

Minutes

Meeting of The
Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy
Advisory Committee

2:00 P.M Wednesday, June 21, 2023,

Held In-Person
Initiated and chaired from
LRGVDC Main Campus - 301 W. Railroad St. Weslaco, Texas
Building B Ken Jones Executive Board Room
Presiding: Lieutenant Jesus Ortega

Chair Lieutenant Jesus Ortega called the meeting to order at 2:07 P.M. Roll call was taken by LRGVDC Chair Lieutenant Jesus Ortega, and a quorum of Advisory Committee member was attained.

Name	Agency/Organization	Attendance
Assistant Chief Michael	Edinburg Police Department -Voting Member	Present
Lieutenant Jesus Ortega	Hidalgo Police Department -Voting Member	Present
Chief Patrick Quill	Combes Police Department -Voting Member	Not Present
Chief Uvaldo Zamora	Raymondville Police Department -Voting Member	Present
Steve Guevara	TSTC-Veteran Services - Public Member	Not Present
Daisy Lopez	Friendship of Women Inc. - Public Member	Not Present
Gloria Ocampo	Friendship of Women Inc.- Public Member	Present
Ronald D. Mills	Port of Mansfield – Board Appointee	Present
Manuel Cruz	LRGVDC, Executive Director	Present
Sarah Dierlam	LRGVDC, Executive Asst. Director	Present
Gilbert Luna	Asst. Director / Training Coordinator	Present
Monic Galvan	Project Management Specialist	Present
Sara Casares	Administrative Assistant	Present

Item #2

2A: Consider Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes of November 5, 2021

Chairman Lieutenant Jesus Ortega moved to item 2a. Consideration of approval of Committee meeting minutes of November 5, 2021.

Board Appointee Ronaldo Mills made a motion to approve Meeting Minutes for November 5, 2021, as presented. Public Member Gloria Ocampo seconded the motion and upon a vote the motions were carried unanimously.

2B: Consider Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2022

Chairman Lieutenant Jesus Ortega moved to item B. Consideration of approval of Committee meeting minutes of August 20,2022.

Chief Uvaldo Zamora made a motion to approve Meeting Minutes for August 20, 2022, as presented. Assistant Chief Michael Cerda second the motion and upon a vote the motions were carried unanimously.

Item #3: Administration

3A: Consideration and Action to approve revisions to the LRGV Academy BPOC Handbook

Chairman Lieutenant Jesus Ortega moved to item 3A. Consideration and Action to approve revisions to the LRGV Academy BPOC Handbook

Gilbert explains the importance for the updates in the handbook to the committee. Lt Ortega requests an elaboration of changes requested by the current cadets in the academy. Monic Galvan clarifies these requested changes of the Handbook are from add On's from minutes in 2021 under appendix 1. Gilbert Luna explains the current issues the Academy is facing with completion for exposure of less than legal devices. Lt Ortega requests clarification for surrounding BPOC Academies on completion of the less than lethal devices to complete the class. Gilbert confirms agencies such as McAllen and STC policies of exposure. Lt Ortegass expresses concerns of liability from TCOLE for excessive use of force by training instructors. Gilbert Luna explains the safety measures provided during exposure. Manuel Cruz shares exceptions for these exposures. Ronaldo Mills asks for clarification for the level of exposure regarding the less lethal use of force certificates involving OC Spray. Gilbert clarifies exposure level to be the low level of exposure and the spray point at the forehead and not the cadet's eye. Zamora states it is helpful for the police agencies for cadets to hold these certificates.

Board Appointee Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the consideration and Action to approve revisions to the LRGV Academy BPOC Handbook, as presented. Public Member Gloria Ocampo seconded the motion and upon a vote the motions were carried unanimously.

3B: Consideration and Action to approve revisions to the LRGV Academy Instructor Contract

Chairman Lieutenant Jesus Ortega moved to item 3B. Consideration and Action to approve revisions to the LRGV Academy Instructor Contract

Gilbert Luna explains the revisions for the instructor contract and request for a pay increase. Mr. Luna clarifies the requirements for each hourly rate and maximum reported hours per curriculum. Gloria Ocampo requests clarification regarding funding on instructor contract, she expresses concern on funding availability. Mr. Luna clarifies the Academy is grant based and these are projected costs for instructor pay. Manuel Cruz clarifies the direction of funding for the instructor contract and competitive pay. Gilbert Luna directs the committee to the pay table and the breakdown of the required instructor presence for specific classes. Mr. Ortega

states the board is unable to approve salary pay. Mr. Luna provides clarification of approval for the contract, not the pay. Mr. Cruz confirms the approval of the contract and not the pay.

