

## Colorado Rangers (“CLER”) Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

10:00 AM, Friday, April 29, 2022

CLER Headquarters

330 Park Avenue

Ft. Lupton, CO 80621

**Attendance – Board of Directors:** Senator Kent Lambert (via video teleconference), Marshal Larry Johns (in person) and Chief Ronald Abramson (in person). Senator John Cooke and Chief John Fryar were not in attendance and excused for good cause.

**Attendance – CLER Command Staff & Support Staff:** Deputy Chief Robert Pabst (in person), CLER Controller, Ranger Norm Townley (in person), and Board Secretary Ranger Carl Luppens (via teleconference).

There was a Ranger in attendance but no members of the public present.

At 10:00 Chairman Lambert called the meeting to order and took roll. Chairman Lambert declared a quorum and the meeting began.

Chief Abramson moved for the approval of the minutes of the February 25, 2022 CLER Board of Director’s meeting as presented, Senator Lambert seconded the motion, and the minutes were adopted by unanimous consent.

Chairman Lambert invited Chief Abramson to provide an overview of the meeting and issues to review.

Chief Abramson stated that there had been a strong start to 2022. Even though the “busy season” for the Rangers starts in about 30 days, this has been the most active early part of the year yet. Louisville fire related security has been significant as has Nederland, and Denver Police Department has requested Ranger support for every major public event. Chief Hassler in Woodland Park has also requested significant Ranger service even prior to the traditional busy Summer months.

### Chief’s Report

Chief Abramson reported that planning for the Summer of 2022 has been significant and that Ranger Academy Class 9 has been successfully integrated into Ranger troop operations. As has been the case of each of Chief Abramson’s twelve years of service, July 4th will be extremely busy. Every Ranger understands that this holiday is an “all hands on deck” circumstance and to plan their schedules accordingly. Virtually each of the more than two dozen jurisdictions we work with requests Ranger support over the 4th of July holiday for public events. Glendale has a very large fireworks show with approximately 50,000 attendees but, fortunately, it is typically a couple days in advance of the actual 4th so Rangers can work it as well as other events on the 4th proper.

Chairman Lambert observed that these events provide great visibility of the Rangers statewide and especially in rural communities.

Chief Abramson then provided updated information on the Body Worn Camera Program. The Rangers received the third largest police agency grant for body worn cameras in the State of Colorado. This grant recognizes that the Rangers are regarded as a very significant “value add” to law enforcement statewide.

The Ranger body worn camera program rolls out next week at the monthly troop briefings on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, over a full year ahead of the legally required timing. T-Mobile personnel have been working with Ranger command staff to prepare and train. It was acknowledged that it may take some time and effort for the Rangers to acclimate to actuating their individual cameras since so much of

the Ranger activities are not instances when body worn cameras need to be activated pursuant to legal requirements.

Activation is required when Rangers are “engaged in calls for service or enforcement and investigations” and that, since most Ranger interaction with the public is casual or incidental contact, it need not be filmed. Per the law, Colorado Senate Bill 22-217, “A peace officer shall wear and activate a body-worn camera when responding to a call for service or during any interaction with the public initiated by the peace officer when enforcing the law or investigating possible violations of the law.”

Chairman Lambert identified the concern that body worn camera filming may inadvertently effect citizens’ privacy. He asked if the new body worn camera filming requirements will require amendments to the Ranger By-Laws?

Chief Abramson responded that no changes were required immediately since all bodycam requirements will be mandated by command Orders to Rangers and subsequently will be incorporated into the P&P. The vast majority of Ranger work is traffic control, officer presence, patrol and other public event functions with more limited calls for service and/or enforcement/investigations of the law. He “guessed” that the total annual hours of body worn camera footage required to be retained would be very limited to between 100 and 200 hours for the rest of the year, but is curious to see where the actual number ends up. The issue is that, when cameras are required to be activated, Chief Abramson reiterated that IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THEY ARE ACTIVATED. There are negative inferences if the interactions are not filmed and Rangers risk losing their POST credentials as well as causing personal and agency liabilities.

