

ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND STANDARDS BOARD
500 S. 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING
Holiday Inn & Suites, 101 Holiday St., East Peoria, IL 61611

June 4, 2026
9:00 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The June 4, 2026 Quarterly Board meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Vice Chair John Idleburg.

II. PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Public Meeting Announcement was read by John Keigher after the moment of silence for fallen officers.

III. ROLL CALL ~ ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Roll was called by Michelle Mlinar, and a quorum of voting members was established.

Members in Attendance:

Mitchell Davis
Nora Gomez
Dustin Heuerman
John Idleburg
Carla Redd
Timothy Tyler
DeShawn Williams

Designees in Attendance:

Michael Schassburger for Thomas Dart
Steven Ryan for Latoya Hughes
Malissa Feld for Brendan Kelly
Karla Johnson for Larry Snelling

Members Absent:

Jo Ann Armenta
Richard Ciganek
Ghida Neukirch
Kwame Raoul
Victoria Scaman
Sean Smoot
Mariyana Spyropoulos

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR FALLEN OFFICERS

VI. INTRODUCTIONS OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

VII. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

None at this time.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Tyler, seconded by Gomez, and carried by all members present to approve the meeting minutes for the Curriculum and School Standards Advisory Committee Meeting from March 4, 2026, the Joint Finance & Legislative Committee and Executive Committee Meeting minutes from February 27, 2026 and March 4, 2026, and the Quarterly Board Meeting minutes from March 5, 2026.

IX. REPORT OF STANDING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. Curriculum and School Standards Advisory Committee ~ Mitchell Davis

Davis reported the Committee met yesterday. They approved the Juvenile Officer 16-Hour Specialized course. The Committee also approved both the In-Service training courses submitted through the Mobile Team Units & Executive Institute, and the Lead Homicide Investigators 32-Hour Continuing Education Courses from February 21, 2026 through May 4, 2026. Paul Petty presented the Police Chaplain Program, and John Keigher presented the Juvenile Officer Certification Program, both of which are recommended for approval by the Board.

B. Joint Finance & Legislative & Executive Committee ~ John Idleburg

Idleburg reported the Committee met yesterday. He noted the FY26 camera grant program awarded 137 agencies roughly \$20M in awards which is the largest camera grant total since the program update in 2018. The FY26 training budget was over \$128M, and the Board's expenditures as of April 30, 2026 were just over \$51M which is 40% of the budget. Regarding personnel matters, Amber Nevill assumed the role of HR Labor Relations Manager on April 1st, and she reported the Board has 58 employees, with seven job postings in the pipeline. Idleburg stated the Legislative and Litigation update will be given later in this meeting.

Motion was made by Redd, seconded by Heuerman, and carried by all members present to approve the Curriculum and School Standards Advisory Committee report, and the Joint Finance & Legislative and Executive Committee report.

X. EXECUTIVE MATTERS

A. Financial Items ~ Courtney Bott

Bott noted Tab F contains the breakdown of FY26 expenditures and cash flow analysis through April 30, 2026. She stated the Board has consumed roughly 40% of its appropriated budget for FY26, and it is anticipated to close out the year around 60%.

The FY26 camera grant application period closed on December 31, 2025. The grant team received 183 applications requesting roughly \$37.9M in funding. This grant opportunity awarded 137 agencies roughly \$20M in awards which is the largest camera grant total since the SAFE-T Act program update in 2018.

HB 111 SAM 3 passed both houses on June 1, 2026 and is headed to the Governor to finalize the FY27 Budget. This bill included increased headcount to fulfill the SAFE-T Act, additional funding for law enforcement training, and cashflow shifts due to fluctuations in revenue streams.

The In-Service funding for FY27 was presented. Bott noted that it is intended to also include salary adjustments to ensure parity across the MTU Directors, which mirrors ILETSB's budget request therefore the Board should be fully funded for FY27.

Motion was made by Davis, seconded by Redd, and carried by all members present to approve the Fiscal Report.

