



Patti James Investigations

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May 1, 2018

Honorable Brian Birdwell
Chairman, Sunset Commission
P.O. Box 12068
Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711

Re: Sunset Advisory Commission Report

Dear Senator Birdwell,

As current Chairman of the, Governor Abbott appointed, Private Security Board, past president of the Texas Association of Licensed Investigators, and a licensed investigator for the past twenty-seven years, I appreciate this opportunity to respond to the Sunset Advisory Commission Report and Recommendations.

First, I extend my gratitude to the Sunset Advisory Commission, and staff, for the time and thought that appears to have been utilized in their recently published 2071-2018 report. I applaud their efforts but with apprehension would like to point out that many of the recommendations indicate that they simply do not understand the daily operations, processes, and business issues of Licensed Investigators and Private Security Agencies. I also feel, in several areas of the recommendations, they have, unintentionally, not considered the substantial safety of the citizens of Texas.

The report indicates that the Texas Department of Public Safety was less than efficient in regulating the industry in which I work. In my twenty-seven years of being regulated by various agencies in the State of Texas, I find the DPS to be superior to the others.

Based on my experience, I have differing opinions and suggestions in several areas of the recommendations but will limit them in this letter out of respect for your time. However, I will make myself available to elaborate further and answer any questions you may have.

The Sunset Advisory Commission's opinion of duplicity of governor appointed DPS Commissioners and governor appointed Private Security Board members is, on the surface, understandable, but in my estimation incorrect. I believe the Private Security Board addresses issues and solves problems so that they never reach the Public Safety

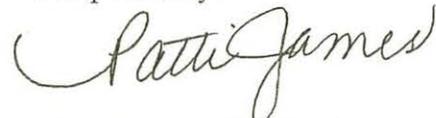
Commissioners, giving them time to dedicate to more serious law enforcement matters in our State. If you believe the Private Security Board should be disbanded, I suggest you consider appointing one Public Safety Commissioner as a liaison to the private security advisory board that has been proposed. Based on the published, limited biographies of the five-member Public Safety Commission, none of them have experience in the business of investigations or security. I would have no idea how to vote on proposed Rules or Hearings if I did not have extensive background in the investigations business.

I am completely in agreement with the trend of deregulation/overregulation in the State of Texas. In an effort to deregulate the Sunset Advisory Commission has recommended lowering licensing qualifications. Overregulation occurs after licensing. Being careless with licensing qualifications will not address the problem of overregulation that we are faced with today. There are any number of changes that can be made to ease regulations without placing the public in possible unsafe circumstances by hiring an investigator or security service who has been issued a license with reduced requirements.

Again, without imposing further on your time, I request the opportunity to discuss my suggestions and opinions on these and other matters listed in the Sunset Advisory Commission Report. I will make myself available at your convenience.

We are fortunate to have dedicated individuals such as yourself serving the great State of Texas. Thank you.

Respectfully.



Patti James, CLI, TCI
Chairman, Private Security Board

/pj

cc: Director Ken Levine
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