

## Open Session Minutes

### IOWA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY COUNCIL MEETING

February 5, 2026 @ 9:00am

ILEA Building, Room 201

7105 NW 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue

4640 Burma Road

Johnston, IA 50131

A meeting of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Council was held as a hybrid of in-person and online attendance.

Members Present: Ricardo Martinez II, Academy Council Chair  
Diane Venenga, Vice Chair and Chief, North Liberty Police Department  
Nathan Fulk, Colonel, Iowa State Patrol  
Melissa Henderson, Officer, Cedar Rapids Police Department  
Sadie Weekley, Captain, Marshalltown Police Department  
Aaron McClelland, Assistant Chief, Waterloo Police Department  
Jana Abens, Citizen of Iowa  
Elizabeth Quinn, Lieutenant, Story County Sheriff's Office  
Ryan Ridout, DOT Director, Bureau of Investigation and Identity Protection  
Eric Gjerde, Representative

Members Absent: Dave McDaniel, Sheriff, Hardin County Sheriff's Office  
Daniel Jansen, Captain, West Des Moines Police Department  
Vicky Long Hill, Citizen of Iowa  
Kevin Schneider, Sheriff, Polk County Sheriff's Office  
Charles McClintock, Senator  
Judd Lawler, Representative  
Izaah Knox, Senator

Legal Counsel Present: Erin Hardisty, Assistant Iowa Attorney General

Staff Present: Brady Carney, Director, ILEA  
Sherry Poole, Assistant Director, ILEA  
Jack Heuton, Financial Manager, ILEA  
Kristi Traynor, Legal Counsel, ILEA  
Jennifer Rico, ILEA  
Katy Fukuda, ILEA  
Nicole Stevens, ILEA

Guests Present:	Nate Bentzinger	Whitney Ingram	Brenden Andre
	Justin Coshow	Ben Parmater	Scott Breckenridge
	Bret Lappin	Imran Odobasic	Kevin Dittsworth
	Trevor Satern	Ben Gray	Tony Higgins
	Todd VanLangen		

Guests Present Online:

Cohen Dewitt

Jacob Miller

Ric Martinez called the meeting to order. Ric Martinez began with the welcome and introductions of the Academy Council, ILEA staff and guests.

Ric Martinez determined there was a quorum.

The first item (#1) on the agenda was the disclosure of potential conflicts of interest on the Open Session agenda.

The second item (#2) on the agenda was public comment. There was none.

The third item (#3) on the agenda was Petition for Waiver of Iowa Administrative Code Rule 501-2.1(5) for Whitney Ingram.

Ingram was charged with Assault, Entering & Refusing to Leave, & Stalking in 2011. She pled guilty to Assault and Entering & Refusing to Leave. She was sentenced to 67 days in jail with all but one week suspended and a \$300 fine on each charge with the sentences to run concurrently. Ingram indicates she has committed herself to a law enforcement career; has knowledge in addiction, mental health, domestic violence and homelessness; runs a women's sober living house; is on leadership boards for domestic violence, mental health & homelessness; and has built strong relationships with community leaders in the Native American community, school system, DHHS and DOC. She has her CADC license, mental health first aid and is a certified domestic abuse program coordinator.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Nathan Fulk made a motion to approve the petition for waiver. Aaron McClelland seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 9-0, motion carried.

The fourth item (#4) on the agenda was Petition for Waiver of Iowa Administrative Code Rule 501-2.1(5) for Brenden Andre.

Andre was charged with Assault Causing Bodily Injury in September 2020. He was seventeen years old at the time of the incident. He had been fighting with his brother due to a misunderstanding that resulted in his property being destroyed. His mother intervened, yelled at him to leave the home. Andre pushed her backwards with open hands, then punched her with a closed fist to her head. Andre advised he was placed on probation for approximately 6 months. He said he successfully completed probation and the charge was dismissed. Since the incident, Andre enlisted in the US Marine Corps and was honorably discharged.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Sadie Weekley made a motion to approve the petition for waiver. Diane Venenga seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 7-Aye; 2-Nay (McClelland/Henderson), motion carried.

