

Open Session Minutes

IOWA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY COUNCIL MEETING

April 3, 2025 9:00am

ILEA Building, Room 201

7105 NW 70th 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 Vicky Long Hill, Citizen of Iowa Nathan Fulk, Colonel, Iowa State Patrol Jim Steinkuehler, Sheriff, Crawford County Sheriff's Office Kevin Schneider, Sheriff, Polk County Sheriff's Office Melissa Henderson, Officer, Cedar Rapids Police Department Daniel Jansen, Captain, West Des Moines Police Department Sadie Weekley, Lieutenant, Marshalltown Police Department Aaron McClelland, Captain, Waterloo Police Department Elizabeth Quinn, Sergeant, Story County Sheriff's Office Jana Abens, Citizen of Iowa Charles McClintock, Senator Judd Lawler, Representative
Members Absent:	Ryan Ridout, DOT Director, Bureau of Investigation and Identity Protection
Legal Counsel Present:	Erin Hardisty, Assistant Iowa Attorney General
Staff Present:	Brady Carney, Director, ILEA Sherry Poole, Assistant Director, ILEA Kristi Traynor, Legal Counsel, ILEA Jack Heuton, Financial Manager, ILEA Donna Hallstrom, ILEA Jennifer Rico, ILEA Katy Fukuda, ILEA

Guests Present:	Kaleb Healey	Chad Nott	Jordan Walters
	Chris Hudrick	Tanner Vanden Top	Randall White
	Ian Winfield	Joel Philips	Mark Hedberg
	Keegan Witbeck		
Guests Online:	Shelli Tedrow	Dario Gamino	Kirk Worcester
	Bo Miller	Dave McDaniel	Josh Houser
	Robert Millin	Nicholas Lennie	Chad McCluskey
	Jackie LaGrange	Richard Hernandez	Ben Boeke
	Ryan Abodeely	Rich Schmitz	Angel Zamora
	Caleb Severn	James Natvig	Gus Farmer
	Christopher Jones		

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.

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

Melissa Henderson stated that she would recuse herself from Action Item #4, several instructor applications and one curriculum application on the Consent Agenda.

Elizabeth Quinn stated that she would recuse herself from Action Item #13(Jason Ross).

Sadie Weekley stated that she would recuse herself from Action Item #6.

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

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

Reason for Waiver:

Vanden Top was arrested for OWI in 2021. He pled guilty, received a deferred judgment and completed all requirements. He was subsequently arrested for disorderly conduct in 2023 for being in a fight with his brother at the Speedway in the concert area. He pled guilty and paid a fine. Vanden Top earned a degree in law enforcement science with a GPA of 3.8 while working two jobs over the past 5 years. Vanden Top does not appear to have any other involvement with law enforcement. His brother, Dylan Vanden Top wrote a letter in support of the waiver. Vanden

Top took accountability for his past mistakes and stated he has grown and matured. Vanden Top stated the hardship for him would be disappointing his family. Academy Council members asked Vanden Top if he still drinks and Vanden Top stated that he does still drink approximately every other week once or twice. The Academy Council did not feel like there had been enough time between now and the incidents that took place. The Academy Council had concerns that he was drinking and driving while he was going to school to get a degree for law enforcement and that he continues to drink.

Kristi Traynor discussed the criteria that the Academy Council must consider when deciding whether to grant/deny the waiver.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Jim Steinkuehler made a motion to deny the petition for waiver of Iowa Administrative Code Rule 501-2.1(5) for Tanner Vanden Top. Aaron McClelland seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye, 12-0, motion carried. Waiver was denied.

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

Reason for Waiver:

White was arrested for domestic abuse against his father when he was 12 (2002) after returning home from a visit with his mother. He was taken to the police department and released to his mother's care. Two days later, White was arrested at school for aggravated menacing, resisting arrest, and disorderly conduct when he couldn't calm down at school and threatened the SRO who was assisting the principal. Reports indicate he didn't have access to his medication since he was released to his mother a couple of days prior. White earned his GED, earned a degree in criminal justice from a community college, worked in corrections with both adults and juveniles, and has actively worked on weight loss and getting in shape in order to qualify for a law enforcement position. White does not appear to have any other involvement with law enforcement. White stated he would be very disappointed if the waiver was not granted. He has worked immensely on his personal growth and physical fitness goals. It would be discouraging if something he did when he was 12-years old could hold him back from fulfilling his dream of becoming a police officer. He has a wife who supports him and he wants to give back to his community. The Academy Council members commended him for his hard work and motivation to change his early life circumstances.

