

Open Session Minutes

IOWA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY COUNCIL MEETING

June 4, 2026 @ 9:00am

ILEA, Room 201
Camp Dodge
7105 NW 70th Avenue
Johnston, Iowa 50131

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

Members Present: Diane Venenga, Vice Chair and Chief, North Liberty Police Department
Melissa Henderson, Officer, Cedar Rapids Police Department
Sadie Weekley, Captain, Marshalltown Police Department
Aaron McClelland, Assistant Chief, Waterloo Police Department
Dave McDaniel, Sheriff, Hardin County Sheriff's Office
Elizabeth Quinn, Lieutenant, Story County Sheriff's Office
Ryan Ridout, DOT Director, Bureau of Investigation and Identity Protection
Daniel Jansen, Captain, West Des Moines Police Department
Vicky Long Hill, Citizen of Iowa (online)
Kevin Schneider, Sheriff, Polk County Sheriff's Office
Eric Gjerde, Representative

Members Absent: Nathan Fulk, Colonel, Iowa State Patrol
David Schrock, Citizen of Iowa
Laura Roan, Citizen of Iowa
Charles McClintock, Senator
Judd Lawler, Representative
Izaah Knox, Senator

Assistant Attorney General: Erin Hardisty

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

Guests Present: Jana Abens Ricardo Martinez II Aaron Cronk Kyle Howe
Skylar Limkemann

Guests Present Online: Lisa DuFour Mark Wessels Zeth Baum Anna Hyatt

Diane Venenga called the meeting to order. Diane Venenga began with the welcome, roll call of the Academy Council, and introductions of ILEA staff and guests.

Diane Venenga, on behalf of the Academy Council and ILEA, presented Ric Martinez and Jana Abens awards for their service to the State of Iowa and law enforcement across the state.

Diane Venenga 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.

Dave McDaniel and Sadie Weekley advised that they would recuse themselves from Action Item #4 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 501-10.1(5) for Aaron Cronk.

Cronk was charged with Possession or Carrying of a Dangerous Weapon while Under the Influence in 2023. He pled guilty to the charge and received a deferred judgment, civil penalty, and placed on probation for 1 year. His conviction was expunged upon the successful completion of his probation. Cronk was found sleeping in his running vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. Two magazines were seen in the door panel and Cronk advised a Glock pistol was in the center console. Cronk's other violations include OWI (2023), open container, operating without registration or plate, & driving while denied or suspended citations in 2024, failure to maintain control (2021), speeding (2020), fail to yield to pedestrian in crosswalk under green arrow (2017), and obedience to traffic control device (2017). Cronk has been in corrections for roughly 4 years and believes that the reserve program is an opportunity as a stepping stone for a full-time position in law enforcement.

Academy Council members discussed concerns that Mr. Cronk has shown a pattern of misjudgement and feels that more time needs to be spent on rehabilitation and making positive changes in his life.

Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Melissa Henderson made a motion to deny the petition for waiver. Dan Jansen seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 10-Aye-motion carried. Waiver was denied.

The fourth item (#4) on the agenda was to review the reinstatement application for Kyle Howe.

Kyle Howe was present with his attorney Skylar Limkemann. Kristi Traynor advised that this was a reinstatement application and that Mr. Howe has the burden of providing sufficient evidence that the reason for his suspension no longer exists, and it is in the public's interest for

his certification to be reinstated. Mr. Howe advised that Council that he has been suspended since April 2023 and has successfully fulfilled the suspension requirements at this time. Mr. Howe stated that he has worked with adjudicated delinquent youth at the Boys State Training School for the past two years and with Polk County Detention. Since working with these juveniles, it has changed his outlook on how he handles individuals. During this time, he has earned his bachelor's degree in psychology which has helped him understand human behaviors better. He stated that he has received extensive training while working in these roles and that it has helped him with his rehabilitation. Mr. Howe stated that working with the youth community has been one of the hardest things he has ever done. He completed de-escalation instructor training through Force Science. He has become an Anger Replacement Instructor with the Boys State Training School. He stated that he is not the same person that he was three years ago. Mr. Howe stated that he would eventually like to get his Master's degree in Mental Health Counseling so he can utilize that as well while working as a law enforcement officer. Mr. Howe stated that he believes he could provide a positive impact on his community and other officers. Mr. Howe stated that he has learned how to write better reports since working at the training school. He writes daily progress notes and submits them to the court. He has exceeded expectations on all of his evaluations while working at the training school. Mr. Howe stated that he has utilized this time off from law enforcement to better himself and grow as a person and officer. Council members were impressed by all of the positive steps and training that Mr. Howe has done to better himself.

Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Elizabeth Quinn made a motion to approve the request to reinstate Kyle Howe's certification. The reason for the suspension no longer exists and it is in the public interest to reinstate his certification. Melissa Henderson seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 8-Aye; 2-Recuse (McDaniel/Weekley). Motion carried.

The fifth item (#5) on the agenda was the review of the FY2027 ILEA Fee Schedule.

