

Colorado Rangers  
Colorado Law Enforcement Reserve ("CLER")  
Board of Directors Meeting  
December 13, 2019

**Location:** El Jebel Shriners' building, 3443 S Galena Street, Suite 250, Denver, CO 80231

**Commencement:** 1000 MST, Pledge of Allegiance at 1004.

Chairman Lambert expressed appreciation for the Ranger's performance recently in Ft. Lupton providing support and security after a Ft. Lupton police officer was injured by a criminal assailant. Captain Moncivais and Lieutenant Snyder's efforts were especially noted.

**Attendance (Board):** Senator Kent Lambert, Senator John Cooke (via telephone), Chief Abramson, Chief Malanka. Chief Hassler was ill and could not attend.

**Attendance (CLER Command & Support Staff):** Deputy Chief Robert Pabst, Operations Division Chief Michael Morgan, Support Division Chief Cleve Tidwell, General Counsel Ken Willis, Troop Captain Robert Gray, Troop Captain Darrell Collins, Troop Captain Idilio Moncivais, Ranger Norm Townley, Controller; Ranger Michael Hirschman, Professional Standards Officer; Ranger Carl Luppens, Board Secretary.

**Call to Order:** Senator Lambert called the meeting to order and took roll call; all board members were present, except Chief Hassler, recognized a quorum in attendance, and opened the meeting for official business at 1005.

**Announcement of new General Counsel:** Chief Abramson introduced Ken Willis as the new general counsel.

**Review and Approval of Agenda:** The proposed agenda was unanimously approved.

**Approval of September 20th, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes:** Senator Lambert moved to approve, Senator Cooke seconded and the motion to approve the September 20<sup>th</sup> minutes, as submitted, was passed unanimously by voice vote.

**Opening Comments:** Chief Abramson described the excellent reviews the Rangers have received from partner agencies. Senator Lambert emphasized the necessity of putting out the Ranger's message to the broader public. Captain Moncivais has implanted an extensive social media program that has resulted in 330 inquiries from potential new Rangers.

Chief Abramson stated that the Rangers now have 29 or 30 mutual aid agreements in place (exact number depends on agreements out for signature) with more agencies interested in engaging the Rangers for 2020. Operating costs are covered, and the Rangers are healthy financially.

**Academy Update Report:** Academy 8 graduates will be sworn in on December 14<sup>th</sup> at the annual Rangers Summit. Academy 9 will be the sole academy offered in 2020 and it will start right after Memorial Day with 40 to 50 candidates. 16 hours of Patrol Rifle and 8 hours Shotgun will be added to the curriculum and available for all existing Rangers to add valuable qualifications. Ranger volunteer instructors have saved CLER over \$160,000 in training costs at Flatrock and this is a credit with Adams

County. Chief Abramson expressed concern that it may be very difficult to maintain this credit with Adams County due to Homeland Security grant procedures and other issues. Senator Lambert mentioned the Colorado Department of Public Safety and his work with the State Budget Committee and Homeland Security.

The new Ranger's Advanced Training Opportunity was announced. This will be a "second seat" active patrol support program and not just a "ride along" program.

Senator Lambert emphasized the value of having a second officer with some of the rural counties, like El Paso, where, at night, officers may be alone 1.5 hours from their headquarters and effective "backup".

Captain Gray stated that Douglas County is very appreciative of the Rangers providing valuable support at the STEM School incident and the Douglas County Fair where there were multiple combative situations. They are willing to provide Full FTO training which could result in Rangers providing solo patrol service.

**Deputy Chief Report:** Deputy Chief Robert Pabst presented a report showing 23,118 hours of service with 1,560 hours of instructor work from January 1, 2019 through December 12, 2019.

**Operations Division Report:** Division Chief Michael Morgan reported that 84 Rangers served 999 shifts on 186 callouts so far in 2019. A retired police officer with 20 years of full-time service may become the Ranger's in house FTO officer.

**Support Division Report:** Ranger Norman Townley, Controller, presented updated financial statements and reported that the Rangers currently have \$87,015 in its checking account.

Support Division Chief Cleve Tidwell reported that there are 46 recruits currently in process for the 2020 academy, which will be the ninth Ranger police officer training academy.

Chairman Lambert emphasized that recruiting and training must support both the "replacement" and the "expansion" needs of the Rangers long term. We might expect a 20% turnover rate.

Division Chief Cleve Tidwell discussed the potential expansion of the Rangers to the West Slope of Colorado with a need for a hub in the Mountains.

#### **New Business:**

Chairman Lambert discussed the fact that the Rangers were not yet prepared to deploy Puerto Rico for security after the hurricane but now we may be capable of such a deployment under the Department of Homeland Security. CLER is now officially listed as a "resource" for Homeland Security but we still need to accumulate resources, like radios, for major out of state deployments. Ranger Hirschman is working with Alex Warbel with Motorola for a grant for 700 and 800 MHz DTR system radios. A discussion followed.

Chief Malanka discussed CLER's ability to grant "Full" police officer status to fully POST certified Rangers and made a motion to temporarily suspend granting full police officer status to any Ranger. The motion failed from lack of a "second".

A discussion regarding the formation of the Rangers, a potential opinion from the state Attorney General, the prior general counsel and other issues ensued regarding IGA paragraph 1.3 and Policy and Procedure provision 4.2.1.

Senator Lambert moved that the new Rangers' general counsel perform a comprehensive review of Chief Malanka and Robert Lee's issues and present a written analysis at the next CLER Board meeting. Chief Malanka seconded the motion, which passed unanimously on voice vote with no opposition. Senator Lambert asked Chief Malanka if he would accept and abide by the General Counsel's opinion and Chief Malanka agreed that he would.

**Public Comment:**

Senator Lambert opened the meeting for comments from the public at 1210. Division Chief Morgan, Captain Gray, Captain Moncivais, Ranger Scott Wood all discussed Chief Malanka's issue regarding any Rangers serving with full police officer status as opposed to reserve status.

There was no other public comments.

**Next Meeting:** Recommended for Friday 21 February 2020, 10am, at the same location as today's meeting: El Jebel Shriners' building, 3443 S Galena Street, Suite 250, Denver, CO 80231. The following 2020 board meetings will be in May, prior to the busy Summer callout season with the subsequent meeting in the Fall after the busy Summer period.

**Closing Comments:** Chief Abramson stated that CLER, the Board and the Command Staff all have "got your back" and supports the Rangers all the time.

**Adjournment:** By unanimous consent the public meeting was adjourned at 1214.