

Open Session Minutes

IOWA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY COUNCIL MEETING

February 1, 2024, at 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: Ricardo Martinez II, Academy Council Chair
Diane Venenga, Vice Chair and Chief, North Liberty Police Department
Nathan Fulk, Colonel, Iowa State Patrol
Elizabeth Quinn, Sergeant, Story County Sheriff's Office
Vicky Long Hill, Citizen
Aaron McClelland, Captain, Waterloo Police Department
Sadie Weekley, Lieutenant, Marshalltown Police Department
Jim Steinkuehler, Sheriff, Crawford County Sheriff's Office
Kevin Schneider, Sheriff, Polk County Sheriff's Office
Melissa Henderson, Officer, Cedar Rapids Police Department
Eric Gjerde, State Representative

Members Absent: Ryan Ridout, DOT Director, Bureau of Investigation and Identity Protection
Nate Boulton, Iowa Senator
Chris Cournoyer, Iowa Senator
Steven Holt, State Representative
Matthew Roberts, Group Supervisor, United States Drug Enforcement Administration
Robert M. DeWitt, Senior Supervisory Resident Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Legal Counsel Present: Kristi Traynor, Assistant Iowa Attorney General

Staff Present: Brady Carney, Director, ILEA
Sherry Poole, Assistant Director, ILEA
Jack Heuton, ILEA
Donna Hallstrom, ILEA
Nicole Stevens, ILEA
Jennifer Rico, ILEA
Katy Fukuda, ILEA

Guests Present: Troy Kelsay Edis Jazvin Don Phillips
Tyler Savage Mark Smoot Michael Barrera
Mike Schmidt Ryan Jergens Nile Watkins-Schoenig
Alex Leu Jason Johnson Ben Aschenbrenner
Mary Roth Robert Millin Jeff Vandewater
Stacy McGee Michael Tupper Erin Sommers
Guests Present: Joel Sanders Geoff Huff John Rodriguez

Chris Brandes Ben Gray Keith Brothers
Rich Schmitz Jason Bina Jeremy Siepker
Zeth Baum Jacob Miller Daniel Johnson

Ric Martinez called the meeting to order.

Ric Martinez stated the proceedings are being recorded and reminded Council members that they are to abstain from participating in and/or voting on any action items involving a potential conflict of interest.

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

Ric Martinez determined there was a quorum.

Melissa Henderson spoke about former Academy Council member, Gene Beinke. Gene passed away in January 2024. Gene had served on the Academy Council since 2016. Gene was a certified law enforcement officer in the state of Iowa from 1970 until May of 2000. Gene was the Chief of Police at Evansdale Police Department, Washington Police Department and Clinton Police Department. Gene will be missed by all who knew him.

The first item (#1*) on the agenda was the disclosure of potential conflicts of interest on the Open Session agenda. There were none.

The second item (#2*) on the agenda was the approval of the December 7, 2023 Open Session Council minutes.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Diane Venenga made a motion to approve the December 7, 2023 Open Session Council minutes. Sadie Weekley seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 9-Aye; 1-Recuse (Henderson). Motion carried.

The third item (#3*) on the agenda was the approval of the Consent Agenda as presented.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Jim Steinkuehler made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Nathan Fulk seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 10-Aye. Motion carried.

The fourth item (#4*) on the agenda was public comment. There was none.

The fifth item (#5*) on the agenda was the Petition for Waiver of Iowa Administrative Code Rule 501-10.1(5) for Tyler Savage on behalf of the Wapello County Sheriff's Office.

Ric Martines entertained a motion. Nathan Fulk made a motion that Council go into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing records that are required or authorized by state law to be kept confidential; and to evaluate the professional competency of an individual's appointment to prevent needless and irreparable injury to his reputation as he's requested a closed session, pursuant to Iowa Code sections 21.5(1)(a) and (i). Diane Venenga seconded the motion. An individual voice vote was taken. Jim Steinkuehler-Aye; Sadie Weekley-Aye; Nathan Fulk-Aye; Diane Venenga-Aye; Ric Martinez-Aye; Melissa Henderson-Aye; Kevin Schneider-Aye; Elizabeth Quinn-Aye; Aaron McClelland-Aye; Vicky Long-Hill-Aye. 10-Aye. Motion carried.

Council returned to Open Session at 9:30am.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Jim Steinkuehler made the motion to table this case, pending further information. Sadie Weekley seconded the motion. An individual voice vote was taken. Jim Steinkuehler-Aye; Sadie Weekley-Aye; Nathan Fulk-Aye; Diane Venenga-Aye; Ric Martinez-Aye; Melissa Henderson-Aye; Kevin Schneider-Aye; Elizabeth Quinn-Aye; Aaron McClelland-Aye; Vicky Long-Hill-Aye. 10-Aye. Motion carried.