B. Personnel Matters & DEIA Report ~ Amber Nevill

Nevill directed attention to Tab G in the Board book. She then introduced herself as the recently appointed Board staff member to replace Ellen Petty, effective April 1, 2026, and provided a brief overview of her professional background.

Nevill reported total staff headcount is currently at 58 as of June 1, 2026, and seven positions are currently posted.

Motion was made by Gomez, seconded by Redd, and carried by all members present to approve the Personnel Matters & DEIA Report.

C. Legislative and Litigation Update ~ John Keigher

Keigher stated that several bills were stalled during the legislative session with the exception of HB 3798. It requires the CIT courses to include a reference to CESSA and 988 options if available in a particular region.

Keigher also noted the budget passed providing the Board with the requested amount for FY27 spending. Accompanying HB 111 was SB 3508 which extended the Board's revenue base for an additional 10 years.

SB 2323 (PA 104-159) was passed last year requiring the Board to establish guidelines related to human trafficking. Staff have been working with the Illinois State Police, and the guidelines will be posted to the Board's website before the July 1, 2026 deadline.

Finally, Keigher mentioned two new cases have been filed and both involve the new decertification and review process. The first one is from an officer seeking to proceed in court rather than through the Board's hearing process. The second one, also seeking to proceed in court, is an appeal of the waiver denial that the Waiver Review Committee finalized at the last meeting.

D. Division of Professional Standards

1. *Notice of Violations ~ Kent Bragg*

Bragg reported staff has received an additional 318 complaints during the period of February 1 through April 30, 2026, for a total of 415 complaints received in 2026. In comparison, as of April 30, 2025, staff received a total of 89 complaints, this is an increase of 326 complaints.

2. *Waiver Disposition Quarterly Report ~ Kent Bragg*

Bragg noted the Waiver and Reactivation Disposition Report can be found under Tab H in the Board book. He noted the report has been broken into five separate reports. The reporting period for all reports is February 1, 2026 through April 30, 2026. During this time the Certification department processed a total of 443 waiver requests, with 420 requests approved and 23 requests denied. A breakdown of the processed waivers is as follows:

a. Municipal - Law Enforcement: 283 waivers approved; 11 denied

Motion was made by Tyler, seconded by Williams, with Redd, and Johnson recusing, and carried by all other members present to approve the Municipal Law Enforcement Waiver Disposition Report.

b. Counties:

- County Police Deputies: 52 waivers approved; 2 denied
- Correctional Officers: 21 approved, 5 denied
- Court Security Officers: 18 approved, 2 denied

Motion was made by Tyler, seconded by Redd, with Heuerman, Idleburg and Schassburger recusing, and carried by all other members present to approve the County Law Enforcement, Corrections and Court Security Waiver Disposition Report.

- c. State & Others - Law Enforcement: 69 approved, 3 denied

Motion was made by Tyler, seconded by Redd, with Ryan, Schassburger, and Feld recusing, and carried by all other members present to approve the State & Others Law Enforcement Waiver Disposition Report.

3. *Decertification ~ Pat Hahn*

Hahn stated his report on Nondiscretionary and Voluntary Decertification Cases can be found under Tab I in the Board book. He then presented the 2 officers listed in his report who have received convictions, and the one officer who submitted a voluntary request for decertification (shown below). He stated notice was given to all, a chance to respond was given to all, and none responded. Hahn asked that they be stricken from the list of certified officers in the State of Illinois:

Nondiscretionary:

1. Officer Bartholomew O. Ilenikhena (65148710)
2. Officer Michael Joseph Rhein (65151164)

Voluntary:

1. Officer Landen H. Graham (65146286)

Hahn then gave a brief description of Discretionary Decertification and noted in 2025 the Board received 499 Form Qs to review and process with more than 500 being received by the beginning of June 2026. There are currently five formal complaints pending, with the first hearing scheduled for next week in Chicago. Hahn discussed the new hearing portal and thanked all those critical to the success of the program. Hahn noted that staff have executed 18 written refusals to reactivate and of those nine have filed formal appeals for hearings with one being dismissed by the ALJ, and one has been withdrawn by the officer's attorney. Staff have received one emergency suspension due to the officer being convicted of a felony and automatically decertified as a matter of law. Finally, Hahn noted that the administrative hearings have begun.

