

Harris County Bail Bond Board Meeting

**Harris County Bail Bond Board Meeting**

09/11/2018

**Q&A**  
**Reporting**

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Houston, TX 77008  
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**HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - September 11, 2018**

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

1001 Preston Street, 9th Floor

SEPTEMBER 11, 2018

1:30 p.m.

**HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - September 11, 2018**

A P P E A R A N C E S

1 Mike Fields, Chairman

2 Billy Pastor, designee for Glenn Strickland

3 Michael Butera, designee for District Attorney Kim Ogg

4 Orlando Sanchez, Harris County Treasurer

5 Sergeant D. Meade, designee for Sheriff Ed Gonzalez

6 Honorable Pena Garcia, des., for Judge E. Marshall

7 Chris Daniel, Harris County District Clerk

8 Gregory Cox, Harris County Sheriff's Office

9 Tommy Ramsey, Harris County Attorney's Office

10 Tracy Cruz, Recorder, Harris County Sheriff's Office

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**HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - September 11, 2018**

## P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: It is officially 1:30.  
3 This is the September 11th, 2018 meeting of the Harris  
4 County Bail Bond Board. This is kind of another  
5 melancholily happy/sad meeting because we are loosing  
6 another one of our stalwart members.

7 Sergeant Meade is retiring. What -- are  
8 people thinking around here? First Artra, now  
9 Sergeant Meade. And it's additionally a little -- a  
10 little sad because this is 911. This is a day that  
11 America suffered its greatest tragedy.

12 And so while I do not ask anyone to pray,  
13 I would ask you to join me in just a brief moment of  
14 silence for those that we lost on that day. (A bell  
15 chime.)

16 Thank you. That was a good sign. Thank  
17 you all.

18 You know, I guess we better jump right in and  
19 start with a reading of the prior minutes.

20 Is there a motion to approve the prior  
21 minutes?

22 HONORABLE GARCIA: I have a motion not to  
23 approve the minutes as printed and have two amendments.

24 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Okay. And you know what?  
25 Before we do that, I guess we should put everyone on the

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1 record so that the court reporter knows who we are  
2 dealing with.

3 I know that Sergeant Meade is representing  
4 the Sheriff's Office, kind of in a cold seat; but he's  
5 here. And everyone else, if you'll just go around the  
6 table and introduce yourselves.

7 MR. SANCHEZ: Orlando Sanchez, County  
8 Treasurer.

9 HONORABLE GARCIA: Judge Esmeralda Pena  
10 Garcia representing Judge Elaine Marshall, City of  
11 Houston.

12 MR. BUTERA: Michael Butera for Kim Ogg at  
13 the District Attorney's Office.

14 MR. PASTOR: Billy Pastor sitting for  
15 Glenn Strickland for the bondsmen.

16 MR. PRUETT: Carl Pruett, criminal defense  
17 lawyers.

18 MR. DANIEL: And I'm just the clerk,  
19 Chris Daniel.

20 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: And I'm Mike Fields,  
21 Chair of the Harris County Bail Bond Board.

22 And you had an amendment to the meeting?

23 HONORABLE GARCIA: I have two amendments.  
24 One is on the first line. The monthly meeting of the  
25 Harris County Bail Bond Board was held -- and it should

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1 be Tuesday, August 14th not July 10th.

2 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: I trust there's no  
3 objection to that amendment.

4 HONORABLE GARCIA: And the second one is in  
5 attendance, myself, I am not Gloria Garcia. I'm  
6 Esmeralda Pena Garcia and my boss would like that I was  
7 here representing her and did not send Gloria Garcia.

8 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: I understand. I  
9 understand completely. And we will all vouch that you  
10 were here.

11 Any objections to those amendments?

12 With that, those amendments are taken.

13 With those amendments, is there a motion  
14 to approve the minutes?

15 MR. BUTERA: Motion.

16 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Second?

17 HONORABLE GARCIA: Second.

18 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: All those in favor,  
19 please signify by saying aye.

20 THE BOARD: Aye.

21 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Opposed by the same sign  
22 motion carries.

23 First item of old business is being  
24 tabled until next month at the request of  
25 Mr. Mike Monks.

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1           The second item of old business is a  
2 request for new license by Kelvin Hampton doing business  
3 as A-Better Bail Bonds, 10026 Homestead Road, Houston,  
4 Texas 77016. This is a new license. The phone number  
5 is (713) 635-8401. This is a request for a two-year  
6 license.

7           Is Mr. Hampton here? Is there anyone  
8 here for Mr. Hampton?

9           SERGEANT MEADE: Yes, sir. Well, we have a  
10 letter in a packet regarding the --

11           He wants to use his 500-dollar fee to  
12 resubmit a new application using a different address.  
13 However, the Bail Bond Board account is  
14 interest-bearing.

