

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
Private Security Services Advisory Board
Varina Public Library – County of Henrico
1875 New Market Road
Henrico, Virginia 23231
(804) 501-1980

December 4, 2019

Member(s) Present

Mr. Jagdish Katyal, Jr., Chairman
Mr. David Bourne
Mr. Rodney Budd
Mr. Edwin DePolo
Mr. Dave Killip
Mr. Charles Law
Mr. Christopher Mortensen
Mr. Eric Pohland

Member(s) Absent

Mr. Michael Ashley
Mr. Robert Dickenson, II
Mr. Thomas Gallemore
Mr. John Frazer
Mr. Frank Weaver, Jr.

DCJS Staff Present

Mr. Leon Baker, Division Director
Ms. Anika Coleman, Licensing Mgr.
Ms. Brenda Cardoza, Fingerprint
Specialist
Ms. Cordelia Starkes, Training
Coordinator

1. Meeting Called to Order/Roll Call: Chairman Jagdish Katyal, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Chairman asked Ms. Cardoza to call roll. Ms. Cardoza advised that there was a quorum of Board members to conduct business.

2. Welcome/Introduction of new Board Members: Chairman Jagdish Katyal, Jr introduced and welcomed new Board members Mr. Charles C. Law, SCOP Representative and Mr. Christopher L. Mortensen, Locksmith Representative.

3. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: Mr. Eric Pohland made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 7, 2019 meeting; Mr. Rodd Budd seconded the motion. With no objections, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Rodd Budd made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 2, 2019 meeting; Mr. Ed DePolo seconded the motion. With no objections, the minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Election of Officers: Mr. Rodd Budd made a motion to nominate Mr. Michael Ashley as the Vice Chairman to the PSSAB; Mr. Eric Pohland seconded the motion. With no objection, Mr. Ashley was elected as the Vice Chairman to the PSSAB.

Chairman Jagdish Katyal, Jr. appointed Mr. Edwin DePolo as Secretary to the PSSAB. Mr. DePolo accepted the appointment.

5. 1st Public Comment Period (2 minutes per speaker):

Ms. Tiffany Yates

Ms. Yates commented on unlicensed and unregistered activities in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Private security services constitute an industry built on human fragility and fears. Work is done and money is made because people fear. It is critical for the Commonwealth to recognize the importance of ethical standards and privacy.

Bolstering trust helps protect people and create a thriving economy. When people trust, communication and business flow easily. Doubt and suspicion corrode everything. To trust the system in Virginia, people need to believe that there are standards of behavior and that those standards are respected; and in the event of a problem or disagreement, there are dependable processes in place, which provide resolution and remedies.

Both law-abiding people and criminals are affected by the strength of oversight. Strong oversight benefits businesses and private citizens alike.

6. Board Member/Committee Reports: None presented.

7. DCJS Report:

DCJS Report - Mr. Leon Baker provided the DCJS report.

PSSAB

Mr. Baker welcomed and congratulated Mr. Charles Law and Mr. Christopher Mortensen on their appointment to the PSSAB.

DCJS Staffing Update

Due to an overwhelming increase of work in the Adjudication section, the recruitment for a second Adjudication Specialist has taken precedence over the recruitment for a sixth Investigator.

2019 IASIR Conference Update

Ms. Anika Coleman attended the 2019 IASIR Conference, October 29 – 31, 2019 in Baltimore, MD. Ms. Coleman provided an update.

The Conference's objective was: Re-forecasting Regulatory Climate Change: How to Plan For and React to the Realities of Present-Day Industry Trends and Developments.