The fifth item (#5) on the agenda was Petition for Waiver of Iowa Administrative Code Rule 501-2.1(5) and 501-10.1(5) for Scott Breckenridge.

Breckenridge was charged with Intimidation with a Dangerous Weapon, 2 Counts of Criminal Mischief 2nd & Theft 5th in August 2008. He pled guilty to Criminal Mischief 4th and paid a \$315 fine; all the remaining counts were dismissed. He and a friend took bricks from his home and threw them off a bridge at semis on a highway below. Shortly thereafter, he was charged with 2 counts of Theft 5th for shoplifting at Jordan Creek. He pled guilty and paid 2- \$65 fines.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Ryan Ridout made a motion to approve the petition for waiver. Sadie Weekley seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 8-Aye; 1-Recuse (Venenga); motion carried.

The sixth item (#6) on the agenda was Petition for Waiver of Iowa Administrative Code Rule 501-4.2(1)(a) for Trevor Satern.

Satern was certified as a law enforcement officer on 12/13/24. He wishes to serve as a driving instructor prior to reaching 3 years of experience as a certified officer. Satern is an officer for Ft. Dodge PD and indicates their only driving instructor just left and took a position with another agency. Satern earned the Top Driver award when he was a recruit at ILEA. Assistant Chief Husske wrote a letter in support of the waiver.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Aaron McClelland made a motion to deny the waiver for rule 4.2(1)(a). While the rule is waivable, the rule does not impose an undue hardship on Trevor Satern; waiver of the rule would prejudice the substantial legal rights of other similarly situated officers; and the public health, safety, and welfare cannot be afforded by other means. Nathan Fulk seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 9-0, motion carried. Waiver was denied.

The seventh item (#7) on the agenda was Petition for Waiver of Iowa Administrative Code Rule 501-4.1(5)(b) for Imran Odobasic.

Odobasic's DT instructor approval expired on 12/31/25. (He filed his request for waiver on 1/20/26) Odobasic indicates that he is late on attending an instructor renewal course due to a "pulled pec muscle/rotator cuff injury" that occurred in May 2025. Odobasic visited a doctor in June 2025 and attended PT. In a subsequent email, he said he was unable to get into an instructor course by the time he decided to continue with DT instruction. He has been a DT instructor for 3 years.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Sadie Weekley made a motion to approve the petition for waiver. Nathan Fulk seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 6-Aye; 3-Nay (Quinn/Martinez/McClelland), motion carried.

The eighth item (#8) on the agenda was the Reinstatement Review for Bret Lappin.

Bret Lappin indicates that at the time of the incident he was going through a difficult divorce and using alcohol to cope. That matter is now resolved. He says he is in a much better place now, has “completely moved on from alcohol”, has maintained stable employment, not missing a single day. He further states he has built a supportive and healthy relationship that has helped him as well.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Aaron McClelland made a motion that the Council grant the request to defer the remaining term of the suspension, and require Lappin to return to Council for full reinstatement of his law enforcement certification after the end of his deferred suspension. Consistent with the Council’s prior Order, Council moves that Lappin be required to comply with toxicology screening at the Council’s discretion through Recovery Trek and that such monitoring be in place within the next 5 business days. Lappin must meet all of the pre-hiring standards for a law enforcement officer, including the MMPI. Lappin must show personal growth with sobriety and mental health prior to full reinstatement. He must return to Council and seek full reinstatement no earlier than June 14, 2026. Melissa Henderson seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 9-0, motion carried.

The ninth item (#9) on the agenda was the Reinstatement Review for Nathaniel Bentzinger.

Nathaniel Bentzinger has successfully completed his suspension, his outpatient treatment, toxicology monitoring along with quarterly reports and the FBI-LEEDA Ethics course.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Aaron McClelland made a motion that the Council grant the request to fully reinstate Nathaniel Bentzinger’s certification. The reason for the deferred suspension no longer exists and it is in the public interest to fully reinstate his certification. Elizabeth Quinn seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 9-0, motion carried.

The tenth item (#10) on the agenda was the Reinstatement Review for Justin Coshow.