The sixth item (#6*) on the agenda was Petition for Waiver of Iowa Administrative Code Rule 501-10.1(5) for Nile Watkins-Shoenig on behalf of the Muscatine County Sheriff's Office.

Reason for Waiver: OWI 1st Conviction in 2021 after being involved in a car accident in inclement weather (the other driver was alleged to be at fault). His BAC was .124. Watkins-Schoenig was granted a deferred judgment. Watkins-Schoenig is an Army veteran, married and a father of three. He was recommended to the reserve program due to his character and desire to serve the public. He seeks to be a reserve officer as he wants to continue service to his community and believes this experience would help him respond well to such incidents. Nile stated that he only drinks when he bowls, which is on Thursdays and Fridays from August-April. The hardship if the waiver was not granted would be that he would not be able to serve his community.

AAG Traynor summarized the criteria for granting the waiver.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Jim Steinkuehler made a motion to approve the petition for waiver for Nile Watkins-Schoenig to begin the Reserve Officer training. Nathan Fulk seconded the motion. An individual voice vote was taken. Jim Steinkuehler-Aye; Sadie Weekley-Aye; Nathan Fulk-Aye; Diane Venenga-Aye; Ric Martinez-Aye; Melissa Henderson-Nay; Kevin Schneider-Aye; Elizabeth Quinn-Aye; Aaron McClelland-Aye; Vicky Long-Hill-Nay. 8-Aye; 2-Nay. Motion carried.

The seventh item (#7*) on the agenda was the Petition for Waiver of Iowa Administrative Code Rule 501-2.1(5) for Michael Barrera.

Reason for Waiver: Michael Barrera was arrested for supplying alcohol to a minor in 2018. He ultimately admitted purchasing alcohol more than once when questioned. He was 21-years old at the time. He stopped hanging out with those work friends. He was fined \$500. He says he's learned from his past mistakes. He asserts failure to grant the waiver would be a financial burden to his family. He has two young children and a wife to support. He stated that he only drinks on special occasions like anniversaries and birthdays. He currently serves in the Iowa National Guard. He volunteers at his local church when needed.

AAG Traynor summarized the criteria for granting the waiver.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Nathan Fulk made a motion to approve the petition for waiver for Michael Barrera specific to the 2018 charge so he can begin law enforcement officer training. Diane Venenga seconded the motion. An individual voice vote was taken. Jim Steinkuehler-Aye; Sadie Weekley-Aye; Nathan Fulk-Aye; Diane Venenga-Aye; Ric Martinez-Aye; Melissa Henderson-Aye; Kevin Schneider-Aye; Elizabeth Quinn-Aye; Aaron McClelland-Aye; Vicky Long-Hill-Nay. 9-Aye; 1-Nay. Motion carried.

The eighth item (#8*) on the agenda was the Petition for Waiver of Iowa Administrative Code Rule 501-2.1(5) for Ryan Jergens on behalf of the Laurens Police Department.

Reason for Waiver: Theft 5th, possession under age, and public intoxication convictions in September 2001. The convictions arose after Jergens stole a cooler with soda and water bottles from the bed of a truck. The value of the stolen items was estimated at \$50. Jergens was granted a waiver of the moral character rule for Reserves in April 2022 as a result of these convictions. Additionally, Jergens did not complete his reserve officer training prior to his 18-month anniversary date and failed to file a request for an extension of time. (He completed all of the modules, but not the practicals.) Jergens was acting/serving as a Reserve, including making arrests, during some of the time he was technically barred. He is now barred from employment as a Reserve officer until October 2024. Jergens now wishes to be a law enforcement officer. He was a District Sales Manager for Beck's Hybrids, but left that employment to start a career in law enforcement. He coaches baseball for the high school boys and basketball for the middle school girls. He asserts a denial of the waiver will have a significant financial impact on his family.

AAG Traynor summarized the criteria for granting the waiver.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Aaron McClelland made a motion to approve the petition for waiver for Ryan Jergens on the basis that Jergens does not serve in a law enforcement capacity until he begins the April 29, 2024 ILEA Basic Academy. Nathan Fulk seconded the motion. An individual voice vote was taken. Vicky Long-Hill-Aye; Jim Steinkuehler-Aye; Sadie Weekley-Aye; Nathan Fulk-Aye; Diane Venenga-Aye; Ric Martinez-Nay; Melissa Henderson-Aye; Kevin Schneider-Aye; Elizabeth Quinn-Aye; Aaron McClelland-Aye. 9-Aye; 1-Nay. Motion carried.

