

STATE OF ALASKA
Alaska Police Standards Council
Minutes of the 149th General Meeting
April 29, 2025
Anchorage
In Person and Teleconference

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hamon called to order the 149th General Meeting of the Alaska Police Standards Council on April 29, 2025, at 9:07 a.m. A roll call was conducted as follows:

APSC Members Present

Chair Rebecca Hamon, Public Member
Jeff Brown, Chief, North Slope Borough PD
Timothy Collins, Sergeant, Kodiak DPS
Michael Craig, Public Member
Dusty Dumont, Administrative Officer, DOC
Ron Dupee, Chief, Fairbanks PD
Stephen Dutra, Chief, North Pole PD
David Knapp, Sergeant, Correctional Officer IV, DOC
Leon Morgan, Deputy Commissioner, DPS
David Ross, Chief, Kenai PD
April Wilkerson, Deputy Commissioner, DOC

APSC Members Absent

Daniel Carothers, Public Member

APSC Administrative Staff Present

Joseph Gamache, Executive Director
Sarah Hieb, Administrative Investigator
Tanya Silva, Administrative Assistant
CJ Smith, Training Coordinator
Kristopher Schmidt, Administrative Investigator

Department of Law Representatives Present

Jenna Gruenstein, Department of Law
Sarah Stanley, Department of Law

2. AUDIENCE INTRODUCTIONS

Sarah Schmidt

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

December 2, 2024 Regular Meeting

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held December 2, 2024. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

5. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

There were no persons to be heard.

6. COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Hamon noted she didn't have a formal report but thanked everyone for their attendance, for their work on the Council, and for their service around the state.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The April 29, 2025 Executive Director's Report to Council was distributed electronically to Council members prior to the meeting. Hard copies were also distributed to those attending in person, and it was shared on-screen for those attending via Zoom.

ED Gamache highlighted the following from his report:

- Shane Nicholson has retired, and his contributions to the Council are greatly appreciated. His input was invaluable.
- Sergeant Timothy Collins (AST Kodiak) was appointed to the Council.
- There is still a vacancy for a public council seat for a small community (under 2500).
- The hiring process for a second investigator was completed, and on February 3, 2025, we welcomed Kris Schmidt to the APSC Team.
- In FY25, APSC received and processed approximately 352 formal records requests.
- In FY25, APSC staff evaluated 65 officers' training records for reciprocity to determine if they qualified for Alaska reciprocity or "lateral entry" for another Alaska agency.
- In FY25, APSC received, processed, and responded to 61 new complaints from members of the public regarding perceived officer misconduct or allegations of misconduct by another criminal justice agency.
- APSC Staff continued with ongoing misconduct investigations; since the last meeting there were 25 new cases opened, and 15 existing investigations were closed (including those closed by final action taken at our last meeting). We now have 77 active cases; two are pending before OAH. There are 13 cases that involve active criminal charges pending trials.

ED Gamache noted the conferences he attended since the last meeting and also the graduation ceremonies.

ED Gamache then reviewed APSC case history statistics from calendar year 2019 to present, noting that the Council operates on a fiscal year basis. For calendar year 2025 there are 14 open/new cases so far. He then reviewed the chart showing APSC certificates issued from FY15 to date in FY25, noting that starting January 19, 2025, new certifications are available due to regulation adoption.

ED Gamache next referred to the chart on page 3 of his report which reflects the training events sponsored by APSC, including the number of officers attending, the training hours accumulated, academy attendees and their training hours, and the certificates that were issued for basic, intermediate, advanced, and instructors.

At this point in FY25, \$95,899 has been earmarked for the \$80,000 CIT Grant Funding. This is for up to 40 students to take CIT-related training for a total of 1,134 training hours.

To date in FY25 there have been 65 reciprocity evaluations, 352 records requests, 41 new misconduct investigations, 19 investigations closed, and no OAH hearings held. One administrative hearing was held in abeyance pending resolution of the underlying criminal case, and there are two cases pending assignment to OAH as the officers sent in Notice of Defenses.

He then noted the command changes across Alaska, thanking Chief Dutra for his years of service in North Pole and on the Council:

- Anchorage Airport Police and Fire hired Daniel Juarez as Chief
- Cameron Hayden is acting Chief at Cordova PD
- King Cove PD hired Eric Siweck as Chief
- Sand Point PD hired Ben Allen as Chief
- Ketchikan PD hired Eric Mattson as Chief
- Fort Yukon PD hired Jason Cohen as Chief
- North Pole PD, Chief Steve Dutra retires effective May 1
- Seward PD, Chief Allen Nickell retires effective April 30
- Seward PD hired Louis Tiner as Chief

ED Gamache reported that the project adding new certification types to APSC certifications that was adopted by the Council at the last meeting was approved by the Lieutenant Governor's office with no changes. It went into effect on January 19, 2025.