15           So I suggest that we just refund the  
16 money and then let him resubmit.

17           CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Is there any objection to  
18 that request of Sergeant Meade to refund the money?

19           All right. We will fund the money and  
20 allow him to resubmit it.

21           The next item of old business is a  
22 request by Financial Casualty & Surety, Incorporated for  
23 the release of \$50,000 in collateral pledged on License  
24 No. 74538, Agent Alford Rucker. Financial Casualty &  
25 Surety, Inc., will keep the remaining \$50,000 on deposit

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1 until all liability for this agent has been cleared.

2 JP letter was sent on August the 3rd of  
3 2018. And that the Sergeant is just kind of sitting  
4 cold. I will ask the State if there are any issues?

5 MR. BUTERA: None from the State, Judge.

6 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: None from the State.

7 And are you aware of any from the  
8 Sheriff's Office, Mr. Butera?

9 MR. BUTERA: No, not that I'm aware of.

10 SERGEANT MEADE: Well, there's pending  
11 liability. There's about \$4 million worth of liability  
12 out there on a hundred-thousand CD.

13 MR. BUTERA: Right but it's a partial  
14 withdrawal and insurance license so there's no ratio.

15 SERGEANT MEADE: Right. Insurance  
16 companies don't have ratios. I just want everyone to be  
17 aware of that.

18 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Four million dollars  
19 worth of pending liability but they are covered by the  
20 insurance company.

21 Is there a motion to approve the request  
22 for the lease of the \$50,000?

23 MR. SANCHEZ: Move.

24 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Second?

25 HONORABLE GARCIA: Second.



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1 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: All those in favor,  
2 please signify by saying aye.

3 THE BOARD: Aye.

4 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Opposed by the same sign.  
5 Motion carries.

6 Now, the first item of new business is a  
7 request for renewal of license by First Community  
8 Insurance Company, Agent Christopher Libby doing  
9 business as Abacus II Bail Bonds, 2117 Chenevert Street,  
10 Suite C, Houston, Texas 77003. The original date of the  
11 license was September the 13th of 2016. The expiration  
12 date is September the 23rd of 2018. This is License  
13 No. 74572 with a phone number of (713) 750-9250. This  
14 is a request for a two-year renewal.

15 Sir, would you raise your right hand to  
16 be sworn?

17 (Witness sworn.)

18 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Would you state your full  
19 name for the record, please.

20 MR. LIBBY: Christopher Libby.

21 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: And your last name is  
22 spelled "L" as in Larry, I-B-B-Y, as in Yankee?

23 MR. LIBBY: That is correct.

24 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Thank you, sir.

25 Are there any issues from the Sheriff's

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1 Office?

2 SERGEANT MEADE: No, sir.

3 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: From the State?

4 MR. BUTERA: None from the State, Judge.

5 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Is there a motion to  
6 approve?

7 MR. BUTERA: Motion to approve.

8 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Is there a second?

9 MR. PRUETT: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: All those in favor,  
11 please signify by saying aye.

12 THE BOARD: Aye.

13 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Opposed by the same sign.  
14 The motion carries. Thank you, sir.

15 MR. LIBBY: Thank you.

16 MR. GUERINOT: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: The next item of new  
18 business is a request for renewal of license by  
19 International Fidelity Insurance Corporation, Agent  
20 John McCluskey doing business as A-Action Bonding at  
21 1404 Congress Street, Houston, Texas 77002 with an  
22 original date of 10/14/2014 and an expiration date of  
23 10/24/2018. This is for License No. 74562 with phone  
24 number of (713) 255-0893. This is a request for a  
25 two-year renewal.

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1 Sir, would you raise your right hand to  
2 be sworn?

3 (Witness sworn.)

4 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Thank, you, sir.

5 Would you state your full name for the  
6 record, please?

7 MR. MCCLUSKEY: John Edmond McCluskey.

8 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: And that is spelled  
9 M-C-C-L-U-S-K-Y?

10 MR. MCCLUSKEY: E-Y.

11 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: E-Y. Thank you.

12 MR. MCCLUSKEY: Yes, Judge.

13 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Are there any issues from  
14 the Sheriff's Office?

15 SERGEANT MEADE: No, sir.

16 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Any from the State?

17 MR. BUTERA: None from the State, Judge.

18 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Is there a motion?

19 MR. BUTERA: Make a motion.

20 HONORABLE GARCIA: I second.

21 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: There's been a motion and  
22 a second. All those in favor, please signify by saying  
23 aye.

24 THE BOARD: Aye.

25 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Opposed by the same sign.

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1 The request for renewal of license is granted. Thank  
2 you, sir.

3 MR. GOOD: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: The next item of new  
5 business is a request by Jose Espinoza for withdrawal of  
6 property being held as collateral for Espinoza's Bail  
7 Bonds, expired License No. 74521. The JP letters were  
8 sent on August the 10th of 2018.

