

North Carolina Locksmith Licensing Board

June 4, 2025

Raleigh, NC

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Larry Mares, Jon Jeffries, Erich Crouch, Dovid Burnham, Mike McCarty, *Jack Walder**, *Diane Riddle**, *Deanna Brena* (* via Zoom)*

Staff: Barden Culbreth, Catherine Lee, Ryan Mitiguy, Leroy Everhart, Travis Everhart

Public: Kenneth Wayne

Welcome and Call to Order: Chairman Larry Mares called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending. He asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Ethics Awareness Statement: Larry read the Ethics Awareness Statement and asked for conflicts or appearances of conflicts. Hearing no conflicts, the meeting continued.

Approval of the Meeting Agenda: The deliberations of the Kfir Cohen hearing were moved to the end of the Garcia hearing.

Hearing – Yisrael Garcia #2906 (*Garcia not in attendance*)

The Board conducted the hearing and then went into closed session to deliberate. The meeting resumed normal order at 12:50pm.

Deanna Brena joined the meeting at 1:00pm.

Vice Chair Jon Jeffries motioned for the Board to come back into regular session.

Jon motioned to send a notice of suspension to Mr. Garcia, with a notice to respond to the Ethics Committee within 15 days; if Mr. Garcia does not respond within that time period, then after 15 days, then the license is revoked; the Ethics Committee is authorized to review the evidence of the case. Mike McCarty seconded, and the motion carried.

Kfir Cohen Deliberation: The Board then went back into closed session to deliberate the matter of Kfir Cohen.

The Board resumed normal order.

Jon made the motion that the licensee, Kfir Cohen, had violated the Consent Order with the Board, specifically terms number 5, 6, and 7; and therefore under .0501 he is responsible and revoked for 24 months; and to reinstate, Mr. Cohen must reimburse all investigation and attorney fees before his reinstatement will be considered. Dovid asked that he no

longer be allowed to have apprentices after reinstatement. Jon noted that the Ethics Committee should consider this when/if he requests reinstatement. Erich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mike McCarty did recuse himself from the vote due to not being at the Hearing.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of the Agenda: Jon motioned to approve the remaining items on the Board's agenda. Jack seconded and the motion carried.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes: Jack motioned to approve the minutes, and Jon seconded, and the minutes (both sets) were approved.

Approval of Financial Report: The financial report was presented for Board approval. Treasurer Mike McCarty noted that there were two payments to Randolph Cloud and Associates that had not been accounted for yet. Dovid motioned to approve. Jon seconded and the Financial Report was approved.

Approval of the FY2025-2026 Budget: Mike asked the Board to pay close attention to the proposed FY25-26 budget. He noted that the expenses were very high due to investigations and legal cases against unlicensed locksmiths and disciplinary hearings. Discussion followed. Mike motioned to change the legal fees to \$70,000 and to accept the proposed budget. Larry seconded and the FY25-26 budget was adopted.

Board Chair Report: Larry thanked everyone for their hard work, especially on the Ethics Committee and Exam Committee. He reported that the Board's perception among locksmiths has changed, and many feel the Board is finally doing something about unlicensed locksmiths.

Board Officer Report: Barden shared the documents he had received from the NC Human Trafficking Commission. Jon asked for the Board to develop a statement with an explanation about how human trafficking applies in the locksmith industry. Mike and Catherine asked about including in the study guide, and exam book.

Barden spoke about H829.

Barden spoke about how several exam questions needed to be changed when people take the exam. Jon asked about removing these questions and similar in the next iteration of the exam. Dovid asked about changing the questions on the exam. Diane Riddle agreed that questions about fees need to be removed.

Education/Exam Committee Report: Diane discussed the upcoming exam procedure and how to submit completed exams to the Board. Exams will now be scored after the exam,

not during the exam. This would reduce crowding and disruption to other test takers. Erich offered to help proctor the June exam. Diane and Dovid will do the July exam at Asheville Buncombe Tech in July.

Periodic Rules Review: Catherine presented the rules for periodic rules review. Jon motioned to approve the classifications. Dovid seconded and the rule classifications were approved for readoption.

New Business: None.

Adjourn: Jon motioned to adjourn. Dovid seconded and the meeting ended.

Next Meeting: August 6, 2025