Kristi Traynor discussed the criteria that the Academy Council must consider when deciding whether to grant/deny the waiver.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Nathan Fulk made a motion to approve the petition for waiver of Iowa Administrative Code Rule 501-2.1(5) for Randall White. Diane Venenga seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 11-Aye, 1-Recuse (Henderson), motion carried. Waiver was approved.

The fifth item (#5*) on the agenda was the Petition for Waiver of Iowa Administrative Code Rule 501-10.1(5) for Keegan Witbeck.

Reason for Waiver:

Witbeck was charged with OWI in 2022. He pled guilty to an amended charge of reckless driving (he refused PBT, datamaster, blood, & urine testing), with credit for time served. Witbeck refused PBT and datamaster because the officer could not tell him when the machines were calibrated. Witbeck stated that he was being difficult and was influenced by social media and television and felt the officer was out to get him. Witbeck admitted that he was stupid and should have submitted a sample. Witbeck was convicted of Attempted Burglary and Criminal Mischief 3rd in 2014 when he was 19. He entered his ex-girlfriend's garage, damaged a parked car, and threw a hammer through a window of her residence. He received a deferred judgment, 2 years probation, paid fines and restitution. Witbeck does not appear to have been involved with law enforcement since the 2022 OWI incident, other than traffic citations. He is involved in coaching youth wrestling and trains in Jiu Jitsu and is a professional MMA fighter. Several letters of support were submitted on his behalf. The Academy Council asked him if he was impaired the night of his OWI. Witbeck advised that he was not impaired and was initially pulled over for not coming to a complete stop. Academy Council members stated that after reviewing all of the law enforcement reports, Witbeck failed SFST testing. Witbeck stated that the officer incorrectly administered the tests at the time. Academy Council members asked if he was impaired by something other than alcohol. Witbeck stated he was not impaired by anything. Academy Council members asked repeatedly why Witbeck did not comply with the datamaster or PBT tests if he was not impaired. Academy Council members stated that the machines would have registered all zeros if he was not impaired, no matter if the machines had been calibrated recently or not. Academy Council members had concerns that Witbeck was not being forthcoming or truthful when reviewing the facts of the case.

Kristi Traynor discussed the criteria that the Academy Council must consider when deciding whether to grant/deny the waiver.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Nathan Fulk made a motion to deny the petition for waiver of Iowa Administrative Code Rule 501-10.1(5) for Keegan Witbeck. Melissa Henderson seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye, 12-0, motion carried. Waiver was denied.

Council took a break at 10:23am.

Council resumed Open Session at 10:35am.

The sixth item (#*) on the agenda was the reinstatement review for Ian Winfield.

Kristi Traynor summarized the criteria for the reinstatement review for Ian Winfield.

Mr. Winfield stated that he has successfully completed all of the stipulations in his suspension agreement and has had no issues with his agency during his suspension. Mr. Winfield spoke specifically to all of the stipulations that he fulfilled and is now asking for full reinstatement. Mr. Winfield learned that mental health is extremely important and continues to see a therapist.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Jim Steinkuehler made a motion to grant the full reinstatement for Mr. Winfield. Elizabeth Quinn seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 11-Aye, 1-Recuse (Weekley), motion carried. Reinstatement was approved.

The seventh item (#7*) on the agenda was reinstatement review for Christopher Hudrick.

Kristi Traynor summarized the criteria for the reinstatement review for Christopher Hudrick.

Mr. Hudrick stated that he was terminated from the Des Moines Police Department due to violating a last chance agreement. Mr. Hudrick stated that he posted something on social media related to a work call. He has learned from these past mistakes and is wanting to get back into law enforcement. He has successfully completed his suspension stipulations.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Dan Jansen made a motion to grant the reinstatement for Christopher Hudrick. Jim Steinkuehler seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye, 12-0, motion carried. Reinstatement was approved.

The eighth item (#8*) on the agenda was review of a CTE application for Kaleb Healey.

Kristi Traynor discussed the criteria that the Academy Council must consider when deciding whether to grant/deny the application for CTE.