Chief Uvaldo Zamora made a motion to approve revisions to the LRGV Academy Instructor Contract, as presented. Board Appointee Ronald Mills second the motion and upon a vote the motions were carried unanimously.

3C: Consideration and Action to approve the creation of the Physical Agility and Fitness Pilot Program

Chairman Lieutenant Jesus Ortega moved to item 3C. Consideration and Action to approve the creation of the Physical Agility and Fitness Pilot Program

Mr. Luna requests permission to collect data to establish a standard of physical agility. Mr. Cruz requests clarification regarding application eligibility. Mr. Luna clarifies the importance of the agility test.

Board Appointee Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the consideration and Action to approve the creation of the Physical Agility and Fitness Pilot Program, as presented. Chief Uvaldo Zamora seconded the motion and upon a vote the motions were carried unanimously.

3D: Consideration and Action to approve revisions to MOU for extension services for Academy site(s)

Chairman Lieutenant Jesus Ortega moved to item 3D. Consideration and Action to approve revisions to MOU for extension services for Academy site(s)

Mr. Luna explains the breakdown for the updates for the MOU contracts. Mr. Luna clarifies the responsibilities of the contracted department and the LRDVDC and sets a standard for the academy minimum capacity.

Chief Uvaldo Zamora made a motion to approve the Consideration and Action to approve revisions to MOU for extension services for Academy site(s), as presented. Board Appointee Ronald Mills second the motion and upon a vote the motions were carried unanimously.

3E: Consideration and Action to approve implementation of MOU for reporting services.

Chairman Lieutenant Jesus Ortega moved to item 3E. Consideration and Action to approve implementation of MOU for reporting services.

Mr. Luna explains a questionnaire to our local agencies was distributed and a need for reporting was identified. Mr. Luna identifies the difference between the MOU contracts for reporting services. Chairman Lieutenant Jesus Ortega shares concerns for oversight of instruction and false rosters. Mr. Luna verifies a liaison will ensure guidelines are met and clarifies the procedures on the MOU compliances.

Chief Uvaldo Zamora made a motion to approve the consideration and Action to approve implementation of MOU for reporting services, as presented. Public Member Gloria Ocampo seconded the motion and upon a vote the motions were carried unanimously.

3F: Consideration and Action to approve implementation of MOU for TCOLE Law Enforcement Training Services

Chairman Lieutenant Jesus Ortega moved to item 3F. Consideration and Action to approve implementation of MOU for TCOLE Law Enforcement Training Services

Mr. Luna breaks down the MOU portion for training services and clarifies the agreements between the LRDGVC and the department contract template. Chairman Lieutenant Jesus Ortega requests to add an amendment for a template instead of changing the MOU for training services.

Board Appointee Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the consideration and Action to approve implementation of MOU for TCOLE Law Enforcement Training Services, as presented. Chief Uvaldo Zamora seconded the motion and upon a vote the motions were carried unanimously.

3G: Training Coordinators Report

Chairman Lieutenant Jesus Ortega moved to item 3G. Training Coordinators Report

Mr. Luna gives a breakdown of graduating cadets from Oct 2022 to current. Additionally, Mr. Luna provides a breakdown of starting BPOC academies in the upcoming months. Mr. Luna explains the licensing exam pass rate for the last fiscal year is a 74.44% passing rate on first attempts. The new Curriculum in summer 2022 provided a new passing rate of 95% with an overall average passing rate of 84%. Mr. Luna provides information on approval for veteran benefits in each academy site. Mr. Luna provides a breakdown on Academy vehicle donations. Mr. Luna states he implemented a paperless service to transfer records and files. Mr. Luna advises he implement a digital calendar for In-Service classes as well. Ms. Galvan provided details on the upcoming Law Enforcement Recruiting Fair. Mr. Mills asks if the academy has something in place to help find employment for graduating cadets. Mr. Mills suggests having a quarterly meeting to ensure agency engagement and support. Mr. Cruz states we will have quarterly meetings starting in 2024.

Item #4: Old or New Business

Manuel Cruz promoted the Public Safety Seminar and provided further information about registration. Monic Galvan advises one member resigned and a civilian spot is now open.

Item #5: Adjourn

Chairman Lieutenant Jesus Ortega moved to adjourn meeting. Chief Patrick Quill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Assistant Chief Michael Cerda second the motion and upon a vote the motions carried unanimously. Chairman Ortega adjourned the meeting at 3:21pm.