Hot Topics

1. Violent Crimes: how to protect your employees and your company.
 2. Insurance: why bonds are not beneficial and why does rating's matter (A+)?
 3. Cannabis Compliance: how to keep these companies compliant.
 4. Cannabis Contact: how cannabis has gone from the back alley to the boardroom.
 - a. Cannabis has a tremendous impact on the private security industry.
 - b. Is your company ready to be a part of the booming business?
 - c. Round table discussion about the pros and cons of legalization in all states.
 - d. Is it really a gateway drug?
 - e. Is your state ready to regulate the cannabis industry?
 - f. What steps are in place now to prepare for this change when it occurs?
 - g. How will legalization affect your regulators and regulants? For example, SCOP'S are required to take a drug screening in VA.
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2. Industry Discussion
 - a. Why does it take so long to get our licenses?
 - b. What can states do to modernize the process?
 - c. What about that doggone online training?
 - d. Florida has a mandate to come up with an online training process, however, regulatory agency heads are holding fast to the old way for fear of tainted testing (i.e. is the regulant or applicant actually the one taking the training? According to Louisiana, facial recognition makes it foolproof when using the right software.
 - e. What are you doing about unlicensed activity?
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3. Government
 - a. Most agencies are overworked and understaffed.
 - b. Regulation approval and Code changes slow down the momentum.
 - c. Many states have single responsibilities for example, in Maryland, one department processes the licensing application, another department addresses criminal history, and another processes renewals. Their state police, not the licensing agency, issue firearms in many states.
 - d. There is software available now that will allow same day licensing, take advantage of the 1-3 day temporary registration card for events only! Using instant background checks software or vendors that provide the software.
 - e. Decrease the turnaround time for license issuance.
 - f. Some states have chosen not to regulate private security at all (Missouri, & Nebraska).
 - g. Reciprocity for private investigators – most states require 2-5 years of licensure from another state.

- i. Past law enforcement, military, and or college. Some states require you to sit for an exam to obtain licensure.
- ii. Most states have lenient requirements and will not do reciprocity agreements.
- iii. Indiana was the only state present that was willing to enter into an agreement, but also said their licensing process gives provisions for experienced PI's already.
- iv. Some states definition of PI's is equivalent to a private detective.

4. Universal Licensing in the U.S.

- a. Similar to South Africa's PsIRA
- b. Push for license portability amongst states and internationally.
- c. SURGE – Secure Urgent Response Global Endorsement
 - i. Global certification, not a license provided by IASIR to the private security industry professionals that offers entry level, intermediate, and advanced training in all areas of the security industry.
 - 1. Online optional fee based training.
 - 2. Needed to bring consistency to the security industry.
 - 3. Pros and cons
 - 4. Is this the next universal security license?
 - 5. Many states and board members denied the possibility due to liability, legislative impact, and additional costs on businesses that pay for training for their employees.

5. Benefits of becoming an IASIR member

- a. Stay abreast of other states licensing requirements and changes.
- b. Decrease unlicensed activity.
- c. Influence federal legislation.
- d. Assists other states in enforcing laws and regulations.
- e. Providing training and education opportunities for state regulators, and more.

You may contact IASIR contact them at: Contact@IASIR.org or access them at: <https://www.iasir.org/about-iasir/>

8. Old Business: None.

9. New Business: None.

10. 2nd Public Comment Period (5 minutes per speaker):

Tiffany Yates

Increase the DCJS fees to allocate more funds for hiring additional staff to service the needs of the growing industries they regulate.

The DCJS investigative units are understaffed. Hire more people and protect their time so they can do the work. Caseloads are overwhelming. Investigators, should not be tasked with both investigative and compliance functions. These job functions should be separate.

The Commonwealth could benefit from giving the public the opportunity to submit private complaints and/or providing a reliable mechanism whereby certain private information in complaints is shielded from public view.

Communications advising citizens of the progression of their complaint throughout the process could contribute to a sense of confidence and trust. Communication with complainants, including routine status updates, could go a long way toward preventing frustrations on all sides.

The PSSAB is composed of industry representatives. More viewpoints and diversity on or channeling to the PSSAB could help ensure that the ongoing dialogue addresses more citizens' experiences as they relate to private security services.

11. Announcements/Board Member Remarks: None.

12. Adjournment: Mr. Charles Law made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Eric Pohland seconded the motion. With no objections, the motion was unanimously approved; Chairman Jagdish Katyal adjourned the meeting at 11:21a.m.