Davis noted that he would like to have further discussion at some point regarding the issue of officers applying for a lateral move as soon as they exit the academy.

Motion was made by Gomez, seconded by Davis, and carried by all other members present to approve the Decertification Report.

4. *Verification Update ~ David Catlin*

Catlin introduced himself, he is the Special Projects Policy Advisor. He reported that work on the SAFE-T Act verification section is nearing completion for the

A–G verification group. Of the 11,718 officers in the initial verification pool, only 126 verifications remain outstanding, resulting in a 98.92% completion rate. The next step is to conduct targeted follow-up with the remaining agencies before beginning the audit phase and preparing the next verification sweep (H–O). Final A–G verification numbers are expected within the next few weeks.

Motion was made by Tyler, seconded by Redd, and carried by all other members present to approve the Verification Report.

Director Calloway made note that the mission of this project was never about decertification or to make officers inactive. He stated this has always been about compliance, and the Board’s role is to be helpful and supportive.

It was also noted that a large part of the one percent that are not compliant are made up of officers currently out on extended leave.

XI. PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONCEPTS

A. Illinois Law Enforcement Executive Institute ~ Heather Hotz

Hotz reported on several recent training and professional development initiatives. The 17th Annual Women in Criminal Justice Conference was held in April with record-breaking attendance and keynote speakers. Attendees completed more than 2,300 mandated training hours, and the conference included a preconference de-escalation session and a banquet recognizing excellence in the profession.

Hotz reported significant growth in the Online Learning Network (OLN). Over the past five years, OLN has delivered an average of 228,400 training hours annually, totaling more than 1.16 million hours and representing 30% growth. Compared to ten years ago, annual course completions have increased from approximately 1,500 to more than 100,000, while annual training hours have increased from 9,600 to 249,000. This represents a nearly 6,557% increase in participation and more than a 2,482% increase in training hours. Future OLN efforts will focus on modernization, enhancements, and course updates.

Hotz also provided an update on the Executive Summits series, launched in late 2020 to provide leadership and command-level training. Programming has increased 300% since FY22, with an additional 65% increase in offerings during the past year. A brief discussion followed around a new offering for established chiefs and sheriffs that was very well received by attendees.

B. A Statewide System of In-Service Training (ASSIST) Program ~ Paul Petty

Petty noted his report can be found under Tab K in the Board book. He reported 4,239 classes totaling over 28,000 hours which is an increase of over 6,000 hours and over 600 classes, in all 97,103 officers were trained in over 357,000 hours. The three fundamental areas reported to the Governor’s office are training officer per

hour, training day for the officer per hour and the instructional per hour cost. These three items continue to stay about 15% less than anticipated, however they did rise by about 1% this past quarter mainly for the rush to complete verification. Petty then recognized two MTU directors expected to retire in June, Penny Abbott from MTU 9 and Brad Oyer from MTU 13.

C. CIT, Mental Health Training & Therapy Dog Initiative Update ~ John Keigher for Jennifer Wooldridge

Keigher stated that Deputy Director Wooldridge is currently in Florida for training and to share the new Illinois CIT Crisis Response Therapy dog certification program. From her notes Keigher reported the statewide CIT and mental health training programs continue to experience strong interest, with FY27 proposals being received for CIT, mental health awareness, peer support, officer wellness, de-escalation, co-responder, and therapy dog trainings. Recent efforts included a statewide CIT instructor retreat and a successful CIT Concepts train-the-trainer course focused on consistency, collaboration, and best practices. Significant progress was also reported on the CIT Crisis Response Therapy Dog certification program following the Board's adoption of certification parameters in December. Illinois hosted the nation's first law enforcement CIT Crisis Response Therapy Dog certification program in April in Cook County, certifying 11 therapy canine teams representing seven agencies through an intensive three-day program. The program continues to expand, with additional certification opportunities and growing statewide interest.

