

**NC Locksmith Licensing Board
Meeting Minutes
ZOOM 12:00pm August 7, 2024**

Members Present: Larry Mares, Debbie Atkinson, Mike McCarty, Diane Riddle, Jack Walder, Jim Storie, Deanna Brena, Erich Crouch

Absent: Garrett Davis

Staff: Barden Culbreth, Catherine Lee, Leroy Everhart

Public: Jon Jefferies, David Burnham

Call to Order: Chair Larry Mares called the meeting to order.

Ethics Awareness Statement: Larry read the Ethics Awareness Statement and asked for potential conflicts of interest. No conflicts were announced and the meeting continued.

Approval of the Agenda: Jim motioned to approve the agenda. Jack seconded and the agenda was approved.

Public Comment: Jon Jeffries was recognized and asked that the Board consider allowing attendance of the Board meetings to count as continuing education credit. He reported that the NC Alarm Board did this.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes: Jim motioned to approve the minutes. Diane Riddle seconded and the minutes were approved.

Financial Report: The reconciled bank statements for May and June were presented to the Board. Jack motioned to approve. Mike seconded, and the Financial Report was approved.

Board Issuance of Subpoenas: Barden reported that the legal team has asked for Board to consider a subpoena for all matters related to Kfir Cohen and DKNY Locksmith. Jim made the motion to approve subpoenas for the above referenced investigations. Jack seconded and the Board approved the motion.

Examination and Education Report: Jim reported that the upcoming exam at the NCLA meeting may be cancelled due to weather on Friday. There will be an exam on Saturday.

Jim asked that Diane, Deanna, and Jack be added to the Exam committee; and further asked that they assist in revising the exam. He noted that new proctors needed to be trained for the coming years. The committee agreed to discuss more at the end of the meeting.

Jon asked that folks consider the Open Meetings Law as they develop the test.

Chair's Report: Larry reported that he was grateful for all the work of the staff and Board members. He stated that the perception of the Board was changing at the NCLA that the Board was actively going after unlicensed work.

Board Staff Report: Barden reported that the Board office is working on securing a new CPA firm to conduct its required annual audit.

He also reported he was complying with a request from the state legislative library for Board activity reports.

Larry recognized Leroy and his investigation team. Leroy asked if the Board would consider sending Leroy to the NCLA to speak with their membership about what to do if they confront unlicensed work.

Legal Update: Catherine was recognized and provided an update on the injunctions and contempt proceedings, they are outlined below:

The following is a status update of litigation initiated by the Board in 2024:

- Contempt Proceedings
 - ABUDRAM, ROY VIA DEFERRAL AGREEMENT (3/14/24)
 - **TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT VIA ORDER FOR CONTEMPT – \$15,000 (PAID TO DATE \$11,500)**

- Preliminary injunction against the following Defendant has been granted:
 - holbeN, reannon marie (Hearing held 8/6 – Order pending with Court)

- Consent Judgments against the following Defendants have been entered with the Court:
 - PEREZ-ROBLERO, Danilo Florencio (4/29/24)
 - SILVERMAN, Avdiel Joseph (5/1/24)
 - Rodriguez Trujillo, Kenneth O. (5/22/24)
 - HERNANDEZ, Jason Aaron (6/3/24)
 - Rodriguez Quirarte, Oswaldo (7/9/24)
 - Ozzy's Locksmith 7, LLC dba Ozzy's Locksmith (7/9/24)
 - PUBLIC LOCKSMITH NC, LLC (6/27/24)
 - 247 LOCKSMITH SPECIALISTS LLC (Hearing 8/6 – CJ pending with Court)
 - 24/7 LOCKSMITH EXPERTS, LLC (Hearing 8/6 – CJ pending with Court)
 - 24HOURLOCKSMITH LLC (Hearing 8/6 – CJ pending with Court)
 - WILLIAM THOMAS SPEAR (Hearing 8/6 – CJ pending with Court)

- TYLER SEDDON (Hearing 8/6 – CJ pending with Court)
- American Eagle Locksmith LLC (Hearing 8/6 – CJ pending with Court)
- Robert Joseph Spino, Jr (Hearing 8/6 – CJ pending with Court)
 - **TOTAL CONSENT JUDGMENTS TO DATE - 14**
 - **Total reimbursements via Consent judgment to date - \$7,500**

- Default Judgments against the following Defendants have been entered with the Court:
 - WALKER, Stephen John (7/24/24)
 - HIGH POINT LOCKSMITH SERVICES, LLC (6/20/24)
 - FAST LOCKSMITH HUNTERSVILLE, LLC (6/20/24)
 - **TOTAL DEFAULT JUDGMENTS TO DATE - 3**

- Consent Orders Entered with the Board, allowing licensure contingent upon probation and reimbursement of costs:
 - William Thomas Spear
 - Robert Joseph Spino, Jr
 - MAOR HINGA
 - **TOTAL CONSENT ORDERS TO DATE - 3**
 - **Total reimbursements via Consent order, to date - \$5,657.25**

- Hearings on Motions for Default Judgment are scheduled next week as follows:
 - MINT HILL LOCKSMITH MAX, LLC (hearing 8/13/24)

- The following Defendants were served by publication and entries of default are being filed:
 - MEDINA, Adrian Omar Jesus
 - WEATHERS, John Corey
 - SERGE, Moshe Israel

Unfinished Business: Larry asked the Board authorize the purchase of a new badge printer. Jack Walder motioned to approve, and Debbie seconded, and the purchase of a printer was authorized.

New Business: None

Jim revisited the discussion on revising the licensing exam. He asked Jack to work on questions appropriate to the institutional locksmith setting. Diane would work on safe and vault questions. Barden would work on legal questions. Discussion followed.

Erich asked if the Board had considered specialty exams for individuals who wanted to specialize in automotive or architectural. The Board had considered this in the past but was advised by legal counsel that specific licenses would need to be in place if there were different exams.

Adjourn: Jim motioned to adjourn. Jack seconded and the meeting ended.