (Texas Ranger Division)



James Tarter (Aircraft Operations Division)



Omar Villarreal (Texas Highway Patrol Division)



Jeremy Wallace (Texas Ranger Division)



30 Years of Service

The following employee will be presented with a certificate in recognition of his **35 years** of service and accomplishment with the Texas Department of Public Safety:



John K. Wise (Information Technology Division)

The following employee will be presented with a certificate in recognition of his **45 years** of service and accomplishment with the Texas Department of Public Safety:



Terry Siegmund (Information Technology Division)

DIRECTOR'S CITATION:

Brody Telfer (THP)

On December 21, 2024, Trooper Brody Telfer responded to reports of an erratic driver on IH-35. After locating the suspect vehicle, the driver fled, leading Trooper Telfer through a pursuit that continued into the Killeen Mall. The suspect intentionally crashed through the entrance of a department store, striking multiple civilians and attempting to drive further into the mall, creating an imminent threat to countless lives. Without hesitation and with complete disregard for his own safety, Trooper Telfer pursued the vehicle on foot and took decisive action to stop the deadly threat. His courage, rapid judgment, and unwavering commitment directly prevented additional injuries and loss of life.

In recognition of his significant and decisive response to a life-threatening situation **Trooper Brody Telfer** is hereby awarded the Director's Citation.



DIRECTOR'S AWARD:

Patrick Blair (Killeen ISD PD)

Cary Spate (Killeen ISD PD)



On December 21, 2024, Officers Patrick Blair, Cary Spate, and off-duty Lieutenant Robert Mallett responded to a rapidly evolving incident in which a fleeing suspect drove into the Killeen Mall, injuring multiple civilians and attempting to continue deeper into the building. Recognizing the immediate danger to the public, the officers pursued the suspect on foot alongside. Acting swiftly and with no regard for their personal safety, officers engaged the suspect to stop the ongoing

threat and prevent further harm. Officer Blair's and Spate and Lieutenant Mallett's decisive actions, sound judgment, and selfless service directly contributed to saving additional lives.

In recognition of their bravery and willingness to act in a dangerous and uncertain situation, **Officer Patrick Blair** and **Officer Cary Spate** are hereby awarded the Director's Award. Lieutenant Mallett could not be in attendance today.



LIFESAVING AWARD & DIRECTOR'S AWARD:

Dustin Henderson (THP)

Sontos Chavez (Dove Creek FD)

Ryan Born

Jake Powers

Luke Wilkes

Jaron Yarbrough

Todd Wyatt



On July 4, 2025, during severe flooding in Tom Green County, Corporal Dustin Henderson demonstrated exceptional bravery and swift judgment while assisting in the rescue of a woman swept from her vehicle. Working alongside multiple agencies including Dove Creek Fire Chief Sontos Chavez and local residents Ryan Born, Jake Powers, Luke Wilkes, Jaron Yarbrough and Todd Wyatt in dangerous, fast-moving water, this group provided essential equipment, reinforced rescuers on the primary rope line, and entered the current to aid the struggling team.

When the group was pulled under by the force of the water, Corporal Henderson recognized the danger to others and

released the line, allowing himself to be swept downstream until a local resident retrieved him with a thrown rope. Regaining his footing, he immediately rejoined the rescue effort, helping guide the victim to shore and assisting in securing and transporting her to higher medical care.

In recognition of their heroic conduct, which saved a life from possible death, **Corporal Dustin Henderson** is hereby awarded the Lifesaving Award. **Fire Chief Sontos Chavez, Ryan Born, Jake Powers, Luke Wilkes, Jaron Yarbrough, and Todd Wyatt** (who could not be in attendance) are hereby awarded the Director's Award.



LIFESAVING & DIRECTOR'S AWARD:

Brody Telfer (THP)

Kayleah Trevino (Bell County SO)

On January 19, 2025, Trooper Brody Telfer demonstrated exceptional courage, decisive action, and commitment to the preservation of life during a life-threatening incident at Belton Lake in Bell County, Texas. Earlier that day, Bell County Communications received a report of a female who had informed her parents of her intent to harm herself by driving into the lake and who was known to have a strong aversion to law enforcement. Deputy Kayleah Trevino quickly located the female at Leona Park, but before assistance could arrive, the female drove her vehicle into the near-freezing water.

