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**Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)**

**Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse**

**Advisory Board**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Thursday, November 14, 2024**

**1 PM to 2:30 PM (EST)**

**Mission Statement:** Together with the citizens of Florida, we promote the safety of children and other vulnerable populations through public and private collaborations.

 **Meeting Minutes**

 **Chairperson: Karen Mazzola**

**Welcome**

**Meeting begins 1:05 PM**

**Roll Call**

**FDLE Attendees:** AGC Phillip Lindley, PPA Faulkner, SAS Pollard, SMAS Bullard, SCIAS Zachary, GA II Mehgen Peoples, Abdel Cortez, Makenna Nix, Megan McDonald

**Board Members:** Chairperson Karen Mazzola, Mr. Dan Campbell, Capt. Peter Bergstresser, Ms. Fran Carlin-Rogers, Dr. Katherine Gomez, Mr. John Pitta, Mrs. Peggy Pitta, Ms. Janet Hartman, Major Jerry Hensley, Ms. Jessica Janasiewicz, Mr. John Robertson, Ms. Rochelle Kemple, Mr. Mike Vasilinda, Ms. Kristin Morgan, Mr. Mark Young, Ms. Logan McGee, Hilary Sessions

**Organizations and Individuals Represented:** Florida PTA, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Florida Department of Education, Department of Juvenile Justice, Florida Public Safety Institute, St. Petersburg Police Department, Florida Association of School Administrators, Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, Governor’s legal office, Mike Vasilinda Productions, Florida Department of Children and Families, the Jimmy Ryce Center for Victims of Predatory Abduction, impacted missing families, and private citizens

**Non-Board Members:** Dorn Beddow with Search and Rescue

**Approve 9/9 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Vasilinda moves to approve the previous meeting minutes. Ms. Sessions seconds the motion. The Board votes in favor; the previous meeting minutes are approved.

**2025 Newsletter / Future Topics**

Chairperson Mazzola asks for a motion to approve the newsletter for publication. Mr. Vasilinda moves to approve; Dr. Spence seconds the motion. The Board votes in favor; the newsletter is approved.

GA II Peoples requests more article submissions and suggestions for topics. SMAS Bullard states that the deadline for newsletter article submissions is January 1st.

* John Robertson volunteers to write an article for a future newsletter.

Chairperson Mazzola asks if there is a family that can write an article.

* SMAS Bullard explains that FDLE cannot solicit articles from the families, but that Board members may contact families they have a relationship with.

**Award Nomination Forms**

Chairperson Mazzola wishes to remove the language on the first page of the Criminal Justice Agencies Nomination form regarding legal action against a nominee disqualifying them from consideration.

* Jerry Hensley explains his opinion that the need to check a nominee’s legal entanglements is FDLE’s responsibility and not the nominator’s. He moves to remove that language from the form. Mr. Vasilinda seconds the motion.
* SMAS Bullard requests that the Board table this motion to allow FDLE time to clarify internally whether this language is necessary. An update will be emailed to members. The Board agrees to table the motion.

There is a request to change language on the second page of the Citizen of the Year Award form as follows:

* “Rank (if applicable):” should be changed to “Rank/Title (if applicable):”.
* “Agency” should be changed to “Agency/Organization”.
* Chairperson Mazzola entertains a motion to accept the changes to the Criminal Justice Agencies Nomination form and the Citizen Award Nomination form.
* Ms. Lynn moves to accept the changes. Ms. Janasiewicz seconds the motion. The Board votes in favor of the changes. The motion carries.

There is a suggestion to omit language from the nomination criteria for the Jimmy Ryce Trailing Team of the Year award.

* The bolded language will read “\*Award given to both sworn/non-sworn trailing teams. Other scent trailing is assessed under a different award.”

There is a suggestion to change or clarify the language on the Jimmy Ryce Trailing Team of the Year Award regarding the recovery of the child.

* After discussion, the Board agrees to table any changes to this language for the next meeting.

The Board agrees to adjourn and table all remaining discussion for the next meeting.

**Meeting adjourns at 2:23 PM.**