9 Are there any liabilities still  
10 outstanding on that license?

11 SERGEANT MEADE: Sir, when I checked, it  
12 was about \$1,600 and I think Mr. Espinoza was supposed  
13 to check into it.

14 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Mr. Espinoza, would you  
15 raise your right hand to be sworn, please?

16 (Witness sworn.).

17 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Thank you, sir.

18 Your last name is spelled  
19 E-S-P-I-N-O-Z-A, for the record?

20 MR. ESPINOZA: Yes, sir.

21 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Thank you. And with  
22 respect to that liability, has it all been taken care  
23 of, the \$1,600.

24 MR. ESPINOZA: I'm so sorry but what's that  
25 liability again?

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1 SERGEANT MEADE: \$1600. It's a thousand  
2 for Harris County bonds and you have NISI, 5,000 pending  
3 and -- for a total of \$6,000.

4 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: 6,000.

5 MR. ESPINOZA: Okay. I'm so sorry, but  
6 this is news to me. I didn't know that that liability  
7 existed. I thought we had cleared everything up.

8 MR. BUTERA: Mr. Espinoza, maybe I can  
9 clarify it. I'm not aware of the 1,000. There was a  
10 5,000-dollar bond that was written. It looks like it  
11 might have slipped through the cracks because it's from  
12 2015.

13 Mr. Baker, who represented you on this  
14 license, "James" Baker, filed a motion to dispose of  
15 that case, I believe, on the 6th and we processed it.  
16 It'll ultimately end up in the case being dismissed  
17 because there was a surrender filed prior to the  
18 forfeiture; but when I checked or looked at it, I don't  
19 believe that motion to dismiss has yet been disposed of  
20 by the Court. So there is a liability issue hanging out  
21 there.

22 It has not yet actually been disposed.  
23 But pending that case, that shouldn't be a barrier to  
24 refunding the money once that happens.

25 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Whose court is that in?

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1 MR. BUTERA: I have no -- let me see,  
2 Judge.

3 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: County Court 14? Bad  
4 Judge. Never signs anything.

5 MR. BUTERA: I don't have the court,  
6 Judge --

7 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Okay.

8 MR. BUTERA: -- so I'm not sure.

9 And it may have been signed -- I didn't  
10 go through and check. I know that we -- I mean, the  
11 DA's Office -- processed Mr. Baker's request, submitted  
12 it through the e-filing system but I'm not sure it's  
13 actually processed or not.

14 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: With there being a --  
15 essentially a lead-pipe cinch defense to the forfeiture  
16 in the NISI, is there a motion to allow for withdrawal  
17 of the property being held as collateral in this case?

18 There's no motion?

19 MR. PRUETT: I have -- I have one question.  
20 Where is 1,000? Is that also a pending  
21 case? Did you see?

22 DEPUTY COX: That's what -- according  
23 "8164" it's pending.

24 MR. PRUETT: It could be a -- it could be a  
25 clerical error.

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1 SERGEANT MEADE: Could be.

2 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Why don't we table it  
3 then until the next meeting of Bail Bond Board so as not  
4 to deny your request and give you an opportunity to kind  
5 of clear that situation up.

6 Is that all right with you, Mr. Espinoza?

7 MR. ESPINOZA: Would it be possible to  
8 table it until I take care of it and I'll get on it  
9 right away. Again, I wasn't aware of this problem.

10 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Unfortunately, we don't  
11 have a way of voting in the interim.

12 MR. ESPINOZA: Okay.

13 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: And it's a matter that  
14 would have to be voted on so ...

15 SERGEANT MEADE: Is there one CD up? Just  
16 one CD for 50,000?

17 MR. ESPINOZA: No. It's property, real  
18 estate.

19 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: It's property at  
20 3525 Reveille, Houston, Texas 77087.

21 And what's the value of that property?

22 MR. ESPINOZA: About 136,000.

23 SERGEANT MEADE: Do you have a seller or a  
24 buyer for it already or ...

25 MR. ESPINOZA: Do I have what?

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1 SERGEANT MEADE: Are you selling it? Do  
2 you have a buyer?

3 MR. ESPINOZA: I'm sorry? I can't hear  
4 you.

5 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Are you selling the  
6 property or are you just wanting it released from the --

7 MR. ESPINOZA: Liquidating it, yes, sir.

8 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Okay. You're  
9 liquidating. And do you have a closing date on that?