Upon arrival, Trooper Telfer immediately deployed his DPS-issued swift water rescue equipment and entered the 36-degree lake alongside Deputy Trevino. Despite extreme environmental conditions, including a wind chill



of 19 degrees and persistent winds—the officers pressed forward as the female actively resisted rescue efforts. Using his ASP baton, Trooper Telfer broke the passenger-side window, gained access to the sinking vehicle, and worked with Deputy Trevino to extract the female. Together, they brought her safely to shore, where she received prompt medical attention and was transported for emergency evaluation.

In recognition of their significant and decisive response to a life-threatening situation resulting in the saving of a life, **Trooper Brody Telfer** is hereby awarded the Lifesaving Award and **Deputy Kayleah Trevino** is hereby awarded Director's Award.

LIFESAVING & DIRECTOR'S AWARD:

Travis Alewine (THP)

On December 10, 2025, Trooper Travis Alewine responded to a truck tractor semi-trailer rollover crash with entrapment on IH-20. Passersby had already extracted the driver, but he was suffering from severe injuries to his left arm and was having trouble breathing. Trooper Alewine, who arrived on the scene before medical personnel, immediately recognized the significant injuries and utilized his tourniquet to stop further bleeding. Trooper Alewine positioned the driver on his side in a recovery position until



EMS arrived and transported the driver by Air Evac to a nearby hospital. In recognition of his significant and decisive response to a life-threatening situation resulting in the saving of a life, **Trooper Travis Alewine** is hereby awarded the Lifesaving Award.

LIFESAVING AWARD:

Jeffrey Constant (THP)

On September 7, 2025, Trooper Constant responded to a high-risk incident that began when a group of motorcyclists fled from patrol units after ignoring a stop sign on E Yukon Road in Ector County, Texas. One rider subsequently ran a red light at FM 1788 and was struck by a pickup truck, sustaining a traumatic amputation and critical leg injuries. Upon arriving at the scene, Trooper Constant immediately recognized the potential for fatal internal bleeding from multiple fractures and applied an additional tourniquet to the right leg. He also directed the placement of two tourniquets on the left leg and stabilized the rider's head while assessing for further injuries. His leadership, medical knowledge, and composed response in the midst of a chaotic and rapidly evolving emergency were vital in maintaining the rider's condition until EMS arrived.

In recognition of his significant and decisive response to a life-threatening situation resulting in the saving of a life, **Trooper Jeffrey Constant** is hereby awarded the Lifesaving Award.



LIFESAVING AWARD:

Greg Hutchison (THP)



On July 29, 2025, Trooper Greg Hutchison responded to a major injury crash on Temple Hall Highway in Hood County involving a motor vehicle and a bicyclist. Upon arrival, Trooper Hutchison encountered a severely injured female victim whose bleeding bystanders were attempting to control with improvised measures. Acting without hesitation, he immediately applied two tourniquets—one to the victim's right arm and one to her right leg—while communicating critical information to dispatch and providing reassurance to the victim throughout the painful but lifesaving interventions.

Trooper Hutchison continued to assist medical personnel upon their arrival, monitoring the tourniquets and supporting patient care until EMS assumed full responsibility. He then transitioned to

conducting the crash investigation with professionalism and composure.

Trooper Hutchison's decisive response, technical proficiency, and compassionate demeanor under intense pressure directly contributed to saving the victim's life.

In recognition of his significant and decisive response to a life-threatening situation resulting in the saving of a life, **Trooper Greg Hutchison** is hereby awarded the Lifesaving Award.

LIFESAVING AWARD:

Craig Manning (THP)

On July 25, 2025, Corporal Craig Manning was patrolling in Kerr County when he came upon a single-vehicle crash in which the vehicle was fully engulfed in flames. Without hesitation and complete disregard for his own safety, Corporal Manning approached the burning vehicle and discovered the driver was unconscious inside and unable to escape. Recognizing the imminent threat to the driver's life, Corporal Manning acted immediately, forcibly removing the driver from the vehicle just moments before the fire could fully consume the passenger compartment. Corporal Manning called for EMS and remained on the scene, monitoring the driver's condition and offering reassurance until emergency personnel could arrive.

