



IDAHO LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIREFIGHTING AND EMS
MEDAL OF HONOR COMMISSION

Office of the Idaho Attorney General
Statehouse, Room C210
700 West Jefferson Street
Boise, Idaho

MEETING MINUTES

Special Meeting, Tuesday, April 25, 2023
10:00 a.m.

Item 1 – Call to Order. Attorney General Raúl R. Labrador, chairing the meeting, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Item 1a – The Commission Secretary called roll.

The following Commissioners were present:

Raúl R. Labrador, Attorney General, Office of the Idaho Attorney General
Jason Davis, Sheriff, LCSO, Idaho Sheriffs Association
Kirk Carpenter, Chief, Nampa FD, Idaho Fire Chiefs Association
Jeremy Engbaum, Chief, Buhl PD, Idaho Chiefs of Police Association
Brad Johnson, Division Administrator, Peace Officer Standards & Training
McKenzie Johnson, Advisor, Office of the Governor
Bryan Taylor, Prosecuting Attorney, Idaho Prosecuting Attorneys Association

For the record, all Commissioners attended in person except for Tim Miller, Executive Director, Idaho Peace Officers Association, who attended via conference call.

The following Commissioners were absent:

Wayne Denny, Chief, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services & Preparedness

The Chair announced a quorum was present.

Others present:

Mitchell Toryanski, Associate Attorney General (OAG)
Haline Anderson, Newly Appointed Commission Secretary (OAG)
Kimi White, Executive Assistant (OAG)

Item 1b – Review of Agenda. The agenda was reviewed; no amendments were made. Comm’r. Taylor moved to approve the agenda. Comm’r. Brad Johnson seconded the motion. Chairman Labrador called for discussion. Hearing none, he called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2 – Re-evaluation of MOH Rules and Qualifications for Awarding –

Chairman Labrador opened the discussion about the current rules for Medal of Honor starting with discussion of renominating a previously denied nominee. Comm'r. Brad Johnson expressed that it was uncomfortable to deliberate in the presence of nominating agencies. Chairman Labrador said Open Meeting Laws did require open discussion. Comm'r. Taylor said there may need to be a change in the statute of the Medal of Honor. He agreed that it is very uncomfortable to discuss the merit of an application in front of the agency. Comm'r. Engbaum said it would already be an executive meeting discussion of personnel issues and it would be a legal stretch to close the meetings. Comm'r. Carpenter also expressed that it was emotionally taxing to review and Comm'r. Brad Johnson iterated that it could cause a break in relationships with agencies. Comm'r. Davis agreed this is a difficult committee to serve on but also felt that there needed to be a change in the statute for discussions to be only in executive session.

Comm'r. Labrador suggested making a rule change in Medal of Honor on the re-submission for the same nomination. Comm'r. Brad Johnson suggested that, absent significant new information on a resubmission, then the original decision should stand. Comm'r. Carpenter agreed.

Comm'r. Taylor asked if there should be a time frame for a new submission. Comm'r. Brad Johnson was against there being a deadline and suggested it can be affected by leadership.

Comm'r. Taylor and Chairman Labrador proposed to pursue a statute change for the Medal of Honor and that the Commissioners implement a rule that resubmission of nominations must be approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the Commission.

Comm'r. Carpenter motioned for Chairman Labrador and Comm'r. Taylor to be allowed to offer a code change in Medal of Honor. Comm'r. Engbaum seconded the motion. Chairman Labrador called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Comm'r. Taylor moved to amend the rules to submit previously denied applications and require approval from at least two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Commission. Comm'r. Brad Johnson seconded the motion. Chairman Labrador called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 3 – Discuss Idaho Chiefs of Police Association Paying for Recipients Medal and Frame costs.

Commission Secretary Haline and Former Commission Secretary Kimi explained that in a past meeting it was discussed the possibility of ICOPA covering costs of

medal and frames for law enforcement applicants however there is nothing in writing. Comm'r. Carpenter suggested perhaps the Idaho Fire Chiefs would then cover costs when the nominating agency is not able to. Comm'r. Brad Johnson suggested that larger associations may be able to cover costs at the request of the nominating agencies. He further suggested something be done in writing with a memorandum of understanding between the Medal of Honor Commission and the Idaho Sheriffs Association, the Idaho Fire Chiefs Association, the Idaho Chiefs of Police Association, and the Idaho Peace Officers Association.

Comm'r. Taylor suggested the State fund the costs of frame and medal. Chairman Labrador may request those from the Legislature. Comm'r. Taylor moved to request that Chairman Labrador request funding from Legislature. Comm'r. McKenzie Johnson seconded the motion. Chairman Labrador called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 4 – Confirm 2023 Ceremony Date – Commission Secretary Haline Anderson confirmed there would be a pre-ceremony meeting on August 23rd at 1:30p.m. to allow the Commission to meet the recipients of the Medal of Honor. It will be followed by the Medal of Honor Ceremony at 2:00p.m. at the Lincoln Auditorium.

Comm'r. Brad Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting and Comm'r. Taylor seconded the motion. Chairman Labrador called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.