Chairman Lambert further commented that, as a member of the Policy Board of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, the world’s largest professional technical organization, that accidental recording of public events and other unintentional and inadvertent recordings (like with Ring doorbells) could be illegal invasions of privacy. Could there be liability? It is important that Rangers know when cameras should be off.

Chief Abramson said that the Rangers will train for privacy as well as activation.

Marshal Johns asked about capacity for redaction of video.

Chief Abramson responded that Command has those controls built in.

Marshal Johns stated that Nederland has not experienced any issues yet but that witness identification at parades and the like can be very valuable. He suggested that perhaps these privacy issues will be resolved in larger Police departments like LAPD and NYPD.

Chairman Lambert mentioned that the LAPD and the NYPD could better absorb the legal implications of these issues. He suggested that unintentional filming at, for example, a coffee shop could be claimed to be a “warrantless search”. Guidance should be fairly strict since incident commentary is always directed against police. He suggested that Rangers report “up the chain of command” so Command can potentially redact video if required.

Marshal Johns advised that required retention periods should be observed and recordings discarded when appropriate.

Chairman Lambert stated that filming usage should be documented and the Rangers “keep an eye” on lessons learned. We interact with numerous agencies and so should be exposed to their policies and procedures.

Chief Abramson stated that, even though the first months of the year are traditionally slower than mid-year, the Rangers have already provided nearly 5,000 hours of public service.

Chairman Lambert asked about Louisville post fire service?

Chief Abramson explained that the Rangers were drawing down from Louisville fire impacted area security but could be transitioning to more regular patrol operations with Louisville. The Louisville Chief has been very supportive of Ranger service and has indicated that he would endeavor to integrate the Rangers into any larger law enforcement departments he might supervise in the future.

Chief Abramson then described the ongoing effort to update the Ranger's policy and procedures manual. The last time it was published was 2018. Deputy Chief Pabst is leading the effort. Existing "Orders" and other command directives will be codified into the official policies and procedures as will be requirements of Senate Bill 217 and other evolving matters. The opportunity to contribute has been offered to all Rangers and there has been valuable feedback. The initial stretch goal hope was to provide the revised policy and procedures to the Board prior to this meeting but very deliberate effort to revise has taken longer with many more comments/suggestions than anticipated and the revised edition should be provided to the Board prior to the next quarterly meeting.

Chairman Lambert instructed that the revised edition be reviewed by the Rangers General Counsel.

Ranger Controller Norm Townley then gave the financial report. There is approximately \$131,000 in the operating accounts and approximately \$50,000 is in the Training Academy account. \$61,450 of revenue was received in the first quarter and \$20,411 was paid out. There were no questions.

Chairman Lambert then commented that, in addition to cash, the Rangers have assets like radios and training supplies and are in a much better financial and operational condition than they were 5 years ago when stood up in the current configuration.

The badge deposit account and badge retention after retirement was briefly discussed.

#### **Public Comments:**

There were no public questions or comments.

#### **Schedule for Next Meeting:**

The next Board of Director's Meeting was scheduled for Friday September 16th, 2022 at 10:00, in Fort Lupton with video conferencing as an alternative to in person Board attendance.

#### **Closing Comments:**

Chief Abramson expressed his deep appreciation and praise for the Board service of Marshal Johns who has been part of the Ranger community for over a decade.

Chairman Lambert echoed the praise for Marshal Johns and suggested that he could be the impetus for a Western Slope Ranger Troop. Marshal Johns mentioned that he has been in contact with the Grand County Sheriff and events, like this Summer's proposed Rainbow Gathering, along with natural disasters will stress local law enforcement capacities. Chairman Lambert thanked Marshal Johns on behalf of the entire Board and noted that his stability and experience was critical to the Ranger's success.

#### **Adjournment of Meeting**

It was moved by Chief Abramson and seconded by Marshal Johns to adjourn the meeting and it was adjourned at 10:37 by unanimous vote.