In recognition of his significant and decisive response to a life-threatening situation resulting in the saving of a life, **Corporal Craig Manning** is hereby awarded the Lifesaving Award.



LIFESAVING AWARD:

Ronica Munoz (THP)

On September 27, 2025, Trooper Ronica Muñoz was conducting a traffic stop in DeWitt County when an unknown vehicle arrived on the scene. The driver exited the vehicle in a state of panic and advised Trooper Muñoz that his passenger had been shot and was bleeding. Upon approaching the vehicle, Trooper Muñoz observed a female subject bleeding heavily from multiple gunshot wounds. Upon identifying the injuries, Trooper Muñoz immediately applied a tourniquet to each wound to control the bleeding. Local authorities and EMS arrived shortly after to assist and provide further medical care.

In recognition of her significant and decisive response to a life-threatening situation resulting in the saving of a life, **Trooper Ronica Muñoz** is hereby awarded the Lifesaving Award.



LIFESAVING AWARD:

James Whitten (THP)



On August 6, 2025, Trooper James Whitten distinguished himself through decisive and lifesaving action while responding to a shooting incident in Smith County. Upon learning of the emergency, Trooper Whitten recognized that he was the closest unit and immediately proceeded to the scene. Arriving prior to the first responding deputy, he rapidly assessed the situation and located the wounded victim. Observing that the victim's gunshot wound was actively hemorrhaging with arterial bleeding, Trooper Whitten acted without hesitation. Utilizing his department-issued tourniquet, Trooper Whitten skillfully applied lifesaving medical aid, securing the device and relaying the application time to dispatch for medical tracking. His prompt intervention effectively controlled the bleeding and preserved the victim's chance of survival until emergency medical personnel

arrived to provide advanced care. Following the transfer of medical responsibility, Trooper Whitten continued to support Smith County Sheriff's Office deputies by securing the scene and assisting in the collection of evidence vital to the investigation.

In recognition of his significant and decisive response to a life-threatening situation resulting in the saving of a life, **Trooper James Whitten** is hereby awarded the Lifesaving Award.

UNIT CITATION:

Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Instructors

Since 2012, the field sobriety instructors have exemplified the highest standards of professionalism and expertise, dedicating themselves to delivering the NHTSA DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing curriculum at every trooper academy. Their unwavering commitment to the mission of impaired driving enforcement has shaped the training, performance, and careers of thousands of trooper-trainees over the past decade.

Beyond their exceptional contributions at the academy, these instructors consistently go above and beyond by supporting SFST refresher courses, SFST Instructor Development, ARIDE, and DRE instruction statewide. They routinely volunteer time away from their primary duties, and often their personal lives, to ensure our training remains rigorous, current, and effective. Their pursuit of advanced and specialized instruction reflects their dedication to continuous improvement, ensuring our personnel receive the highest standard of education. Additionally, their efforts include extensive planning, coordination, and preparation well in advance of each class. Their collective contributions have elevated impaired driving enforcement training to a level of excellence

that directly enhances public safety across Texas. This award not only honors their exceptional service but also reaffirms the Department's commitment to the highest standards of training and enforcement.

Those commended for their hard work and dedication include **Sergeants Lance Hartung, Stephen Gresham, Jason Bundy (retired), William "Bill" Lockridge, and Sean Smith, and Corporals James Salaz and Byron Ivey.**

They are hereby awarded the Unit Citation.



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.)

Chairman Mach asked if anyone present wished to address the Public Safety Commission. Hearing none, Chairman Mach closed the Public Comment section.