In partnership with the Cook County Sheriff's Office Tails of Redemption, key components of Public Act 104-106 have been implemented, including online certification applications, statewide outreach materials, and dedicated contact information for communities seeking therapy dog assistance. Therapy dog teams also participated in numerous outreach, wellness, school, conference, airport, and remembrance events throughout the state, providing comfort and strengthening community relationships. The Illinois program has received national recognition through invitations to present at CIT International and the International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference, highlighting Illinois' leadership in CIT, crisis response, and therapy dog initiatives.

D. Specialized Programs Update ~ Paul Petty for Barbara Wood

Petty noted the report can be found under Tab M of the Board book. It includes Lead Homicide Investigator and School Resource Officer items, and the courses for specialized training.

E. Basic & Part-Time Training Update ~ Ryan Snow

Snow stated his report can be found under Tab N in the Board book and announced a new head of the Chicago Police Academy, Karla Johnson. He introduced Deputy Chief Johnson and gave a brief description of her educational and work background. Snow also reported on strategic outlook and asked the Board for their insight and guidance moving forward. He asked members to prioritize what they would like to see in the academy system and to contact him with any suggestions.

Chief Davis asked about an academy in the Cook County, south suburbs area and Chief Schassburger responded that his academy will have a Metro South Academy class beginning the end of August at their Moraine Valley location.

F. Information Technology Update ~ Kelly Ingram

Kelly, whose report can be found under Tab O, reported that the InformaCast system was implemented at the end of March, noting that ILETSB is only one of three state agencies implementing and maintaining their own information emergency service. Staff is in the primary stages of implementing Windows Server 2025, and the “Always-On” VPN Services are in the planning stages and will be implemented post completion of the firewall upgrades.

Motion was made by Tyler, seconded by Heuerman, and carried by all members present to approve the Program Progress Reports.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. SAFE-T Act Update ~ John Keigher

Keigher reported that the Board conducted its first evidentiary hearing related to discretionary decertification. It was held in April, with an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) decision expected soon. A second hearing is scheduled for the following week, with additional hearings planned throughout the summer. The Board also noted that the verification process has been successful during its first year and that corresponding reports will be developed as required under the SAFE-T Act. These activities represent some of the final major implementation requirements under the Act.

Looking ahead, staff plan to review internal notes and recommendations regarding Administrative Rules to organize procedures and provide ongoing guidance. Stakeholder input will also be solicited, with a comprehensive proposal of rules and policies expected to be presented to the Board in September. Despite recent critical coverage of the SAFE-T Act’s implementation, Keigher noted that the Board’s work and progress have been positively recognized, reflecting significant behind-the-scenes efforts and strong stakeholder relationships. Keigher expects to provide further updates in September as staff move into the next phase of implementation.

B. Military Reciprocity Update ~ John Keigher

Keigher noted that a draft of the Administrative Rules will be presented at the September meeting. Staff reported that the Department of Military Affairs advised that some National Guard members now complete military police training at Fort Leonard Wood under the training plan approved in last year’s policy revision. Based on this information, staff are requesting an amendment to Board policy to allow National Guard members who meet the Board’s training and experience requirements to qualify under the Out-of-State Trained Reciprocity Process and Military Law Enforcement Reciprocity Policy. Applications will require an individual history review and will be processed on a case-by-case basis. Keigher requested

approval to include: *Reciprocity applications from members of the National Guard and Reserve components, to be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis.*

Motion was made by Davis, seconded by Schassburger, and carried by all members present to approve the Military Reciprocity Updated language.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Police Chaplain Program ~ Paul Petty