Justin Coshow has successfully completed his suspension along with the Domestic Violence Criminal Investigations class, FBI-LEEDA Ethics class and he participated in one cycle of the Basic Academy ethics presentation.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Melissa Henderson made a motion that the Council grant the request to reinstate Justin Coshow’s certification. The reason for the suspension no longer exists and it is in the public interest to reinstate his certification. Diane Venenga seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 8-Aye; 1-Recuse (Ridout); motion carried.

The eleventh item (#11) on the agenda was the Approval of the Screening Committee Consent Agenda.



Director Carney stated that ILEA currently has 98 recruits in the Basic Academy and are in Week 5. They will select class leadership next week. There is going to be a bill coming forward in the legislature in the next week or so in respect to Uniform Agency Rules. That may impact Chapter 6 (Decertification), Chapter 7 (Public Records) and Chapter 16 (Waivers). House File 2194 is being discussed in the legislature presently. This has to do with the make-up of the Academy Council members. The bill takes 3 residents down to 1; one of those positions would be replaced by a member of the FOP; the other position would be filled by a peace officer from one of the regents institutions. The bill also changes the population parameters for municipal agencies from 50,000 down to 25,000 and it lowers the smaller agencies to 5,000 or below and states that members can only hold a two term limit. House Study Bill 625 relates to 80F and brady-giglio issues/investigations. This would impact the Academy Council's ability to sanction licenses and/or certifications. House File 2278 is in regards to Reserve Officers in Iowa and the connecting states that do not have more than a six month break in service and has 4,000 hours of service as a Reserve Officer. They would be eligible to attend a new short course Academy. This bill does not say it is a Level II Academy, but a new shortened Academy that ILEA and the Council would be required to develop metrics, standards, curriculum and a process to evaluate all of those things. This has not been scheduled for a subcommittee as of yet. Eric Gjerde advised that he does not agree with the fact that officers can work for up to 1-year before they receive any basic academy training and believes that this issue needs to be looked at before looking at any new certification paths for Reserves. Eric Gjerde also mentioned that he has been working on legislation directed to Peer Support and making sure that this process is kept confidential without having fear of retaliation. Director Carney summarized the POST statistics regarding the use of calculators. Since May of 2025, there have been more applicants that have passed the POST test than in previous years. The drive track formal design has been submitted to the DOT engineers. The construction portion is out for bid. A design entity was awarded to the Farmsworth Group and Action Target as the range specialist for the new firearms range. They should have a 60% design ready by June of 2026 and 100% design by September of 2026. ILEA has partnered with the Department of Management and the research team to do a Basic Academy Curriculum job task analysis. The last analysis was done back in 2014. The Assistant Director's position has been posted. Assistant Director Sherry Poole will be retiring in December 2026. DPS Academy is under way presently. WIT and Indian Hills have March 2026 start dates. WIT currently has 12 pending recruits and Indian Hills has 3 pending recruits.

Council took a lunch break at 12:10pm.  
Council resumed Open Session at 12:37pm.

The fifteenth (#15) item on the agenda was to move into Closed Session. Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Aaron McClelland made a motion that the Council go into closed session for the purpose of discussing closed session minutes, whether to initiate licensee disciplinary

investigations or proceedings, to discuss the decisions to be rendered in a contested case conducted according to the provisions of chapter 17A, pursuant to Iowa Code sections 21.5(1)(a), (d), and (f). Melissa Henderson seconded the motion. An individual voice vote was taken. Sadie Weekley-Aye; Elizabeth Quinn-Aye; Ric Martinez-Aye; Nathan Fulk-Aye; Diane Venenga-Aye; Aaron McClelland-Aye; Ryan Ridout-Aye; Melissa Henderson-Aye and Jana Abens-Aye. Motion carried 9-0.

The Council went into Closed Session at 12:37pm.  
The Council came back into Open Session and took a break at 2:05pm.  
The Council resumed Open Session at 2:12pm.

The sixteenth (#16) item on the agenda was to vote on items discussed in Closed Session.