Regarding legislative activity, ED Gamache reported that SB53, an Act relating to accreditation standards for law enforcement agencies, was introduced and had its first hearing two weeks ago. SB53 would require accreditation for all law enforcement agencies throughout the state. Currently there are only a handful of agencies that are accredited through either CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) or the Northwest Accreditation Alliance. ED Gamache noted that in checking with his peers, no other states currently have an accreditation requirement. While accreditation is desirable, it is costly to achieve, which may be a significant issue for smaller agencies.

ED Gamache then referred the Council to the fiscal report and budget-versus-expenditures graph on pages 4 and 5 of his report, noting that everything is looking good and well within APSC's margin. He noted that a request to increase APSC's budget will be made for FY2027 to cover increased training and academy costs.

Regarding APSC meeting dates, ED Gamache noted that there was discussion at the December 2024 meeting about having a deliberative session meeting between the April and December meetings to address adjudicatory items. The middle of August is halfway between the two routinely scheduled public meetings. The Executive Development Conference is tentatively scheduled for December 3rd, so the next Council meeting can be possibly December 1st or 2nd. ED Gamache then responded to questions.

8. STAFF REPORTS

Administrative Assistant Tanya Silva reported that on January 1st all law enforcement agencies were notified that they need to be using the ACADIS system to upload forms. Training videos were also included in the newsletter. With the new certifications now available, new workflows and e-mail templates are being created. The response has been positive, and

things are going well, with agencies reaching out for assistance when needed.

Administrative Investigator Sarah Hieb reported that since December, APSC staff have dedicated their time to ongoing investigations, case preparation, and the revocation and disqualification processes to ensure each matter was handled with thoroughness and attention to detail. Staff also assisted in reviewing and preparing policies and regulations, maintained and organized the case and certification data bases, and supported other staff members with their functions to keep operations running smoothly.

Sarah Hieb noted that the addition of the second investigator, Kris Schmidt, has been invaluable. Mr. Schmidt has greatly enhanced APSC's capability to manage the growing workload efficiently and allowing for a more timely and effective handling of cases.

Administrative Investigator Kris Schmidt introduced himself, noting that he worked with the sheriff's office in Illinois before moving to Alaska. Since then, he has worked with the Alaska State Troopers as a background investigator, and is now pleased to work with APSC as their second investigator.

Training Coordinator CJ Smith reported that with the help of other agencies, ACADIS was launched for DOC as their training management system and learning management system. It has now substantially increased their training abilities and has provided cost savings. Several law enforcement agencies around the state have now gotten on board with the ACADIS system as well, providing a more complete training database for law enforcement and enhancing form submissions, which has been especially helpful with reciprocity evaluations. Mr. Smith noted there is an ongoing project now to create training hubs around the state to facilitate more training opportunities. He thanked the staff at APSC for all their assistance.

9. OLD BUSINESS

Regulation Project Regarding Certificates:

ED Gamache reported that since the regulation changes in 13 AAC 85.045 – 13 AAC 85.237 of the Alaska Administrative Code dealing with certifications were adopted, APSC is now busy getting the word out about the new certifications available for police officers, municipal correctional officers, and probation, parole, and correctional officers. He then responded to questions.

Council Policy and Procedures:

ED Gamache reported that Policy and Procedure 13 regarding Open Meetings, Deliberative Sessions, and Executive Sessions and Policy and Procedure No. 14 regarding Recusals were e-mailed to all Council members. These policies were developed following direction by the Council at the December meeting. ED Gamache then reviewed the new policies and procedures and responded to questions.

It was moved and seconded to approve Policy and Procedure 13, Open Meetings, Deliberative Sessions, and Executive Sessions. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

It was moved and seconded to approve Policy and Procedure 14, Recusals. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Legislative Review:

ED Gamache provided a review of the status of SB53, an Act relating to accreditation standards for law enforcement agencies, earlier in his Executive Director's report.

Reciprocity Discussion:

Following discussion, it was decided that APSC would form a subgroup or committee to regularly review statutes and regulations for possible updates and/or changes. A review of reciprocity regulations was recommended as their first item of business. Jenna Gruenstein advised that APSC subgroup or committee meetings also require public notice to be compliant with the Open Meetings Act.