The ninth item (#9*) on the agenda was the Petition for Waiver of Iowa Administrative Code Rule 501-3.8(7) for Edis Jazvin on behalf of University Heights Police Department.

Reason for Waiver: Jazvin is a certified officer in Illinois with one year of certified law enforcement experience, ending his employment in East Moline in July 2022. University Heights had an extended vetting process that caused Jazvin to be hired just past the 12-month requirement for CTE. He has not been employed in law enforcement for about 1 year and 4 weeks. He would like to acquire Iowa certification through the CTE program. Jazvin has purchased a home in Coralville to establish residency. Chief Kelsay advised that his department is down officers and it has been extremely difficult to find qualified applicants. Chief states that Jazvin has experience and is a very mature individual. He can speak three different languages and this would benefit the community.

AAG Traynor summarized the criteria for granting the waiver.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Kevin Schneider made a motion to approve the petition for waiver for Edis Jazvin and to include his CTE application. Melissa Henderson seconded the motion. An individual voice vote was taken. Jim Steinkuehler-Aye; Sadie Weekley-Aye; Nathan Fulk-Aye; Diane Venenga-Aye; Ric Martinez-Aye; Melissa Henderson-Aye; Kevin Schneider-Aye; Elizabeth Quinn-Aye; Aaron McClelland-Aye; Vicky Long-Hill-Aye. 10-Aye. Motion carried.

The tenth item (#10*) on the agenda was the Petition for Waiver of Iowa Administrative Code Rule 501-13.2(1) for Mary Roth on behalf of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office.

Reason for Extension: Roth was scheduled to attend the January Telecommunicator course, but had a life-threatening emergency in her family and was unable to attend. The agency wants to send Roth to the Telecommunicator training on March 11th in Pottawattamie County. Roth's one year anniversary date is January 26, 2024.

AAG Traynor summarized the criteria for granting the extension.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Kevin Schneider made a motion to approve the petition for extension for Mary Roth. This extension is for 180-days from her expiration date. Sadie Weekley seconded the motion. An individual voice vote was taken. Jim Steinkuehler-Aye; Sadie Weekley-Aye; Nathan Fulk-Aye; Diane Venenga-Aye; Ric Martinez-Nay; Melissa Henderson-Aye; Kevin Schneider-Aye; Elizabeth Quinn-Aye; Aaron McClelland-Aye; Vicky Long-Hill-Aye. 9-Aye; 1-Nay. Motion carried.

(It should be noted that Kevin Schneider left the meeting at this time)

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

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Nathan Fulk made a motion to approve the Screening Committee Consent Agenda. Diane Venenga seconded the motion. An individual voice vote was taken. Jim Steinkuehler-Aye; Sadie Weekley-Aye; Nathan Fulk-Aye; Diane Venenga-Aye; Ric Martinez-Aye; Melissa Henderson-Aye; Elizabeth Quinn-Aye; Aaron McClelland-Aye; Vicky Long-Hill-Aye. 9-Aye. Motion carried.

The twelve item (#12*) on the agenda was the Attorney General Reports. There was none.

The thirteenth item (#13*) on the agenda was ILEA Reports.

Director Carney advised the Council that the Basic Classes are currently in week five and ILEA has ninety-one recruits. Both classes are doing very well. They are using ILEA's new LMS-Acadis. The legislature is very busy and there are a lot of items regarding law enforcement being discussed that could affect ILEA. ILEA has a Human Trafficking Instructor position that they are currently interviewing for. They are working with DAS to update the application requirements. ILEA has two additional instructor positions open. They will be posting these positions after they meet with DAS regarding qualifications/timeframe/updating the job description. ILEA has reached out outside certified instructors to assist with program gaps. ILEA met with the Justice Systems Appropriation Committee last month regarding ILEA's budget.

Donna Hallstrom gave a brief update on the Regional Academies. There are two Regionals currently in session, DPS and DMPD. Hawkeye and WIT begin their academies on March 11th. Donna shared that in 2023, ILEA certified 19 officers through the CTE program and there are even more slated to certify in 2024. Indian Hills did not have enough applicants for their winter/spring academy, so they have postponed their first academy start date until June 2024.

Katy Fukuda gave an update on current and upcoming Specialty Schools. The migration of Acadis will assist with Specialty School registrations along with allowing officers to view their own profile/training. There are several future firearms schools scheduled for around the state this year.

Director Carney expressed the importance for agencies to submit their Report of Hire forms to ILEA within the ten day window per Iowa Code. If an officer/applicant tries to register for any training or specialty school, and ILEA has not received their Report of Hire, that applicant/officer will not be able to sign up.