10 MR. ESPINOZA: As soon as I can get it  
11 released.

12 HONORABLE GARCIA: What was the total  
13 amount up right now that's verifiable?

14 SERGEANT MEADE: I'm showing six but ...

15 MR. BUTERA: I -- we just found the 5,000.  
16 And again, that's going to be dismissed. I just --

17 And we would wait for the Court to take  
18 action on that, make sure that that's been done.

19 Normally, its first appearance on the agenda will get  
20 tabled anyway.

21 But when was the license -- when did the  
22 license expire, Mr. Espinoza?

23 MR. ESPINOZA: About three years ago.

24 MR. BUTERA: Okay. So this has been  
25 sitting for three years so -- okay. I just ...



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1 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Does anyone object to  
2 tabling this matter until the next Bail Bond Board  
3 meeting?

4 No? We will table it until the October  
5 meeting. Thank you, sir.

6 The next item of new business is notice  
7 made by Financial Casualty & Surety that they will not  
8 be renewing Sierra Bail Bonds, License No. 74541,  
9 Agent Vanessa Sierra. She is currently licensed in  
10 Harris County under a different surety, and she will  
11 handle the runoff of open liability for License  
12 No. 74541.

13 It is so noticed. Thank you, ma'am.

14 MS. REESE: If I may. I know that this is  
15 just a notice but Meade had asked me if that would be  
16 effective immediately and I wanted to let you know so  
17 that yes, it will be.

18 SERGEANT MEADE: It will be immediately?

19 MS. REESE: Yes, yes.

20 SERGEANT MEADE: So today?

21 MS. REESE: Yes.

22 SERGEANT MEADE: Thank you.

23 MS. REESE: Uh-huh.

24 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Thank you. The next item  
25 of new business is notice by First Community Insurance

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1 Company to surrender License No. 74568, 24/7 Bail Bonds,  
2 Agent Helen Abel. That is so noticed unless that  
3 requires a little bit more conversation than just a  
4 notice?

5 MR. BUTERA: Judge, I believe -- I mean, I  
6 hate to be one to inform the Board. But I believe  
7 Ms. Abel did pass --

8 ATTORNEY: Yes.

9 MR. BUTERA: Recently.

10 ATTORNEY: Yes.

11 MR. BUTERA: And then we got another letter  
12 although not covered on the agenda from the other  
13 company where she was licensed for Ms. Base, the  
14 other ...

15 MS. REESE: Yes.

16 MR. BUTERA: -- letter regarding Ms. Abel.

17 MS. REESE: Yes. I apologize.

18 MR. BUTERA: I'm sorry. You stepped away  
19 and then ...

20 MS. REESE: I didn't realize you were  
21 speaking. Can you repeat that?

22 MR. BUTERA: I was just asking. We also  
23 got a letter from you regarding Ms. Abel to ...

24 MS. REESE: Correct. She did not have a  
25 current license with us; but we are -- we're running off

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1 open liability from her previous license with us so ...

2 SERGEANT MEADE: Now, let me ask you: Are  
3 there -- the persons doing runoff, are they licensed  
4 bondmen or just an employee of the company?

5 ATTORNEY: For my company, it's -- she's  
6 the -- she was office manager for ...

7 SERGEANT MEADE: Office manager.

8 ATTORNEY: And -- yeah. She was the office  
9 manager for Ms. Abel.

10 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Are you an attorney, sir?

11 ATTORNEY: Yes, sir.

12 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Thank you. I'll take you  
13 at your word as a lawyer that you are speaking the truth  
14 and not ask you to swear an oath. It is an assumption  
15 that lawyers make for one another.

16 MALE: (Inaudible.)

17 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Well, some lawyers.

18 Well, what do you say? Anybody got a  
19 problem? Okay. Thank you, sir.

20 ATTORNEY: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN FIELDS: Meetings for  
22 consideration of amending and modifications to the  
23 Harris County Bail Bond Local Rules will be scheduled  
24 immediately following the regular scheduled meeting.

25 With that, I believe we're adjourned.

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(Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.)

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HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - September 11, 2018

1 STATE OF TEXAS )

2 COUNTY OF HARRIS )

3  
4 I, Trevor Causey, do hereby certify that the  
5 facts as stated by me in the caption hereto are true;  
6 that the above and foregoing transcript of the  
7 proceedings was taken in stenograph, reduced to  
8 typewriting under my direction, and is a full, true and  
9 correct transcript of the proceedings.

10 I further certify that I am not, in any  
11 capacity, a regular employee of the party in whose  
12 behalf this transcript was taken, nor in the regular  
13 employee of any attorney; and I certify that I am not  
14 interested in the cause, nor of kin or counsel to any of  
15 the parties.

16 GIVEN UNDER MY HAND, on this, the 5th day of  
17 November, 2018.

*Trevor Causey*

18  
19 Trevor Causey  
20 Notary Public in and for  
The State of Texas  
My Commission expires 5/24/2021

21 Court Reporter's Clearinghouse  
22 Firm Registration No. 62  
1225 North Loop West, Suite 327  
23 Houston, Texas 77008  
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