Mr. Healey advised the Academy Council that he initially went through a police academy in Arizona which was 24-weeks (672.25hrs). He successfully completed the academy. During his agency field training, his significant other did not want to move to Arizona. He decided to leave Arizona and come back to Iowa for this reason. He was hired by the Marion Police Department in June 2024 and he completed their FTO program successfully. Mr. Healey described his field training in Arizona and at Marion Police Department. He has been working on his own since September 2024.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Aaron McClelland made a motion to approve Kaleb Healey's CTE application. Diane Venenga seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 11 Aye; 1-Nay (Martinez), motion carried. Kaleb Healey's CTE application was approved.

The ninth item (#9*) on the agenda was review of a CTE application for Jordan Walters.

Kristi Traynor discussed the criteria that the Academy Council must consider when deciding whether to grant/deny the application for CTE.

Mr. Walters advised the Academy Council that he is a certified law enforcement officer in the state of Illinois since August 2024. He completed a 640-hour basic law enforcement training. He has over three months of experience serving with the Decatur Police Department.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Dan Jansen made a motion to approve Jordan Walter's CTE application. Jim Steinkuehler seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 12-0, motion carried. Jordan Walter's CTE application was approved.

The tenth item (#10*) on the agenda was Petition for Waiver of Iowa Administrative Code Rule 501-2.1(5) for Caleb Severn.

Kristi Traynor discussed the criteria that the Academy Council must consider when deciding whether to grant/deny the waiver.

Caleb Severn was charged with Minor in Possession in 2015 when he was 19-years old. He pled guilty, paid a fine, and completed an alcohol aversion class. Mr. Severn has served in the military for over seven years. He has had no further incidents with law enforcement.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Nathan Fulk made a motion to approve the waiver for Caleb Severn. Kevin Scheider seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye, 12-0, motion carried. Waiver was approved.

The eleventh item (#11*) on the agenda was the Petition for Waiver of Iowa Administrative Code Rule 501-4.1(5)(b) for Benjamin Miller.

Kristi Traynor discussed the criteria that the Academy Council must consider when deciding whether to grant/deny the waiver.

Chief Miller advised that his firearms and rifle certification expired back on 12/31/2023 and he would like to take a renewal course instead of going through another full course. Chief Miller stated that he takes full responsibility for letting it lapse.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Dan Jansen made a motion to deny the Petition for Waiver of Iowa Administrative Code Rule 501-4.1(5)(b) for Benjamin Miller. Nathan Fulk seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye, 12-0, motion carried. Waiver was denied.

Council took a break at 12:01pm
Council resumed Open Session at 12:36pm.

(It should be noted that Jim Steinkuehler left the meeting at this time)

The twelfth item (#12*) on the agenda was the review of the Consent Agenda as presented.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Elizabeth Quinn made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Diane Venenga seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 10-Aye; 1-Recuse (Henderson), motion carried.

The thirteenth item (#13*) on the agenda was the Review of the Screening Committee Consent Agenda items.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Melissa Henderson made a motion to approve the Screening Committee Consent Agenda as presented. Nathan Fulk seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 10-Aye; 1-Recuse (Quinn), motion carried.

The fourteenth item (#14*) on the agenda was the approval of the February 6, 2025 Open Session Council Minutes.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Diane Venenga made a motion to approve the February 6, 2025 Open Session Council Minutes. Aaron McClelland seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 10-Aye; 1-Recuse (Long-Hill), motion carried.

The fifteenth item (#15*) on the agenda was the approval of the February 24, 2025 Open Session Council Minutes.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Dan Jansen made a motion to approve the February 24, 2025 Open Session Council Minutes. Melissa Henderson seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 11-Aye, motion carried.

The sixteenth item (#16*) on the agenda was the approval of the March 11, 2025 Open Session Council Minutes.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Melissa Henderson made a motion to approve the March 11, 2025 Open Session Council Minutes. Kevin Schneider seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 10-Aye; 1-Recuse (Long-Hill), motion carried.

The seventeenth item (#17*) on the agenda was the POST discussion and use of calculators.