#### **Approval of the Closed Session Council minutes from December 4, 2025**

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Sadie Weekley made a motion to approve the Closed Session Council minutes. Diane Venenga seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye, 9-0, motion carried.

#### **Review of Final Decisions**

25ILEA0009/24-005: Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Nathan Fulk made a motion that the Council approve the final decision as drafted in case number 25ILEA0009 and that the decision be signed and issued to the parties. Aaron McClelland seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye, 9-0, motion carried.

25ILEA0010/24-049: Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Diane Venenga made a motion that the Council approve the final decision as drafted in case number 25ILEA0010 and that the decision be signed and issued to the parties. Melissa Henderson seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye, 9-0, motion carried.

#### **Review of Voluntary Surrenders**

25-015: Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Sadie Weekley made a motion that the Council accept the waiver of hearing and voluntary surrender in case number 25-015 and issue an order permanently revoking the certification with no possibility of reinstatement. Elizabeth Quinn seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye, 9-0, motion carried.

#### **Review of Settlement Agreements**

25-030: Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Diane Venenga made a motion that the Council accept the agreement submitted by the parties and issue an order imposing the agreed upon sanction. Ryan Ridout seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye, 9-0, motion carried.

25-055: Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Melissa Henderson made a motion that the Council accept the agreement submitted by the parties and issue an order imposing the agreed upon

sanction. Aaron McClelland seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye, 9-0, motion carried.

#### **Review of Waiver Modification Order**

25-050: Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Diane Venenga made a motion that the Council accept the agreement submitted by the parties and issue an order modifying the waiver order as agreed. Nathan Fulk seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye, 9-0, motion carried.

#### **Review of Investigative Files**

25-041: Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Melissa Henderson made a motion that the Council find probable cause of a violation of 501 IAC rules 6.2(2)(a), (2)(c), (2)(e)(3), and (2)(e)(4) and order the Academy to proceed with the case. Sadie Weekley seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye, 9-0, motion carried.

25-051: Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Diane Venenga made a motion that the Council find that, although the documents gathered in the course of the investigation may constitute a technical violation of the administrative rules; the evidence before the Council indicates that adequate steps have been taken to remedy the violation and to ensure that incidents of a similar nature do not occur in the future. The Council will not pursue formal disciplinary action in this matter. Ryan Ridout seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 7-Aye; 2-Recuse (Fulk/Abens), motion carried.

25-052: Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Melissa Henderson made a motion that the Council find that, although the documents gathered in the course of the investigation may constitute a technical violation of the administrative rules; the evidence before the Council indicates that adequate steps have been taken to remedy the violation and to ensure that incidents of a similar nature do not occur in the future. The Council will not pursue formal disciplinary action in this matter. Sadie Weekley seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 7-Aye; 2-Recuse (Fulk/Abens), motion carried.

25-053: Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Aaron McClelland made a motion that the Council find probable cause of a violation of 501 IAC rules 6.2(2)(a), (2)(c), and (2)(e)(4) and order the Academy to proceed with the case. Ryan Ridout seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 7-Aye; 2-Recuse (Fulk/Venenga), motion carried.

25-054: Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Sadie Weekley made a motion that the Council find probable cause of a violation of 501 IAC rules 6.2(2)(b), (2)(c), and (2)(e)(4) and order the Academy to proceed with the case. Melissa Henderson seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 7-Aye; 2-Recuse (Fulk/Quinn), motion carried.

25-057: Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Melissa Henderson made a motion that the Council find probable cause of a violation of 501 IAC rules 6.2(2)(b), (2)(c), and (2)(e)(3) and order the

Academy to proceed with the case. Aaron McClelland seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 7-Aye; 2-Recuse (Fulk/Venenga), motion carried.

The seventeenth (#17) item on the agenda were future agenda items. Ric Martinez advised that he wants to get a group picture at the April meeting.

The eighteenth (#18) item on the agenda was future Council meetings. The next Academy Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 2, 2026.

The nineteenth (#19) item on the agenda was adjournment. Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Diane Venenga made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:20pm. Elizabeth Quinn seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye, 9-0, motion carried.



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Ricardo Martinez II, Chair  
Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Council



Date