The fourteenth item (#14*) on the agenda was the review of ILEA Sub-Committees

Screening Committee Appointments

Vicky Long-Hill
Sadie Weekley
Jim Steinkuehler
Nathan Fulk

Rules Committee Appointments

Diane Venenga
Ric Martinez
Elizabeth Quinn
Aaron McClellan

Curriculum Committee Appointments

Melissa Henderson
Ryan Ridout
Kevin Schneider

The fifteenth item (#15*) on the agenda was to move into Closed Session.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Melissa Henderson 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). Diane Venenga seconded the motion. An individual voice vote was taken. Nathan Fulk-Aye; Diane Venenga-Aye; Ric Martinez-Aye; Melissa Henderson-Aye; Elizabeth Quinn-Aye; Aaron McClelland-Aye; Vicki Long-Hill-Aye; Jim Steinkuehler-Aye; Sadie Weekley-Aye. 9-Aye; 0-Nay. Motion carried.

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

Approval of December 7, 2023 Closed Session Council Minutes

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Diane Venenga made a motion to approve the December 7, 2023 Closed Session Council Minutes. Jim Steinkuehler seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 8-Aye; 1-Recuse (Henderson). Motion carried.

Administratively Closed Files

24-002

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Melissa Henderson made a motion that although the documents gathered in the course of the investigation may constitute a technical violation of the Council's 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. Jim Steinkuehler seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 9-Aye; 0-Nay. Motion carried.

Voluntary Surrender Files

22-007 (Weekley Recused)

23-033

23-040

23-048

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Nathan Fulk made a motion that the Council accept the waiver of hearing and voluntary surrender on cases 22-007; 23-033; 23-040 and 23-048, and that the Council issue an order permanently revoking the certification with no possibility of reinstatement. Diane Venenga seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 8-Aye; 1-Recuse (Weekley). Motion carried.

Settlement Agreement Files

23-045

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Diane Venenga made a motion that the Council accept the agreement submitted by the parties, and that the Council issue an order permanently revoking the certification with no possibility of reinstatement. Melissa Henderson seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 9-Aye; 0-Nay. Motion carried.

Decertification Files

23-005

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Sadie Weekley made a motion that the Council find probable cause to establish a violation of 501 IAC rules 6.2(1)(a) and (f); 6.2(2)(b) and (2)(e)(4), and order this case set for hearing. Jim Steinkuehler seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 9-Aye; 0-Nay. Motion carried.

23-026

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Diane Venenga made a motion that the Council find probable cause to establish a violation of 501 IAC rules 6.2(1)(f); (2)(b); (2)(c) and (2)(e)(4), and order this case set for hearing. Melissa Henderson seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 9-Aye; 0-Nay. Motion carried.

23-032

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Aaron McClelland made a motion that although the documents gathered in the course of the investigation may constitute a technical violation of the Council's 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. Nathan Fulk seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 9-Aye; 0-Nay. Motion carried.

23-034

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Melissa Henderson made a motion that the Council find probable cause to establish a violation of 501 IAC rules 6.2(2)(b); (2)(c) and (2)(e)(4), and order this case set for hearing. Sadie Weekley seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 9-Aye; 0-Nay. Motion carried.

23-050

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Diane Venenga made a motion that the Council find probable cause to establish a violation of 501 IAC rules 6.2(2)(a), and order this case set for hearing. Melissa Henderson seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 7-Aye; 2-Recuse (Fulk/Quinn) Motion carried.

23-052

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Sadie Weekley made a motion that the Council find probable cause to establish a violation of 501 IAC rules 6.2(2)(a), and (2)(e)(4), and order this case set for hearing. Diane Venenga seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 9-Aye; 0-Nay. Motion carried.

23-054

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Aaron McClelland made a motion that the additional information provided to the Council was considered and the Council reaffirmed the probable cause to establish a violation of 501 IAC rules 6.2(2)(b) and (2)(e)(4), and ordered this case set for hearing. Sadie Weekley seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 9-Aye; 0-Nay. Motion carried.

Case Reconsideration File

22-038

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Melissa Henderson made a motion that the Council find probable cause to establish a violation of 501 IAC rules 6.2(2)(b); (2)(c) and (2)(e)(4), and order this case set for hearing. Sadie Weekley seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 8-Aye; 1-Recuse (Quinn). Motion carried.

The seventeenth item (#17*) on the agenda was future agenda items. There were none.

The eighteenth item (#18*) on the agenda was future Council Meetings:

April 4, 2024 at 9:00am

Iowa Law Enforcement Academy-Camp Dodge

The nineteenth item (#19*) on the agenda was to adjourn the meeting.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Jim Steinkuehler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:38pm.
Motion carried.



Ricardo Martinez II, Chair
Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Council


Date