Director Carney started off by saying that this has been a discussion that has been going on for the past couple of years. The research shows that the math section of the POST is the section that is failed the most by applicants. The discussion over the past couple of years has been to allow or not allow the use of calculators on the POST test. Steve Allscheid with Stanard & Associates stated if the Academy Council authorized the use of calculators on the POST test, Stanard & Associates would allow it and the test would be valid. If calculators were approved, there should be some safeguards in place. Academy Council members had a consensus that providing a basic calculator to applicants for the POST test would not jeopardize or lower any

hiring standards. All agencies would have to use a basic calculator that only has addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. No percentage calculators would be allowed.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Dan Jansen made a motion that the Council approve the use of calculators for POST testing with a device that has been approved by the Academy after consultation with the Rules Committee effective May 5, 2025. Melissa Henderson seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 10-Aye, motion carried.

(It should be noted that Vicky Long-Hill stepped away from the meeting and was not present for this vote)

The eighteenth item (#18*) on the agenda was ILEA Reports.

Director Carney advised that ILEA has 90 recruits currently at the basic academy. In previous years, the summer academy has generally seen lower numbers of recruits, however, ILEA currently has around 90 set to test in Ames. The Legislature sub-committee is looking at a reciprocity bill for prior military experience and federal law enforcement. That bill is still being reviewed and amended.

Graduation is on Friday, April 25th at the Rising Sun Church in Pleasant Hill, Iowa.

Council took a break at 1:32pm.

Council resumed Open Session at 1:44pm.

The nineteenth item (#19*) on the agenda was to move into Closed Session.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Diane Venenga 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). Aaron McClellan seconded the motion. An individual voice vote was taken. Melissa Henderson-Aye; Jana Abens-Aye; Vicky Long-Hill-Aye; Dan Jansen-Aye; Aaron McClelland-Aye; Elizabeth Quinn-Aye; Kevin Schneider-Aye; Nathan Fulk-Aye; Diane Venenga-Aye; Ric Martinez-Aye and Sadie Weekley-Aye. 11-Aye, motion carried.

Council went into Closed Session at 1:46pm.

Council resumed Open Session at 3:02pm.

The twentieth item (#20*) on the agenda was to vote on items discussed in the Closed Session.

Review of Closed Session Minutes

Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Nathan Fulk made a motion that the Academy Council approve the February 6, February 24, and March 11, 2025 Closed Session Council minutes. Jana Abens seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 10-Aye, 1-Recuse (Long-Hill), motion carried.

Review of Settlement Agreement Files

23-053: 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 sanctions. Diane Venenga seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 11-0, motion carried.

24-003: Ric Martinez 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 sanctions. Aaron McClelland seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 11-0, motion carried.

24-026: Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Diane Venenga 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; 11-0, motion carried.

24-028: Ric Martinez 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. Kevin Schneider seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 11-0, motion carried.

24-052: Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Jana Abens 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. Diane Venenga seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 11-0, motion carried.

Review of Investigative Files

24-041: Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Nathan Fulk made a motion that the Council find probable cause of a violation of 501 IAC rule 6.2(1)(f); 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. All Aye; 11-0, motion carried.

24-061: Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Aaron McClelland made a motion that the Council administratively close case number 24-061. Nathan Fulk seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 9-Aye; 2-Recuse (Henderson and Venenga), motion carried.

24-064: Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Dan Jansen made a motion that the Council find probable cause of a violation of 501 IAC rule 6.2(2)(e)(4) and order the Academy to proceed with the case. Jana Abens seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 11-0, motion carried.

24-065: Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Melissa Henderson made a motion that the Council find probable cause of a violation of 501 IAC rule 6.2(2)(b) and (2)(e)(4) and order the Academy to proceed with the case. Diane Venenga seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 11-0, motion carried.

25-008: Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Diane Venenga made a motion that the Council find probable cause of a violation of 501 IAC rule 6.2(2)(b), (2)(c), (2)(e)(3), and (2)(e)(4) and order the Academy to proceed with the case. Dan Jansen seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 11-0, motion carried.


25-010: Ric Martinez entertained a motion. Melissa Henderson 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. Jana Abens seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. 10-Aye; 1-Nay (Weekley), motion carried.


The twenty-first item (#21*) on the agenda was future agenda items.
There were none at this time.

The twenty-second item (#22*) on the agenda was future Council meetings.
The next Academy Council meeting will be on Thursday, June 5, 2025 at 9:00am.

The twenty-third item (#23*) on the agenda was adjournment.

Ric Martinez entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Schneider made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:09pm. Diane Venenga seconded the motion. A group voice vote was taken. All Aye; 11-0, motion carried.


Ricardo Martinez II, Chair
Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Council


Date