Director Carney summarized the updated fee schedule below:

Regional Academy Basic Training Registration Fee \$125/Recruit
• Applicable when the individual begins basic training

POST Transfer of Prior Score for Certified LEO's \$20.00
MMPI Usage but not Administered \$40.00
MMPI Evaluation \$175.00
MMPI Administration and Evaluation \$225.00

Public Records Request TBD
Research/redaction fee determined by the average hourly rate of the staff member authorized to fulfill the request.
• First 3 hours of search at no cost (IAC 7-2505.3(7)“b”)
• First 3 hours of redactions at no cost (IAC 7-2505.3(7)“b”)

Public Records Request TBD
\$0.04 per page
\$0.09 per page for a color copy
\$8.00 per USB flash drive
Actual mailing costs

Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Sadie Weekley made a motion to approve the FY2027 Fee schedule changes. Kevin Schneider seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 10-0, motion carried.

The sixth item (#6) on the agenda was ILEA Reports.

Director Carney advised that the ILEA Basic Academy classes are currently in week 5 with 75 recruits. ILEA has hired a new general instructor, Marcos Gonzalez, to fill Assistant Director Saadiq's instructor position. The drive track is underway and the progress looks good. Phase One should be complete by the end of 2026. The demolition to the firearms range has started. The elevator project has begun and should be done within the next 3-5 weeks. Indian Hills has advised that they have paused their academy for the time being. The Level II bill was signed and cleans up the language to be sure that there are three options to get into a Level II which are: educational experience, military experience and federal law enforcement officer experience. Jack has been working with Acadis and Tyler Technologies in regards to online billing options. This will make billing easier for all agencies affected.

The seventh item (#7) on the agenda was review of the Screening Committee Consent Agenda.

Waivers/Extensions: Julius Hopp / James Lewis

CTE Applications: Aaron Wright / Joseph Palos / Darienne Scott

Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Melissa Henderson made a motion to approve the Screening Committee Consent Agenda. Ryan Ridout seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 9-0, motion carried. (*it should be noted that Kevin Schneider was not present for this vote)

The eighth item (#8) on the agenda was Review of Consent Agenda

Academy Instructor Applications (3)

Laura Phelps Casey Sanders Jon Stickney

Academy Curriculum Applications (1)

DPS

Jail Instructor Applications (6)

Tate McCotter	Richard VandenHeuvel
Chris Aikin	Wade Jackson
Jason Dunn	Mark Mitchell

Jail Curriculum Application (1)

ISSDA

Reserve Officer Weapons Applications (31)

Telecommunicator Instructor Applications (8)

Daniel Roberts	Lance Routson
Erin Froning	Emilie Banasiak
Lori Sporrer	Cory Macumber
Jeremy Schaffer	Eric Payne

Residency Ordinance Requests (2)

Bettendorf PD: Colin Cook

Davenport PD: Conner Poff

Salvage Vehicle Theft Examiners (18)

VTE Class 4/23/2026

Garrett Carlson/Paul Paintner/Steven Pudenz/Damien Fairbanks
(Ryan Hutton and JD Rogge-recerts)

VTE Class 4/27/2026

Adam Schmerbach/Clayton Moyer/Zachary Kalvig/Matthew Staiert
Keith Bell/Frederick Landis/Blake Henkle/Braeden Ellis/Darren Burken Mitchell
Roeder/Keaton Schultz/Toby Heming

Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Sadie Weekley made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Dave McDaniel seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 9-Aye; 1-Recuse (Quinn), motion carried.

Council took a break at 10:06am.

Council resumed Open Session at 10:16am.

The ninth item (#9) on the agenda was to move into Closed Session. Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Sadie Weekley 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). Ryan Ridout seconded the motion. An individual voice vote was taken. Ryan Ridout-Aye; Dan Jansen-Aye; Elizabeth Quinn-Aye; Aaron McClelland-Aye; Dave McDaniel-Aye; Sadie Weekley-Aye; Diane Venenga-Aye; Melissa Henderson-Aye and Vicky Long-Hill-Aye; Kevin Schneider-Aye. All Aye 10-0, motion carried.

Council went into Closed Session at 10:16am.
Council resumed Open Session at 12:20pm and took a lunch break.
Council resumed Open Session at 12:50pm.

The tenth item (#10) on the agenda was to vote on items discussed in Closed Session.

Review of Closed Session Council Minutes

Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Dan Jansen made a motion to approve the April 2, 2026 Closed Session Council minutes. Aaron McClelland seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye 10-0, motion carried.

Review of Final Decision Case# 24-042

Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Aaron McClelland made a motion that the Council confirm its limited review of the proposed decision document by an order filed on March 6, 2026, approve the final decision with the amendments discussed in closed session in case number 25ILEA0012, and that upon completion of the amendments, the decision be signed and issued to the parties. Kevin Schneider seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye 10-0, motion carried.