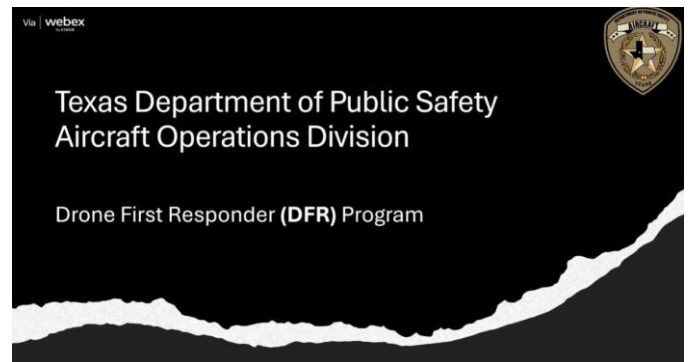
VII. DIRECTORS REPORT

A. Drone First Responder Presentation

Colonel Freeman Martin asked Chief Stacy Holland (Aircraft Operations Division) and Assistant Chief Marcus Tommerland to make this presentation.

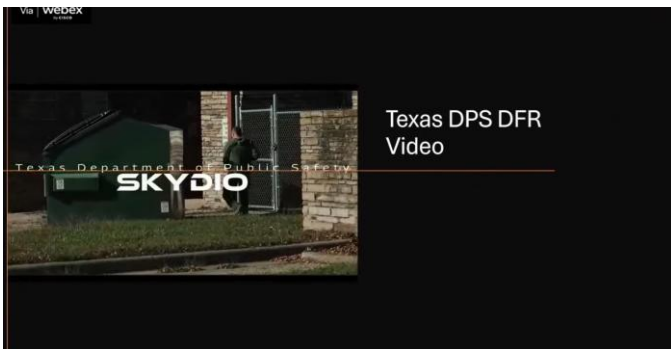
Overview

- DPS has implemented a Drone First Responder (DFR) program using autonomous drones
- that can respond to incidents before ground units arrive
- First DFR dock installed at headquarters in September 2025, second dock at Capitol complex shortly after



- DFR provides airborne tactical insight and real-time intelligence to officers on the ground

TECHNOLOGY AND CAPABILITIES



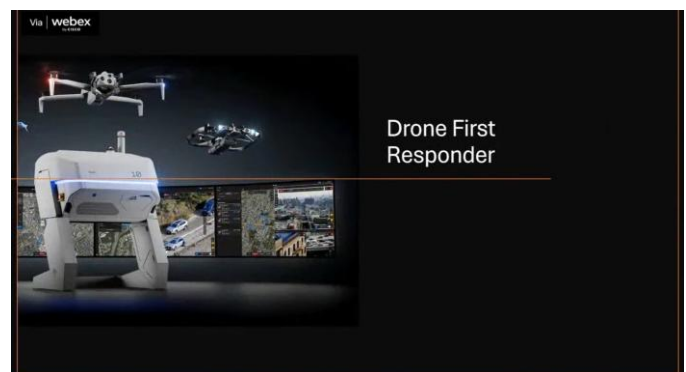
- Uses the X10 drone system, which is NDAA compliant (not sourced from high-threat countries)
 - 40-minute flight time, 45 mph max speed, 20-second deployment time
 - Can reach areas within 1-mile radius in approximately 90 seconds
 - Equipped with HD video, FLIR thermal imaging, and anti-collision technology
 - Can be operated remotely or fully autonomously

- Water resistant with advanced navigation using real-time mapping



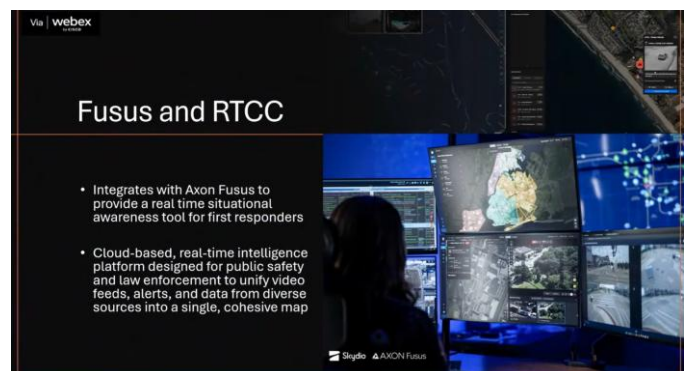
OPERATIONAL SUCCESSES - Since January 2026 (90-day period)