Petty reported that the training department was tasked with identifying a standardized training program to support police chaplains throughout Illinois and identified the International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC) as a suitable program. Established in 1973 by the U.S. Department of Justice, ICPC provides standardized training and continuing education for chaplains in 20 countries, with the Midwest as its largest service region. In March, the training department attended ICPC's annual conference in Springfield, Illinois to review its curriculum and continuing education opportunities. Petty noted that a memo and additional information regarding ICPC are included under Tab K in the Board book and asked for the Board's support in recognizing ICPC as a training resource for Illinois police chaplains. Chief Davis expressed support for the program, noting that ICPC's President is from Chicago Heights and that the program is non-denominational, allowing chaplains of any religious denomination to benefit.

Motion was made by Gomez, seconded by Heuerman, and carried by all members present to recognize the ICPC [as a resource] which has a curriculum that chaplains statewide can look to and continue their education, and serve the law enforcement community.

B. Juvenile Officer Program ~ John Keigher

Keigher reported that the Board has discussed reviewing the Juvenile Officer designation and related training requirements, noting that the designation currently has no continuing education or update requirements. Following a review of the statutory provisions, it was determined that the Board has the authority to establish training requirements, including periodic updates, for Juvenile Officers. The proposed requirements would require agencies seeking to officially appoint a Juvenile Officer under the Juvenile Court Act to report the appointment to the Board and require officers to complete 16 hours of updated training every four years, in addition to the initial training. This is similar to the current process for SROs and Lead Homicide Officers. Board staff will begin developing administrative rules and will seek input from stakeholders and the public throughout the process. Keigher noted he will present more details at the September meeting.

During the discussion that followed, it was noted that the Juvenile Officers program was created approximately 30 years ago and that the existing statutory

language allows the Board to move forward with the proposal, with the Juvenile Court Act establishing the framework and deferring to the Board regarding training requirements. The proposal would also establish a reporting requirement for Juvenile Officers, as they are not currently required to report to the Board. It is estimated that there may be between 1,000 and 6,000+ Juvenile Officers statewide. When asked, Director Calloway clarified that the Board does not track Illinois State Police (ISP) officers' training nor do they have any involvement in their training, therefore the proposal would not affect ISP officers. He further noted that if an ISP officer leaves their agency and seeks to come under the Board's jurisdiction, the officer would be required to complete the waiver review process, consistent with other officers. Calloway stated that the goal of this program is to ensure compliance while supporting successful implementation. The Illinois Sheriffs' Association requested an opportunity to speak on the matter and Board member Sheriff Heuerman requested that additional research be completed to assess statewide implications for sheriff's offices, including required training hours and the approval process.

Motion was made by Davis, seconded by Heuerman, and carried by all members present to have the Board convene a working group inclusive of ISP and the Sheriff's Association, and others to create a framework to bring back to the Board at the next meeting to be considered for Juvenile Officer training.

XIV. PUBLIC INPUT

- A. Andrew Janetzke stated that he recently attended an Open Meetings Act seminar and recommended that the following proposed re-wording of the Public Input rules for Board and Committee meetings be adopted: *The floor will now be open for public comment. The Board asks that these comments remain under three minutes each, be relevant to the ~~meeting~~ business of the Board, and remain respectful to all.*

Motion was made by Heuerman, seconded by Gomez, and carried by all members present to approve the proposed re-wording of the Public Input rules for Board and Committee meetings.

- B. Vice Chair Idleburg noted there were no public comments at this time.

XV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Chair Idleburg announced the next Curriculum and School Standards Advisory Committee, and the Joint Finance & Legislative and Executive Committee meetings will be held on September 9, 2026, and the next Quarterly Board meeting will be held September 10, 2026 in the Metro East Area.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Before the Board moved to adjourn Chief Tyler recognized Chief Mitchell Davis, and stated that in July, Chief Davis will take his place as President of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)

Motion was made by Tyler, seconded by Heuerman, and carried by all members present to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

