



**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

Tuesday, February 11, 2025
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
Wayne Denny, Chief, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services & Preparedness
Jeremy Engbaum, Chief, Buhl PD, Idaho Chiefs of Police Association
McKenzie Johnson, Advisor, Office of the Governor
Kirk Carpenter, Chief, Nampa FD, Idaho Fire Chiefs Association

The following Commissioners were absent:

Tim Miller, Executive Director, Idaho Peace Officers Association
Brad Johnson, Division Administrator, Peace Officer Standards & Training

The Chair announced a quorum was present.

For the record, all Commissioners attended in person except for Sheriff Jason Davis and Chief Jeremy Engbaum who attended via video call.

Others present:

Cory Stambaugh, Chief of Garden City Police
Tom Patterson, Patrol Division Commander, Garden City Police
Tyler Domeny, Administrative Division Commander, Garden City
Chief Lee White, Chief of Coeur d'Alene Police Department (on video call)
Chief Sjuni Bunderson, Chief of Kimberly Police Department (on video call)
Phil Skinner, Chief of Staff (OAG)
Haline Anderson, Commission Secretary (OAG)
Kimi White, Executive Assistant (OAG)
Dan Estes, Public Information Officer (OAG)

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

Item 2 – Prior Meeting Minutes. Chairman Labrador asked if there were any changes to the proposed September 10, 2024, minutes. Comm'r. Jeremy Engbaum moved to approve the minutes. Comm'r. McKenzie Johnson seconded the motion. Chairman Labrador called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 3 – Discuss 2024 Nominations and Select 2024 MOH Recipients. Chairman Labrador read the statute to define exceptional meritorious conduct.

Item 3A - Item 3B - The Chairman clarified that items 3A the nomination for Corporal Sikko Barghoorn and 3B the nomination for Sergeant Leon Dennis are for officers from the Garden City Police Department who participated in the same incident. As such, Chairman Labrador proposed discussing both nominations together. Garden City Police Chief Cory Stambaugh introduced himself and presented body-cam footage of the two officers entering the house where an individual was shooting out the windows. Dispatch had been communicating that there may be a hostage in the home. Both officers entered the house announcing themselves and were able to apprehend the suspect without further incident. Chairman Labrador opened for discussion and asked how this action was an exceptionally meritorious conduct. Chief Stambaugh explained that the fact that the two officers entered a home and went forward even after being shot at by the suspect was more courageous than many are willing to do. The Chairman asked that motions for award be done separately for each nomination. Comm'r. Engbaum made a motion to award Sergeant Dennis. Comm'r. Davis seconded. The Chairman called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously. Comm'r Davis moved to award Corporal Barghoorn. Comm'r. Engbaum seconded. Chairman Labrador called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 3C – Chief Lee White of the Coeur d'Alene Police Department, present via video call, introduced himself and presented the nomination for Sergeant Taylor Beach. Chief White explained that in 2018 there was a known fugitive arrest warrant and during a car stop this fugitive was found. Sergeant Beach arrived with an officer in training, and they joined the officer doing the stop. The fugitive exited the car and immediately opened fire against the officers. The trainee was injured. Sergeant Beach returned fire and went towards the fugitive. When the fugitive went behind a house, Sergeant Taylor placed herself between the shots and the wounded officer, put him in her car, and then took him to the hospital where he received life saving measures. Chief White explained that Sergeant Beach went above and beyond the call of duty by exposing herself to gunfire to save a fellow officer. In North Idaho, the video of this incident is used to train officers. Chairman Labrador called for discussion. Comm'r. Engbaum asked if a nomination had been submitted for the wounded officer. Chief White said he previously

sent a nomination for both officers in 2018, but it was rejected, so he thought it maybe was rejected for being sent together so decided to send it separately. Comm'r. Engbaum believes the officer that was shot is also eligible and asked the commission if there was a need for a nomination prior to discussing whether to give the award. The Chairman said there must be a nomination for a discussion. Comm'r. Davis remembered there was a discussion in the past to not allow a submission for a nomination that was previously denied. The Commission Secretary explained there was a discussion but no decision. Chief White did not remember when he submitted the nomination but remembers he was not able to participate in the meeting and does not know why the submission was denied. Comm'r. Denny was present during that meeting but does not remember that submission. The Chairman asked for a motion regarding the nomination. Comm'r. Carpenter moved to award Sergeant Beach the Medal of Honor and Comm'r. Davis seconded the motion. Chairman Labrador asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 3D – Chief Sjun Bunderson of the Kimberly Police Department introduced himself and gave a presentation on his nomination of Officer Brian Quiterio. He explained there was a suicidal man lying on the edge of a cliff sleeping. Officer Quiterio was familiar with the man who tended to be combative. There was a delay with the firefighters arriving on the scene who specialize in these rescues and have the appropriate equipment. Officer Quiterio was not strapped to anything but still approached the man on the edge which was about a 350-foot drop. He used some straps to tie to the man and pulled him back up and away from the edge just as the man woke up. It was a matter of moments that saved the individual. The lifesaving award was presented by the Kimberly Police Department. The Chairman called for discussion. Comm'r. Davis asked how close the man was to the edge. Chief Bunderson explained that the video showed that the man's left arm and left leg were actually over the edge. The Chairman asked how Officer Quiterio's actions were above his comrades. Chief Bunderson explained there were other officers there but none who were willing to approach this individual, and especially not without more equipment. Officer Quiterio still approached and saved this individual even though it was not within his wheelhouse of responsibilities. Chairman Labrador asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing no comments, he called for a motion. Comm'r. Engbaum moved to award the Medal of Honor to Officer Brian Quiterio. Comm'r. Denny seconded the motion. Comm'r. Engbaum said he is familiar with that cliff, so if Officer Quiterio did not respond, there could have been a death. Comm'r. Carpenter said that going on a ledge is part of a firefighter's duty and so an officer doing this without proper tools was beyond the call of duty. The Chairman called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 5 – Discuss and Approve 2025 Ceremony Location and Date. The date of August 12th at 2:00 p.m., at the Lincoln Auditorium was proposed to the Commissioners. Chairman Labrador called for a motion. Comm'r. Carpenter made a motion to approve August 12 at 2:00 p.m. for the date and the Lincoln Auditorium for the location. Comm'r. Davis seconded the motion. Chairman Labrador called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 6 – Chairman Labrador adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.