- 275 total flights
- 65 flight hours
- 102 agency assists (primarily Austin PD)
- Officers can operate drones remotely from anywhere (example: operator responded to call while on vacation)



REGULATORY APPROVAL

- DPS received one of the largest beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) waivers in the country from the FAA
- Can fly the X10 autonomously across entire state of Texas at 200 feet or below (outside controlled airspace)
- Operators must be Part 107 certified remote pilots





Skydio X10

- NDAA Compliant
- 40-minute flight time
- 45 MPH max speed
- Water resistant
- HD video (Daylight & FLIR)
- Anti collision technology



Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) Waiver

- FAA Part 107.31 – Requires UAS operator to maintain a visual line of sight of the aircraft.
- FAA Part 107 BVLOS Waiver – Allows remote pilots to operate outside their direct line of sight safely through alternative methods (specialized technology)



Current Agency Utilization

- Texas
 - Dallas PD
 - Brownsville PD
 - Laredo PD
 - Odessa PD & FD
- US
 - New York PD
 - Las Vegas PD
 - Los Angeles PD
 - OKC PD
 - Miami PD
 - Atlanta PD
- Texas DPS
 - Capitol Complex (X2)
 - DPS Headquarters
 - Alamo Complex



Texas DPS DFR Stats
Jan 1, 2026 – March 31st, 2026

- Number of Flights: 275
- Flight Times: 65
- Agency Assists: 102

FUTURE EXPANSION PLANS

- Add DFR dock to the Alamo (DPS now responsible for security there)
- Add additional dock to Capitol complex (to ensure continuous coverage of 46-square-block area)
- Considering integration with Axon Fuse system (cloud-based mission management platform used by some cities for automatic dispatch)



Live Demo

Skydio Cloud Link



NX-02 Texas Capitol - Skydio Dock Livestream

Skydio X10 - Capitol

robert.cameron@dps.texas.gov LIVE

Austin

Thermal

COST

- Subscription-based model: approximately \$150,000 for three years
- Includes full support, repairs, map updates, and software **updates**
- Equivalent to approximately \$50,000 per year

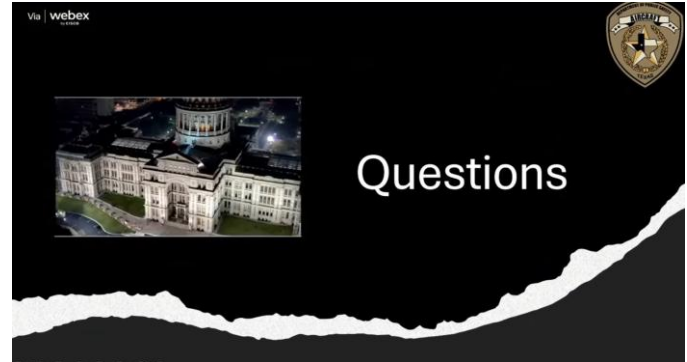
TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS – Potential future use

- AI-supported automatic launching based on call center keywords
- Integration with officer body cameras (double-tap to launch nearest drone)

- Trigger mechanisms for high-risk businesses
- Over 1,200 agencies across US now use this drone technology

QUESTIONS?

- Clarification on cost structure and lease vs. purchase model
- Questions about altitude limits and operational restrictions
- Discussion of future budget needs for NDAA-compliant drone fleet



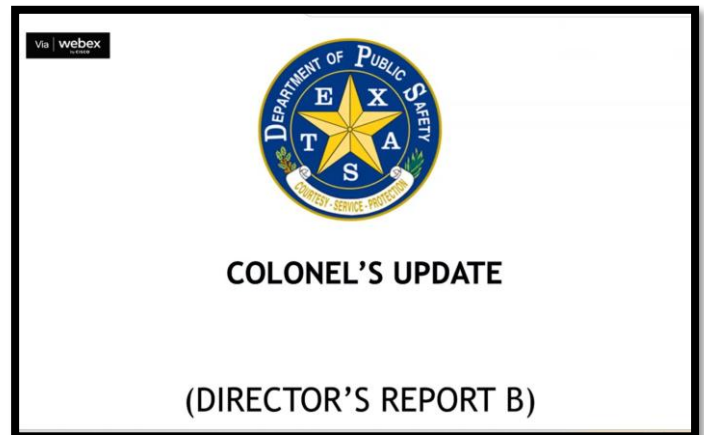
ACTION ITEMS

- Expand program to Alamo and add second Capitol dock
- Budget planning for ongoing drone program in next LAR (Legislative Appropriations Request)
- Continue monitoring technology developments

