

MINUTES
UTAH SECURITY SERVICES
LICENSING BOARD
August 14, 2025
Hybrid Meeting Room 474

CONVENED: 9:04 a.m.

ADJOURNED: 11:54 a.m.

Bureau Manager:
Board Secretary:

Tracy Taylor
Katie Corak

Board Members Present:

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

Guests:

Richard Hemma
Zachary Fowler
Michael Douglas
Kaleb Seeley
Sergio Eduardo Tenorio
Alexandra Sargent
Steven Dewain Sorensen
Christopher Douglas
Zade Fowler
Nifai Tongs
Tyler Nelson
Carl Tuitavuki
Paul Nelson
Nick Roble
Ian McDonald, Raptor Academy

DOPL Staff Present:

Bernice Palama, Compliance Specialist
Sicily Hill, Compliance Specialist
Kirsten Shumway, Legal Analyst

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Approve Minutes:

Compliance Update:

APPOINTMENTS:

Richard Hemma -QR

Zachary Fowler-QR

Kaleb Seeley-QR

Sergio Eduardo Tenorio-
Renewal Review

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Blanchette made a motion to approve the June 12, 2025 minutes. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Palama provided the Board with a Compliance update and introduced Ms. Sicily Hill. Ms. Palama has been reassigned to a different area of compliance and Ms. Hill will be taking over compliance for the security service profession.

Mr. Hemma attended his appointment with the Board. Mr. Hemma provided the Board with an overview of his employment history as well as his qualifications and answered questions from the Board. The Board reviewed a letter submitted by Mr. Hemma's former employer as well. After some discussion, Mr. Blanchette made a motion to approve Mr. Hemma as the primary qualifying agent for Private Eyes LLC. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Fowler attended is appointment with the Board. Mr. Fowler provided an overview of his employment history as well as his qualifications, and answered questions from the Board. Sheriff Tucker made a motion to approve Mr. Fowler as the secondary qualifying agent for Private Eyes LLC. Mr. Beckes seconded the motion. The motion unanimously.

Mr. Seeley attended is appointment with the Board. Mr. Seeley provided an overview of his employment history and qualifications and answered questions from the Board. Mr. Blanchette made a motion to approve Mr. Seeley as the qualifying agent for Surefox Utah. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tenorio attended his appointment with the Board. Mr. Blanchette reviewed Mr. Tenorio's history with the Board. Due Mr. Tenorio's recent history and non-compliance with court probation requirements, Mr. Blanchette made a motion to deny the renewal of Mr. Tenorio's Unarmed Private

Security Officer license. Sheriff Tucker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Alexandra Sargent-HR

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

Steven Dewain Sorensen-HR

Mr. Sorensen attended his appointment with the Board. Mr. Blanchette reviewed Mr. Sorensen's history with the Board. Mr. Sorensen answered questions from the Board. Mr. Smith made a motion to approve Mr. Sorensen's application for licensure as Unarmed Private Security Officer license. Mr. Beckes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Josh Paul Merrill-HR

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

Veronica Alicia Garcia-HR

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

Nifai Tonga-HR

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

Tyler Nelson-HR

Mr. Nelson attended his appointment with the Board. Mr. Blanchette reviewed Mr. Nelson's history with the Board. Mr. Nelson answered questions from the Board. Mr. Smith made a motion to deny Mr. Nelson's application for licensure as an Unarmed Private Security Officer due to Mr. Nelson being unable to safely and competently practice in the profession. Sheriff Tucker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Carl Tuitavuki-HR

Mr. Tuitavuki attended his appointment with the Board. Mr. Blanchette reviewed Mr. Tuitavuki's history with the Board. Mr. Tuitavuki answered questions from the Board. Mr. Beckes made a motion to approve Mr. Tuitavuki's application for licensure as an Unarmed Private Security Officer on probation for six months with employer reports. Mr. seconded Blanchette seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS:

Rescheduling October Meeting Date:

Due to Ms. Taylor's attendance at the IASIR Annual Conference in Kansas City, the October board meeting needs to be rescheduled. The Board selected October 23, 2025 as the new meeting date.

Firearms Training Range Time:

Ms. Taylor explained the Division has seen some instances where training certificates have come in for firearms training with some of the range time being held in the classroom. After a lengthy discussion, the board stated that certain range drills, such as dry fire, holster management, draw, stance, and similar functions can be counted as "range time" even though they may occasionally be taught away from the range. It was clarified that the total range time should remain at six hours and total classroom time should remain at six hours.

Rule Clean Up Review:

The board reviewed and discussed section(s) of proposed changes to the administrative rule. Item noted with no action taken at this time as this review is ongoing.

ADJOURN:

Adjourned at 11:54 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: 10/23/2025

Date: 10/28/2025

X: 
Sean Ricks (Oct 27, 2025 15:05:25 MDT)

Security Services Licensing Board Chairperson

X: 
Bureau Manager, Division of Professional Licensing