



NEW MEXICO LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL

DATE: Thursday, February 15, 2024



REGULAR MEETING

TIME: 9:00 AM

LOCATION: New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy
4491 Cerrillos Rd, Santa Fe, NM 87507

MEETING MINUTES

I. COUNCIL CALL TO ORDER

LEA Director Sonya K. Chavez called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

LEA Executive Secretary Lily Romero conducted roll call, confirming the in-person attendance of members Dir. Sonya K. Chavez, Lt. Jacob Garcia, Cmdr. Joseph Viers, Lt. Santiago Roybal, Dir. Ray Fritts, Cpt. Samuel Ramos, Dir. Tate McBride, Sgt. Jonathan Jensen, Dir. Walter Coburn, Dir. Gilbert Najar, District Attorney Sam Bregman, Mr. Guadalupe Tarango, Ms. Nicole Brown, Ms. Rachel Feldman, Sheriff Dennis Garcia who arrived at 9:10 am, Chief Mizel Garcia, and Ms. Sara Millspaugh.

Attending remotely were members Ms. Teresa Beaty, Mr. Mark Swanson who attended until 11:01 am, and Mr. Richard Mathews who attended until 9:33 am.

Absent was member Chief Adrian Armijo.

Dir. Sonya K. Chavez recognized recent fallen Officer Jonah Hernandez of Las Cruces Police Department and a moment of silence was held.

Approval of Agenda – Member Sam Bregman made a motion to approve the February 15th, 2024, Council agenda, seconded by Santiago Roybal. Member Rachel Feldman opposed. Motion passed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – Member Sam Bregman made a motion to approve the NMLESTC Meeting Minutes from November 16th, 2023, meeting, seconded by Joseph Viers. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

II. REPORTS

A. Staff Reports

1) Job Task Analysis Updates

LEA Deputy Director Brian Coss provided updates and future goals for the Job Task Analysis.

2) Academy Reports & Updates

a. Albuquerque Police Department Academy

Commander Joseph Viers provided updates.

b. Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department Regional Training Academy

- Lieutenant Santiago Roybal provided updates.
- c. Central New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy
Director Ray Fritts provided updates.
 - d. Dona Ana County Sheriff's Office Academy
Captain Samuel Ramos provided updates.
 - e. Las Cruces Police Department Training Academy
Director Tate McBride provided updates.
 - f. New Mexico State Police Training Academy
Lieutenant Jacob Garcia provided updates.
 - g. San Juan County Criminal Justice Authority
Sergeant Jonathan Jensen provided updates.
 - h. Southeastern New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy
Director Walter Coburn provided updates.
 - i. Western New Mexico University Police Academy
Director Gilbert Najar provided updates.

Member Rachel Feldman asked that academy future reports contain information related to perceived issues and resources needed.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2024 Law Enforcement Memorial Recognition

Director Sonya K. Chavez stated that the NM Law Enforcement Memorial Committee convened for purposes of reviewing officers of contemplation of inclusion to the memorial. Dir. Chavez provided the Council with information regarding each officer recommended by the committee.

Lt. Santiago Roybal made a motion to recognize Officer Anthony Dale Ferguson of Alamogordo Police Department, Officer James Sides of Alamogordo Police Department, and Sheriff Michael Reeves of Curry County Sheriff's Office for the 2024 Law Enforcement Memorial. Seconded by Guadalupe Tarango. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Selection of Regular Meeting Dates for Remainder of 2024

Members discussed scheduling of the remainder of 2024 Council meetings, proposing three additional dates in 2024. Member Feldman indicated her interest in the Council scheduling a total of six dates in 2024. Council Counsel Mr. Moffatt advised Council of possible encumbrances to holding additional meetings with such a large group and the ability to call for special meetings should the Council experience the need to

address issues outside regularly scheduled meetings. Member Ramos discussed the desire for meetings to be held at all satellite academies and/or different areas of the state and voiced his concern about attending numerous meetings due to obligations. Member Brown agreed that the Council should visit academies, agrees to more meetings, but would like to be considerate of others' time. Council Counsel Mr. Moffatt reminded members of potential of quorum issues if meetings are held and members are unable to attend. Member Ramos indicated that if meetings were allowed via Zoom, he is okay with additional meetings. Dir. Chavez agreed that more meetings would be helpful but may be unrealistic for members to all attend, proposed working group collaboration.