B. Colonel's Update

Colonel Martin began by pointing out that the number of 35-, 40- and 45-year employees receiving Service Awards speaks to the overall good health of the agency. If employees are staying around for that long, we are doing a lot of things right. Colonel Martin credited the behind-the-scenes work by HR, benefits, finance, procurement divisions.

Also, the number of Lifesaving Awards that are presented indicate that one of the things we are doing right is the successful EMT Training program for troopers that we have implemented. We now have hundreds of certified EMTs now across commissioned divisions saving lives across Texas.



TEXAS REPEAT OFFENDERS TASK FORCE PROGRAM (Houston/Harris County)

The Texas Repeat Offenders Task Force Program (TROTF Program) was launched in October of 2025 in response to violent repeat offenders cycling through the Harris County criminal justice system. Some individuals have been arrested multiple time for the same offenses, sometimes within the same month. The program coordinated with the Governor's office, the Houston Mayor, the Houston Chief of Police, and the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

The TROTF Program operated through the Texas Anti-Gang (TAG) Center. It incorporated a multi-division approach: skilled analysts, Homeland Security, patrol, and investigators. It uses data analysis to identify most violent repeat offenders, focuses on individuals out on bond, probation, or parole. It combines proactive patrols, directed traffic stops, and targeted enforcement

Harris County statistics show the current problem:

- 31 individuals charged with capital murder currently out on bond
- 97 charged with murder out on bond
- 11 charged with manslaughter out on bond
- 29 charged with intoxication manslaughter
- 6 charged with criminally negligent homicide
- Previously showed 70% of those charged with felonies had prior felony charges

PROGRAM RESULTS (as of presentation date - numbers approximately one month old):

- 338 repeat offenders arrested by task force
- 184 additional arrests by Houston area troopers/agents not assigned to task force
- Total: 522 repeat offender arrests
- 343 high-threat arrests
- 164 drug seizures
- 8 currency seizures
- 82 weapons seized

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

- Senate Bill 9: Allows prosecutors to protest improper bail/bond decisions by judges
- House Bill 75: Requires judges to provide written articulation when dismissing cases for lack of probable cause
- Senate Bill 40: Prohibits use of public funds through non-profits to post bail
- New judges appointed in Harris County showing better cooperation

PROGRAM EXPANSION

- Now expanding to Austin, San Antonio, and Dallas
- Challenges: Houston has more resources at TAG Center; other cities lack similar infrastructure
- Recent meetings with Austin Mayor and Police Chief show support
- Colonel expressed confidence in cross-agency cooperation in expansion cities

Colonel Marting said that DPS will continue Houston program operations, and implement Repeat Offender Task Force Programs in Austin, San Antonio, and Dallas.

Colonel Martin promised a detailed update at the next Public Safety Commission Meeting.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Report, discussion, and possible action on the allocation of Federal Seized Funds

Deputy Director Jason Taylor stated that the DPS currently has over \$7 million allocated to them in Federal seized funds. I am asking the Commission to consider and approve funds from the Federal allocation, not to exceed \$700 million, for the purpose of adding additional Drone First Responders to our current fleet so that we can add an additional drone at the Capitol, and station a new drone at the Alamo in San Antonio. Addition funds would go to upgrading our licenses and pay ongoing subscriptions and maintenance fees. (These funds roll over each biennium unlike state funds.)

- A motion was made by Commissioner Blair and seconded by Commissioner Horde to approve the use of funds, not to exceed \$700 million from Federal seized asset funds to be used for additional drones and stations at the Capitol and the Alamo.

The motion passed.

B. Final Determination in Contested Cases – consideration and possible action on Proposal for Decision:

General Counsel Phil Adkins discussed ITEMS 1-6.