Review of Voluntary Surrender Files 25-037 and 26-014

Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Dave McDaniel made a motion that the Council accept the waivers of hearing and voluntary surrender in case numbers 25-037 and 26-014 and issue orders permanently revoking the certifications with no possibility of reinstatement. Ryan Ridout seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken - 25-037 (9-Ayes; 1-Recuse (McClelland) and on 26-014 (9-Ayes; 1-Recuse (Henderson)). Motion carried on both.

Review of Settlement Agreement Files

25-002: Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Dan Jansen made a motion that the Council accept the agreement submitted by the parties and issue an order permanently revoking the certification with no possibility of reinstatement. Kevin Schneider seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 10-0, motion carried.

25-003: Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Elizabeth Quinn made a motion that the Council accept the agreement submitted by the parties and issue an order permanently revoking the certification with no possibility of reinstatement. Sadie Weekley seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 9-Ayes; 1-Recuse (Henderson), motion carried.

25-018: Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Dave McDaniel made a motion that the Council accept the agreement submitted by the parties and issue an order permanently revoking the certification with no possibility of reinstatement. Aaron McClelland seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 9-Ayes; 1-Recuse (Ridout), motion carried.

25-048: Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Dan Jansen made a motion that the Council accept the agreement submitted by the parties and issue an order imposing the agreed upon sanction. Melissa Henderson seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 10-0, motion carried.

25-056: Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Melissa Henderson made a motion that the Council accept the agreement submitted by the parties and issue an order permanently revoking the certification with no possibility of reinstatement. Dave McDaniel seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 10-0, motion carried.

25-057: Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Aaron McClelland made a motion that the Council accept the agreement submitted by the parties and issue an order permanently revoking the certification with no possibility of reinstatement. Ryan Ridout seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 10-0, motion carried.

26-009: Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Dan Jansen made a motion that the Council accept the agreement submitted by the parties and issue an order permanently revoking the certification with no possibility of reinstatement. Dave McDaniel seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 10-0, motion carried.

26-012: Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Ryan Ridout made a motion that the Council accept the agreement submitted by the parties and issue an order permanently revoking the certification with no possibility of reinstatement. Melissa Henderson seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 10-0, motion carried.

Review of Case# 23-009

Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Sadie Weekley made a motion that the Council acknowledged the officer continues in a deferred suspension status, that the officer has not completed required sessions with Amy Lapham despite having over 2 years to do so. As the officer has now had an additional alcohol-related offense, the Council finds the officer is not in compliance with his Settlement Order and orders the Academy to pursue the supplementary stipulations discussed. Ryan Ridout seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 10-0, motion carried.

Review of Investigative Files

25-061: Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Elizabeth Quinn made a motion that the Council find probable cause of a violation of 501 IAC rules 6.2(2)(b) and (2)(e)(4) and order the Academy to proceed with the case. Kevin Schneider seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 10-0, motion carried.

25-063: Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Dan Jansen made a motion that the Council find probable cause of a violation of 501 IAC rule 6.2(2)(b) and order the Academy to proceed with the case. Melissa Henderson seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 10-0, motion carried.

26-008: Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Melissa Henderson made a motion that the Council administratively close case number 26-008. Kevin Schneider seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 10-0, motion carried.

26-015: Diane Venenga 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) and (2)(c) and order the Academy to proceed with the case. Melissa Henderson seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 9-Ayes; 1-Recuse (Quinn), motion carried.

26-018: Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Dan Jansen made a motion that the Council find probable cause of a violation of 501 IAC rule 6.2(2)(b) and order the Academy to proceed with the case. Aaron McClelland seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 10-0, motion carried.

26-019: Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Elizabeth Quinn made a motion that the Council find probable cause of a violation of 501 IAC rules 6.2(1)(f), 6.2(2)(b), (2)(c), and (2)(e)(4), and order the Academy to proceed with the case. Kevin Schneider seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 10-0, motion carried.

26-020: Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Aaron McClelland made a motion that the Council find probable cause of a violation of 501 IAC rules 6.2(2)(b) and (2)(c), and order the Academy to proceed with the case. Melissa Henderson seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 10-0, motion carried.

The eleventh item (#11) on the agenda was to elect a new Council Chair and Vice Chair.

Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Aaron McClelland made a motion to nominate Melissa Henderson as the new Chair of the Academy Council. Dave McDaniel seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 10-0, motion carried.

Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Elizabeth Quinn made a motion to nominate Aaron McClelland as the new Vice Chair of the Academy Council. Sadie Weekley seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 10-0, motion carried.

The twelve item (#12) on the agenda was future agenda items.

The Council reviewed the **2027 Council Meeting dates** of (2/4); (4/1); (6/3); (8/5); (10/7); (12/2). Director Carney advised that ILEA is working on a psych panel for the August meeting to talk about options going forward.

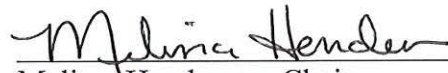
The thirteenth item (#13) on the agenda was future Council meetings.

The next Academy Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 6th, 2026 at 9:00am.

The fourteenth item (#14) on the agenda was adjournment.

Diane Venenga entertained a motion. Dave McDaniel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dan Jansen seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 10-0, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05pm.



Melissa Henderson, Chair
Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Council

08/06/2024

Date