



**Yuma County Sheriff's Office
Public Safety Personnel Retirement System
Local Board Meeting**

September 25, 2026

Members present: Darren Simmons
Joshua Farias
Dave McDowell
Kenneth Thrailkill

Members absent: Patricia Ogden

Others: Norazel Mejia-Rico, Secretary
Lesli Sorensen, Board's Attorney
Yesenia Duenas, YCSO - HR Supervisor
August Turner, Disability Applicant
Kathryn Baillie, Applicant's Attorney
Travis Turner, Guest

A meeting of the Local Board of the Yuma County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Personnel Retirement System was held Friday, September 25, 2026, at the Yuma County Sheriff's Office.

Chairman Simmons called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. Action to approve August 20, 2026, minutes

The board reviewed the minutes of August 20, 2026, meeting. Sgt. Thrailkill motioned to approve August 20, 2026, minutes. Sgt. Farias seconded. The motion carried 4 to 0.

2. Discussion and possible action – Accidental Disability Application by August Turner

Attorney Sorensen provided a brief background on Ms. Turner's application. She advised that this was the board's third discussion on Ms. Turner's application, the board requested additional records at the last meeting, and Ms. Turner provided extensive information. Additionally, Ms. Turner identified the new records that were submitted to the local board.

Attorney Kathryn Baillie was present to represent Ms. Turner. Attorney Sorensen advised Attorney Baillie that she has an opportunity to be heard in executive session to discuss medical information. She asked Attorney Baillie and Ms. Turner if they want to go into an executive session to discuss medical records. They both agreed. Sgt. Thrailkill motioned to move into an executive session. Sgt. Farias seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

The local board entered an executive session to discuss Ms. Turner's medical records from 9:03 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.

The local board then entered another executive session with the board's attorney for legal advice from 9:20 a.m. - 9:32 a.m.

Sgt. Farias motioned to reconvened into regular session. Sgt. Thrailkill seconded. The motion carried 4-0. Chairman Simmons called the meeting into regular session at 9:33 a.m.

Chairman Simmons asked Ms. Turner if she missed time off due to the 2021 altercation. Ms. Turner advised she didn't think so. The board members had no other questions for Ms. Turner. Sgt. Thrailkill motioned to accept application by Ms. Turner and direct staff to select/schedule an IME. Sgt. Farias seconded. The motion carried 4 to 0.

Attorney Sorensen asked Attorney Baillie for permission for staff to reach out directly to Ms. Turner to schedule the IME. Attorney Baillie gave permission. Attorney Baillie then asked if the doctor would specialize in a certain area; Attorney Sorensen advised the records will be provided to an IME consultant firm, and they would provide a recommendation based on their review.

After this agenda item was discussed, Attorney Baillie, Ms. Turner, and Mr. Turner excused themselves from the meeting.

3. Review PSPRS Member(s) that have separated from employment with the Yuma County Sheriff's Office (information only)

The secretary advised the board members that Nathan Hunter has separated from employment with Yuma County Sheriff's Office. He became a PSPRS member on 07/27/14 and resigned on 08/22/26.

4. Discussion of current events

The secretary informed the board members of an upcoming normal retirement. Sgt. Richard Mendez is exiting DROP and will be entering into Normal Retirement. He began with the Office on 09/03/02 and his last day of employment will be 09/30/26; his effective retirement date will be 10/01/26.

5. Possible set date for next meeting

Chairman Simmons advised keeping the next meeting open. Once the board receives the IME information, the board will schedule a meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 a.m.