1. SOAH Docket No. 405-25-26047.MVI – Brandon Garate – Suspension

Violation: Allowed another person to access his unique identifiers to access electronic station interface

SOAH Recommendation: 12-month suspension of vehicle inspection certificate

2. SOAH Docket No. 405-25-26042.MVI – Michael Saad – Suspension

Violation: Issued vehicle inspection report without inspecting multiple required items

SOAH Recommendation: 12-month suspension of vehicle inspection certification

3. SOAH Docket No. 405-25-26043.MVI – Arjan Krasniqi - Administrative Penalty

Violation: Issued vehicle inspection report without inspecting multiple required items

SOAH Recommendation: 12-month suspension of vehicle inspection certification

4. SOAH Docket No. 405-25-26044.MVI – Hasan Al-Dayem – Suspension

Violation: Allowed uncertified person to perform, in whole or in part, inspection of required items

SOAH Recommendation: 12month suspension of vehicle inspection certification

5. SOAH Docket No. 405-25-27100.PSB – Billy Howard, Jr. – Denial

Reason: Disqualified by federal law from owning or possessing firearm

SOAH Recommendation: Application denial upheld

6. SOAH Docket No. 405-26-02372.PSB – Christian Cerda, Sr. – Denial

Reason: Incapable of exercising sound judgment in proper use and storage of handgun (adjudicated as such); ineligible under Texas Occupations Code

SOAH Recommendation: Application denial upheld

A motion was made by Commissioner Blair and seconded by Commissioner Hord to approve the recommendations of SOAH.

The motion passed.

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

1. Proposed amendments to 37 TAC Section 15.25, concerning Address

Sheri Gibsen, Chief Driver License Division, requested that these rule changes be to be posted for publication in the Texas Register for public review and comment.

Senate Bill 523 and Senate Bill 16 (89th Legislative Session) expanded address confidentiality program That blocks addresses from being released to the public. The following were added:

- Add parole officers to eligible participants
- Add probationary officers to eligible participants
- Add designated court staff to eligible participants

- Add family members of above groups to eligible participants

A motion was made by Commissioner Blair and seconded by Commissioner Hord to post item 1 as requested in the Texas Register for public review and comment.

The motion passed.

2. Proposed amendments to 37 TAC Section 10.11, concerning Application; Renewal
3. Proposed amendments to 37 TAC Section 23.1 and Section 23.3, concerning Vehicle Inspection Station and Vehicle Inspector Certification
4. Proposed amendments to 37 TAC Sections 35.21, 35.22, and 35.30, concerning Licensing
5. Proposed amendments to 37 TAC Section 35.81 and Section 35.83, concerning Commissioned Security Officers
6. Proposed amendments to 37 TAC Sections 35.121 – 35.124, concerning Special Company License Qualifications
7. Proposed amendments to 37 TAC Section 36.11 and Section 36.16, concerning Certificate of Registration
8. Proposed amendments to 37 TAC Section 36.51, concerning Denial of Application for Certificate of Registration

Items 2-8 were discussed by Chief Wayne Mueller, Regulatory Services Division. He said that

Recent executive orders and guidance from Governor's office directed focus on lawful presence requirements that apply to occupational and privilege licenses considered "public benefits". Other agencies (TDLR, Parks & Wildlife) are making similar changes. DPS identified gaps in current RSD license/registration programs.

Proposed changes will adopt a uniform lawful presence verification process across all RSD programs, and uses specific documents verifiable through Department of Homeland Security SAVE program based on existing Driver License Division rule framework. This ensures consistency across the entire division regardless of license type.

Programs affected:

- Item 2: Ignition Interlock Device Program
- Item 3: Vehicle Inspection Program
- Items 4, 5, 6: Additional parts of Private Security Program (some provisions already existed)
- Items 7, 8: Metal Recycling Entities Program

Note: The General Counsel's office performed primary work on rule development.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner Hord to approve posting items C 2 through 8 for public comment in the Texas Register.

The motion passed.

