

MINUTES
UTAH SECURITY SERVICES
LICENSING BOARD
August 08, 2024
Hybrid Meeting Room 474

CONVENED: 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNED: 10:30 a.m.

Bureau Manager:
Board Secretary:

Tracy Taylor
Katie Corak

Board Members Present:

Nicholas Blanchette, Chairperson
Chief Collen Jacobs
Sheriff Travis Tucker
J. Daniel Schoenfeld
Joshua Smith
Sean Ricks
Benjamin Beckes

Guests:

J. Todd McGuire
J. Damien Scott
Zach Edwards
Pioneer Auro Asaasa
Dustin Joseph Gornot
Alix Rae Hess
Paul Nelson, Bedrock Security
VanErick Pena
Cory Green
Ian McDonald, Raptor Academy

DOPL Staff Present:

Bernice Palama, Compliance Specialist
L. Matthew Johnson, Legal Analyst

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Approve Minutes:

Mr. Blanchette made a motion to approve the June 13, 2024 minutes. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Compliance Update:

Ms. Palama provided the Board with a Compliance update. Item noted with no action taken.

APPOINTMENTS:

J. Todd McGuire-QA

Mr. McGuire attended his meeting with the Board. Mr. McGuire reviewed his employment history and qualifications with the Board. Chief Jacobs made a

motion to approve Mr. McGuire as the qualifying agent for Sorsen Inc. Mr. Ricks seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0 with Mr. Beckes recusing himself due to a prior professional association with Mr. McGuire.

Michael Andrew
Maea Vailahi

Mr. Vailahi did not attend his appointment with the Board. Mr. Blanchette made a motion to deny Mr. Vailahi's application for licensure as an Unarmed Private Security Officer. Sheriff Tucker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Pioneer Auro Assasa-HR

Mr. Assasa attended is appointment with the Board. Mr. Blanchette reviewed Mr. Assasa's history with the Board. Mr. Assasa answered questions from the Board. Sheriff Tucker made a motion to approve Mr. Assasa's application for licensure as an Unarmed Private Security Officer. Mr. Blanchette seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Dustin Joseph Gornot-HR

Mr. Gornot attended is appointment with the Board. Mr. Blanchette reviewed Mr. Gornot's history with the Board. Mr. Gornot answered questions from the Board. Sheriff Tucker made a motion to approve Mr. Gornot's application for licensure as an Unarmed Private Security Officer. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Zachary Aaron Cline-HR

Mr. Cline did not attend his appointment with the Board. Mr. Blanchette made a motion to deny Mr. Cline's application for licensure as an Unarmed Private Security Officer. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Alix Rae Hess-HR

Ms. Hess attended her appointment with the Board. Mr. Blanchette reviewed Ms. Hess' history with the Board. Ms. Hess answered questions from the Board. Sheriff Tucker made a motion to approve Ms. Hess' application for licensure as an Unarmed Private Security Officer. Mr. Beckes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VanErick Pena-HR

Mr. Pena attended his appointment with the Board. Mr. Blanchette reviewed Mr. Pena's history with the Board. Mr. Pena answered questions from the Board. Mr. Blanchette made a motion to deny Mr. Pena's application for licensure as an Unarmed Private Security Officer. Sheriff Tucker seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS:

Criminal Conduct Reporting:

Ms. Taylor addressed the Board regarding reporting arrests and criminal conduct of licensees. Recently, the Division has seen an increase in officers failing to report arrests to their companies or and companies failing to report arrests to the Division within 72 hours of the arrest. This impedes the Division's ability to appropriately monitor compliance and protect the public. It also violates R156-63a-613. Ms. Taylor asked that security companies address the reporting requirements in their employee training. Additionally, to address the failure to report arrests, the Division will be writing up agency actions and incorporate a fine that will be issued to companies and officers when unreported arrests and criminal charges come to light. The fine will be issued to whomever failed to report the arrest to the Division. The fine issued to an individual would most likely be \$500 and \$800 for a company. Item noted with no action taken.

Training Programs:

The Board briefly discussed the suggestion made by Mr. Steven Marquardt at the last board meeting that The Division create a basic training program and armed program and require every company and training provider to use it and allow for companies and providers who want to provide training in addition to the DOPL program to submit their extra training materials to DOPL for review and approval. The Board does not see a need for a Division owned training program and general opinion of the Board was that the currently approved training programs are sufficient. As a compromise, Mr. McDonald from Raptor Academy proposed that all approved training programs be required to resubmit their programs for periodic review by the Division to ensure programs are up to date and meet all requirements listed in R156-63a. The Board agreed this would be a good practice to implement. Item noted with no action taken.

Renewals and
Continuing Education:

As a follow-up to the concerns raised by Mr. Steven Marquardt regarding training programs at the last board meeting, the Board briefly discussed renewal procedures and continuing education requirements. The Board agreed that the Division does not have the resources to conduct widespread continuing education audits and changing the reporting system is not necessary at this time. Mr. McDonald from Raptor Academy stated he is in the process of starting a non-profit that would include a database for trainers and companies to upload training for licensees that DOPL could access. This would also combat the problem of contract security companies refusing to release training records to employees who leave the company. Mr. Blanchette reminded all in attendance that contract security companies cannot withhold training records from employees for any reason. Item noted with no action taken.

R156-63a-601
Operating Standards Firearms:

The Board discussed the firearm certification requirements in R156-63a-601. Under the current version of the rule, an armed private security officer shall carry only the firearm with which the officer has passed an approved basic firearms training program with. This means if an armed private security officer changes weapons, they need to retake the firearms training course, even if the new weapon they receive is the same make, model, and caliber as their previous weapon. Mr. Blanchette Sheriff Tucker, and Chief Jacobs stated they would be comfortable not requiring armed officers to retake the firearms course if the new weapon they will be using is the same make and model and caliber as the previous weapon. Mr. McDonald of Raptor Security also proposed a provision for an emergency requalification if for some reason the armed guard cannot access the same make of weapon but the model and caliber are the same. Mr. McDonald also proposed that the make, model, and caliber of the weapon used in the firearms training or requalification be listed on the training certificate and continuing education certificate. The Board generally agreed this would be a good idea to implement. Ms. Taylor

reported that updating the Security Personnel Licensing Act Rule is on the list of rules that need updating however, there are other rules that are higher on the list due to statutory changes made by the Utah Legislature. And once the rule update process begins, it will take up to one year to complete. Mr. McDonald offered to assist in rewriting this section of the rule when the time comes. Lastly, Mr. Blanchette asked that this discussion item be added to the agenda for the next meeting so the Board could discuss minimum competency standards for firearms qualification procedures and standards.

ADJOURN:

Adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.

Date: 10/10/2024

X: _____
Nicholas Blanchette
Security Services Licensing Board Chairperson

Date: 10/10/2024

X: 
Tracy Dugger
Bureau Manager, Division of Professional Licensing