PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION

State of Georgia

Investigative Panel Open Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 9, 2026 4:00 PM via Videoconference

This Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Investigative Panel (IP) of the Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission (PAQC) of the State of Georgia was held via videoconference. IP Chairman, Mr. Randy McGinley, chaired the meeting. Ms. Abigail Ramirez served as Record Secretary.

Investigative Panel Commissioners:

Mr. Randy McGinley, Chairman – Present
Mr. Jason Saliba, Vice Chairman – Present
Mr. John Ott, Commissioner – Present
Mr. Steve Scheer, Commissioner – Present
Mr. Joey Cowart, Commissioner – Not Present (Excused)

Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission Staff:

Mr. Ian Heap, Executive Director – Present
Ms. Abigail Ramirez, Executive Assistant – Present
Mr. Greg Blackmon, Chief Special Investigator – Present
Ms. Nicole Magnani, Special Investigator – Present

Members of the Public:

1 Member

Chairman's Comments:

Mr. McGinley called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. and determined that a quorum was present. Mr. McGinley welcomed the Member of the Public and noted that some agenda items would be discussed publicly while others would require a closed session due to the nature of the statute and the status of the investigations.

Mr. McGinley moved to adopt the open meeting minutes from the Regularly Scheduled IP Meeting held on August 12, 2026. Mr. Ott seconded, and all were in favor.

Executive Director's Report:

Mr. Heap reported the Governor's requested flat budgets for AFY27 and FY28, with need-based proposals to be submitted, as necessary. He stated that the PAQC submitted both, with the need-

based proposal requesting appropriations for an additional staff member.

Mr. Heap also shared that Judge Gates Peed was appointed to the Hearing Panel while Herb Cranford and Judge John Ott were reappointed to their respective positions. Commissioner Jason Saliba is still pending reappointment and will continue to legally perform the duty and maintain the position until the appointing body makes a decision.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The committee held an election, and Mr. Scheer moved to reappoint Mr. McGinley as Chairman. Mr. Ott seconded the motion. Mr. McGinley abstained from voting. The motion passed, with all in favor. Mr. Scheer also made a motion to reappoint Mr. Saliba as Vice Chairman. Mr. Ott seconded. Mr. Saliba abstained, and the motion passed with all in favor.

Rules Committee

Mr. McGinley made a motion that the Investigative Panel instruct Director Heap to create proposed rule changes to address the new statutory authority granted to the PAQC in this year's legislative changes, as well as any rule changes that are helpful to the Commission, after consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of this panel and members of the Hearing Panel. The motion further directed Director Heap to take the necessary steps to comply with the Administrative Procedures Act of Georgia (APA), to begin the notice period under the APA within 60 days from today, and to send the proposed rule changes to the Prosecuting Council of Georgia (PAC) Director, Pete Skandalakis, 20 days prior to that, asking for any comments that PAC has and requesting a response within 10 days of Director Heap sending that to PAC. Mr. Saliba seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Procedure for Commission Filing Complaints

Commissioners discussed O.C.G.A. 15-18-32, subsection (g), and how the IP should manage to submit its own complaints when it receives information from members of the public who wish to remain anonymous. Procedurally, Commissioners agreed to take the information to Director Heap first, and it would be appropriately documented. Then PAQC staff would follow the normal complaint procedures upon Director Heap's approval.

SB 218 Arrest Powers

Mr. Heap and Commissioners discussed SB 218 under O.C.G.A. 15-26-2 and the "organizational favor and authorization to establish a law enforcement unit." Mr. Heap stated that, for this to take effect, either the PAQC is placed under another agency, or the PAQC Investigators create their own law enforcement unit. Commissioners discussed liabilities and procedures for Investigators having their own unit and what should happen if an issue arises. Commissioners requested PAQC discuss questions with Department of Administrative Services (DOAS) before they vote on how to move forward.

Executive Session:

At 4:48 p.m., Mr. McGinley made a motion to go into Executive Session for purposes of discussing the active docket, which is confidential by statute. Mr. Saliba seconded the motion, and all were in favor. For this reason, the Member of the Public was invited into a digital waiting room. All present PAQC staff were invited into the Executive Session. A motion to exit the

Executive Session was made at 6:05 p.m. by Mr. McGinley and seconded by Mr. Saliba. The motion was approved, and all were in favor. The Member of the Public was welcomed back into the meeting.

Old Business:

None Discussed.

New Business:

None Discussed.

Review and Approve Summary of this Meeting:

Mr. McGinley reviewed and approved the summary of this meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.