CI. 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. Proposed amendments to 37 TAC Sections 15.82 – 15.85, concerning Driver Improvement

- 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

Director Freeman Martin stated that the DPS has been very fortunate to draw from a large and qualified group of applicants for the two leadership position openings at DPS. With the retirement of Megan Sanches as the Assistant Chief of Finance Division, Col. Martin nominated Conrad Swain, Assistant Chief, Finance Division.

A motion was made by Commissioner Blair and seconded by Commissioner Hord to approve the appointment of Conrad Swain to be the new Assistant Chief, Finance Division.

The motion passed

Conrad Swain, Assistant Chief, Finance Division



Conrad Swain brings a wealth of experience in financial operations, management and state agency partnerships, with more than 20 years of expertise in accounting, finance and budgetary roles across various Texas government agencies. In these roles, he has worked extensively with the State Auditor's Office, the Texas Comptroller's Office and the Legislative Budget Board. Most recently, Swan was the Deputy Budget Director for the Office of the Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer for the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) and Chief Financial Officer for the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR). Swan holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Texas State University and graduated summa cum laude with a master's degree in business administration from St. Edward's University. Swan will be stationed at Austin HQ. His appointment is

effective immediately.

With the retirement of the Central Texas Regional Director, Vincent Luciano, Colonel Martin asked the Commission for their consideration and approval of his selection for the Central Texas Region, Billy Jack Mims.

A motion was made by Commissioner Blair and seconded by Commissioner Hord to approve the appointment of Billy Jack Mims to be the new Central Texas Regional Director.

The motion passed.

Billy Jack Mims, Region Chief, Central Texas Region



Billy Jack Mims began his career with DPS in 2006, serving as a Texas Highway Patrol Trooper assigned to Menard and Texas City until 2009. In 2010, he was promoted to Sergeant on the Governor's Executive Protection Detail and again to Special Agent in DPS' Criminal Investigations Division (CID) in 2012. Three years later, Mims joined the Texas Ranger Division and was assigned to Hondo, Austin and San Marcos. In the years that followed, he was promoted to Texas Ranger Lieutenant and Captain in Austin. During that time, he was instrumental in developing the Texas Rangers Public Integrity Unit (PIU) and the Basic Ranger Training School and Program. In 2023, Mims was appointed to Major of Texas Ranger Company "D" in Weslaco. Most recently, he served as Commander of the Texas Rangers Special Operations Group (SOG) in Austin.

Mims holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Texas State University and is an FBI-LEEDA graduate. He is also a certified Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) instructor.

Mims will be stationed in San Antonio. His appointment to Central Texas Region Chief is effective immediately.

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
- B. Finance Report
- C. Chief Auditors Office
- D. Division status reports on activities and action

[No additional reports were presented.](#)

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. Advice and consent regarding Colonel's determination that certain probationary employees were found unsuitable for work during February and March 2026
- B. Discussion and possible action on appointments of Special Rangers and Special Texas Rangers pursuant to Government Code Chapter 411, Secs. 411.023 and 411.024: Special Rangers: Clifford Allen Federwisch, James Patrick Lopez, Leonardo Perez III, Michael Gary Smith, and Craig Andrew Swantner
- C. Donations:
 - 1. Texas Highway Patrol Division – Texas Department of Public Safety Officers Association; two Garmin watches, two 9-millimeter pistols, and eight 30 oz. Yeti Tumblers, with an approximate total value of \$2,720; as prizes for the winners of the 2026 Javier Arana Jr. Top Trooper Competition

2. Crime Laboratory Division – QIAGEN; Ascent A2 substrate punching instrument used within the DPS Crime Laboratory Services (CLD) Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) laboratory for processing DNA samples, with an approximate total value of \$54,770
3. Additional donation items, as needed

Chairman Mach asked Lt. Colonel Jason Taylor if there were any concerns with the Consent Items and Lt. Colonel Taylor said that there were no amendments and no concerns.

XII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Chairman Mach asked the Board to send any agenda requests to General Counsel Phil Adkins or to Sophie Yanez.

XIII. DATE FOR FUTURE MEETING

Discharge hearings will be scheduled for June 10, 2026; and the regular Public Safety Commission meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2026.

The next PSC Meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2026.

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 meeting to Executive Session at 11:48 a.m.

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