Member Rachel Feldman made a motion to hold 6 meetings in the year 2024. Seconded by Gilbert Najar. A roll call vote was held.

Dir. Sonya K. Chavez, Cmdr. Joseph Viers, Dir. Ray Fritts, Cpt. Samuel Ramos, Dir. Tate McBride, DA Sam Bregman, Mark Swanson, and Chief Mizel Garcia voted No.

Lt. Jacob Garcia, Lt. Santiago Roybal, Sgt. Jonathan Jensen, Dir. Walter Coburn, Dir. Gilbert Najar, Guadalupe Tarango, Nicole Brown, Rachel Feldman, Sheriff Dennis Garcia, and Sara Millsbaugh voted Yes.

Teresa Beaty abstained.

Absent were Members Richard Mathews, and Chief Adrian Armijo.

Discussion ensued regarding the creation of new dates following the 6-meeting motion. Members directed academy staff email proposed dates to all members.

Member Ramos made motion to hold the next meeting in either Hobbs or Las Cruces. Member Coburn seconded. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

Dir. Chavez asked that parties vote on the specific location. Discussion ensued regarding where the next meeting should be held. Lt. Jacob Garcia made a motion to hold the next meeting in Las Cruces. Seconded by Lt. Santiago Roybal. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Discussion on the Rulemaking process, timeline, and goals for the Council to Repeal and Replace

LEA Deputy Director Brian Coss provided information to Council related to new in-service training requirements set forth in statute and annual and biannual training requirements.

- 1) Law Enforcement Working Group
- 2) Telecommunicator Working Group

Member Brown with the Communicator Working Group provided updates on areas being addressed by the working group related to their reaching out to PST instructors to understand areas needing addressing and areas that they determine need attention.

Member Roybal with the Law Enforcement Working Group provided updates on areas which they are focusing on. Member Roybal discussed making lesson plans available to all agencies, whether using Acadis or a new database.

Member Coburn discussed instructor certification categories and questioned where certain topics of instruction may fall under the categories. Deputy Director Coss will follow up with Member Coburn.

Dir. Chavez proposed groups go through each section of the NMAC to address rules in order. Dir. Chavez will email a copy of the NMAC to all members for review and asked that members take note and consider effects of changes.

Member Jensen suggested that the Council work with legislators to get an open dialogue together to avoid the redundancy of training that is placed upon law enforcement. Member Rachel Feldman discussed her involvement in legislative process and changes, volunteering to join working groups.

Dir. Sonya K. Chavez made a motion to create a legislative working group. Seconded by Sgt. Jonathan Jensen. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

Member Rachel Feldman, Sgt. Jonathan Jensen, and Dir. Gilbert Najar volunteered to be in legislative working group. Member Feldman volunteered to join the Law Enforcement Working Group and the Telecommunicator Working Group, both groups accepted.

The Council took a moment to allow Chaplain “Chappy” Jose Villegas to honor and bless four flags representing the four fallen officers and gave prayer.

D. Proposed Accreditation and Application Submission Processes for Satellite Academies

Deputy Director Brian Coss provided background on application process and trends being observed by the LEA related to issues with applications and whether a change in internal administrative processes is needed. Discussion was held to discuss whether satellite academies were experiencing similar issues. No motion was made.

E. Classification of Instructors: Red Flag Law

Deputy Director Brian Coss provided background on the need for the Council to determine what instructor classification is preferred for the course topic of Red Flag Law. Discussion ensued regarding the topic, types of classification and the law associated with the need to train on the particular topic. Dir. Chavez agreed to email members the statute so they could review. No motion was made.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

A. Next Regular Meeting

LEA staff to email members dates for upcoming meetings based upon their direction. To be determined.

B. Member Announcements

Member Rachel Feldman advised that she would like contact information for all other members, and any official handbooks that apply to all agencies.

C. Adjourn

Lt. Santiago Roybal made a motion to Adjourn, seconded by Nicole Brown. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:25am.