

**NC Locksmith Licensing Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**12:00pm, April 2, 2025**

**Members Present:** Larry Mares, Jon Jeffries, Erich Crouch, Dovid Burnham, Diane Riddle, Jack Walder,

**Staff:** Barden Culbreth, Catherine Lee, Ryan Mitiguy

**Public:** Kenneth Wayne

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**Welcome and Call to Order:** Chair Larry Mares called the meeting to order.

**Ethics Awareness Statement:** Larry read the NC Ethics Awareness Statement and asked for any conflicts or appearances of conflicts with the matters before the Board today. No conflicts were announced, and the meeting continued.

**Public Comment:** Larry opened the floor for public comment.

Kenneth Wayne was recognized and asked the Board to look at the statutory language that allows merchants, specifically Batteries Plus, to perform locksmith services without a license.

He asked for clarity about the public making a complaint or the locksmith making a complaint for failure to follow the statute.

Catherine Lee, legal counsel for the Board, provided some feedback on statute changes and the complaint process, as well as why and how consumer complaints are stronger to prosecute than complaints from licensees against their competition.

**Approval of Agenda:** Jack motioned to approve. Erich seconded the motion.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Jack motioned to approve the previous meeting minutes. Jon seconded, and the minutes were approved.

**Approval of the Financial Report:** Erich motioned to approve the report. Dovid seconded the motion, and the Financial Report was approved.

**Hearing on Rule Amendments:** Larry opened a public hearing on the proposed rule amendments. There were no public comments. As chair, Larry kept the hearing open for 15 minutes in case anyone came to speak about the proposed rule amendments. There were no comments on the rules, and the hearing portion was closed.

**Board Chair Report:** Larry thanked the Board members and staff for their support of the Board's mission and function. He thanked the committees for doing work outside of the regular Board meeting, including proctoring and scoring exams.

**Board Office Report:** Barden shared the feedback from the Board's booth at the NC Locksmiths Association trade show. He reported on an upcoming meeting with the NC Attorney General's office to discuss fraudulent and "bait and switch" locksmithing. Dovid noted some of the tactics used in these operations.

Larry noted a tidal change at the Board's reception from the NC Locksmiths Association members following the Board's stronger enforcement efforts.

**Education/Exam Committee Report:** Diane and David recently proctored the exam in Asheville. Barden proctored recently in Burlington. Diane proposed that the Board not to give out the scores at the exam. Larry agreed. Barden reported that this would not be a problem for him as staff to hold scores until the following business day and to email results.

Jack motioned to require the scores to go out after the testing session, and for score sheets and test booklets to be presented to the proctor at the conclusion of the exam. Jon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Legal Update:** Catherine was recognized, and she spoke on Senate Bill 451, an act to reduce the continuing education burden by 50%. Jack asked how Board members can engage with their legislators on the bill. Jon noted that he is asking people to contact legislators to make sure they understand the locksmith license is on a 3-year schedule and this bill should be amended to put us on a 1 or 2-year license cycle. Catherine reminded board members they can speak on their individual behalf but not the Board's.

**Unfinished:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Hearing** – Dekel Urian.

The Board moved to deliberations. Resumed normal order. Jon motioned to revoke Dekel Urian's apprentice license #2943A, and that he would be eligible to re-apply for licensure or apprentice licensure after one year, provided that he meets with the Board's Ethics Committee and provides, to the committee's satisfaction, sufficient information to address the findings of fact and conclusions of law from the disciplinary license, and the apprenticeship is not under the supervision of Dudi Lankry. Jack seconded and the motion carried.

**Adjourn:** Jon motioned to adjourn. Diane seconded, and the meeting ended.