11. ADJOURN TO DELIBERATIVE SESSION

It was moved and seconded to adjourn to Deliberative Session under AS 44.62.310(d) to address Case Nos. 2016-38, 2024-17, 2023-21, 2024-03, 2024-06, 2024-13, 2024-14, 2024-19, 2024-20, 2024-24, 2024-27, 2024-28, 2024-42, 2025-08, 2025-09, 2025-10, 2022-14, and 2022-17. The parties, their attorneys, all members of the APSC staff, and all members of the public will be excluded from the Deliberative Session. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

12. CALL BACK TO ORDER – GENERAL SESSION

Following deliberations during Deliberative Session, Chair Hamon called the General Session back to order at 2:58 p.m.

A roll call was conducted, and all council members present at the start of the meeting remained in attendance.

13. BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELIBERATIVE SESSION

Council Consideration of Rescission Requests:

2016-38: It was moved and seconded that the Council deny the rescission request in Case 2016-38. The motion passed unanimously with 11 yes votes. Case subject: Benjamin Reed

Council Consideration of Probable Cause to Initiate Revocation Action:

2023-21: It was moved and seconded that the Council find probable cause to pursue revocation proceedings in Case 2023-21. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 11 yes votes. Case subject: David Martin Bower.

2024-03: It was moved and seconded that the Council find probable cause to pursue revocation proceedings in Case 2024-03. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with 9 yes votes and two abstentions, Dumont and Wilkerson. Case subject: Kevin Blessing.

2024-06: No action was taken.

2024-13: It was moved and seconded that the Council find probable cause to pursue revocation proceedings in Case 2024-13. A roll call vote was taken. The motion failed with 9 yes votes and two abstentions, Knapp and Wilkerson.

2024-14: It was moved and seconded that the Council find probable cause to pursue revocation proceedings in Case 2024-14. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with 9 yes votes and two abstentions, Knapp and Wilkerson. Case subject: Lawrence Sweat.

2024-19: It was moved and seconded that the Council find probable cause to pursue revocation proceedings in Case 2024-19. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with 10 yes votes and one abstention, Wilkerson. Case subject: Tanner Adams.

2024-20: It was moved and seconded that the Council find probable cause to pursue revocation proceedings in Case 2024-20. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with 10 yes votes and one abstention, Brown. Case subject: Randy Smith.

2024-24: It was moved and seconded that the Council find probable cause to pursue revocation proceedings in Case 2024-24. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 11 yes votes. Case subject: Davis Carson.

2024-27: It was moved and seconded that the Council find probable cause to pursue revocation proceedings in Case 2024-27. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with 9 yes votes and two abstentions, Knapp and Wilkerson. Case subject: Kurtis Woolery.

2024-28: It was moved and seconded that the Council find probable cause to pursue revocation proceedings in Case 2024-28. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with 9 yes votes and two abstentions, Knapp and Wilkerson. Case subject: Tresor Ayafor.

2024-42: It was moved and seconded that the Council find probable cause to pursue revocation proceedings in Case 2024-42. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 11 yes votes. Case subject: Clinton Scritchfield.

2025-08: It was moved and seconded that the Council find probable cause to pursue revocation proceedings in Case 2025-08. A roll call vote was taken. The motion failed with 10 no votes and one abstention, Brown.

2025-09: It was moved and seconded that the Council find probable cause to pursue revocation proceedings in Case 2025-09. A roll call vote was taken. The motion failed with 10 no votes and one abstention, Brown.

2025-10: It was moved and seconded that the Council find probable cause to pursue revocation proceedings in Case 2025-10. A roll call vote was taken. The motion failed with 10 no votes and one abstention, Brown.

Certificate Disqualification or Revocation Actions:

2022-14: It was moved and seconded that the Council revoke certification in Case 2022-14. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with 10 yes votes and one abstention: Wilkerson. Case subject: William Malone.

2022-17: It was moved and seconded that the Council issue an order of disqualification in Case 2022-17. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with 9 yes votes and two abstentions, Dutra and Wilkerson. Case subject: Brian Lee Jones.

14. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

There were no persons requesting to be heard.

15. COUNCIL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chief Dutra expressed his pleasure in being able to serve on the Council for six-plus years and thanked APSC staff and Council members for all of their help and assistance.

Chair Hamon welcomed new Council members Timothy Collins and DOC's commissioner's designee, April Wilkerson and expressed APSC's appreciation for their willingness to serve.

16. SCHEDULING OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 1st in Anchorage.

17. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by unanimous consent, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.