

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)
Date: Monday, December 12, 2022 2:46:07 PM

From: Texas Sunset Advisory Commission <sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2022 1:55 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset.AdvisoryCommission@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)

Submitted on Mon, 12/12/2022 - 12:45

Submitted by: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Choose the agency that you would like to provide input about

[Texas Commission on Law Enforcement](#)

Public Comments

1

First Name

Laura

Last Name

Reina

Email

City

Tyler

State

Texas

Your Comments or Concerns

The Sunset report notes many, TOO MANY, failures of TCOLE and its leadership, but what is most concerning to me is that you are basing your recommended changes on how TCOLE SHOULD act, not for how they currently act.

Let me be very clear, TCOLE is FAR from being toothless. They wield unchecked power..destroy careers..and serve as political hitmen...reminiscent of the gestapo... And you want to give them more power? One third of your survey respondents said they were too afraid to complain for fear of

retaliation. That should be a clue. They already do what they want, and have thumbed their nose at you time and time again.

Your own report notes how TCOLE has on MULTIPLE occasions, issued subpoenas they do NOT have the power to issue to request information they were NOT entitled to. So you recommend giving them more power?

It noted that TCOLE doesn't follow their own rules or LAWS when it comes to TCOLE's rule adoption process. So you want them to set the standard of professional conduct?

Your own report noted how TCOLE STILL hasn't followed through on the direction they were given back in 2009 on the need to make audits risk-based. They are still doing whatever they want.

Then you found that TCOLE was not using a penalty matrix when deciding punishments. They told you they research their records of similar offenses to make a decision. Yet in the very next paragraph, sunset staff found that their databases aren't even searchable by offenses. YOU CAUGHT THEM IN A LIE. And yet you want to give them the power to conduct more of their own investigations and levy more severe punishments?

Last year, the Executive Director of TCOLE was caught on camera by KXAN News in a lie over the racial profiling data and how TCOLE has yet again, not functioned as it is mandated to. And that's who you want to police the police? Who polices TCOLE?

Sure, TCOLE is supposed to be governed by a nine member panel of commissioners. But you have to go back 5 years to find a commissioners' meeting where all nine members were present. On top of that, the commissioners never receive any training, a manual, or even a clear explanation of their role and authority. No wonder the commissioners even state on the website that their decisions are made based on the Executive Director's recommendations. That's not checks and balances. In fact, if you look back in TCOLE's rules, the commissioners actually gave the Executive Director the ability to make unilateral decisions on curriculum, courses and even the licensing and certification exams without involving the board???

Once again, TCOLE does what it wants.

An entity that is considered independent, yet has qualified immunity, and no oversight? Can't be forced to follow court orders? Who already regularly operates outside of the law, with no consequences? That doesn't sound very toothless to me.

Absolute power, corrupts absolutely. And your Sunset report shows that to be true.

Your Proposed Solution

Before you draft any legislation, I urge you to address TCOLE as it currently functions, not as we all wish it would. Having one Executive Director making all of the decisions has proven disastrous. TCOLE needs to be restructured with oversight and checks and balances put in place.

My Comments Will Be Made Public

Yes