

POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

September 10, 2021

2:00 P.M.

IN ATTENDANCE: William Poling – Police Commissioner Chairman  
Petar Dragojevic – Police Commissioner Secretary  
Gene Guernsey – Police Commissioner  
Gene Ward – Police Commissioner  
W. Luther Cuttino – Chief of Police  
Konstantinos Nuses – Assistant Chief of Police  
Michael Deppe – Commission Attorney

Commissioner Poling asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and to remain standing afterwards for the invocation by Randy Scott and Scott Walton.

ITEM I Motion was made to accept the minutes of the Police Commission Meeting dated August 13, 2021 as presented.

Commissioner Guernsey made a motion to accept August 13, 2021 minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Commissioner Poling asked if there were any discussion.

Commissioner Poling stated all in favor signify by saying, “Aye.”  
All replied, “Aye.”  
Commissioner Poling stated, “Opposed, same sign.”

Hearing none Commissioner Poling stated, “Motion carries”.

ITEM II STATISTICS REPORT

The Chief of Police presented the July 2021 Monthly Statistical Reports; 2,586 Calls for Service; 88 Total Case Reports; 194 total Citations.

ITEM III LETTERS OF CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Cuttino presented a Letter of Resignation from Officer Galle.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to accept Officer Galle's Letter of Resignation and was seconded by Commissioner Dragojevic.

Commissioner Poling asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Poling requested that Chief Cuttino take a roll call vote.

Chief Cuttino took a roll call vote.

Commissioner Dragojevic, "Aye"

Commissioner Guernsey, "Aye"

Commissioner Poling, "Aye"

Commissioner Ward, "Aye"

Commissioner Poling stated, "Vote is unanimous, and the motion carries."

Chief Cuttino presented a Letter of Resignation from Officer Stanek.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to accept Officer Stanek's Letter of Resignation and was seconded by Commissioner Dragojevic.

Commissioner Poling asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Poling requested that Chief Cuttino take a roll call vote.

Chief Cuttino took a roll call vote.

Commissioner Dragojevic, "Aye"

Commissioner Guernsey, "Aye"

Commissioner Poling, "Aye"

Commissioner Ward, "Aye"

Commissioner Poling stated, "Vote is unanimous, and the motion carries."

Commissioner Poling read the letter of Commendation from Patrol Commander Bunnell recognizing Officer Davis and Officer DeCero lifesaving actions. Officer Davis and Officer DeCero were dispatched to a female possibly overdoing inside a vehicle. On scene both Officers pulled the victim from the vehicle and began efforts to revive her. During this time, Officers administered a dose of Narcan that the officers carry on them. While there was no response from the victim, Officer DeCero began chest compressions to continue life support efforts. A second dose of Narcan was given and the victim began to breathe on her own and became alert. The ambulance was

responding from a Hobart Fire Department due to Merrillville EMS and Fire were busy on calls which had an extended arrival time.

The Police Commission awarded Officer Davis and Officer DeCero with a Level II Commendation.

Commissioner Dragojevic made a motion to accept the Level II Commendations for Officer Davis and Officer DeCero and was seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Commissioner Poling stated all in favor signify by saying, "Aye."  
All replied, "Aye."  
Commissioner Poling stated, "Opposed, same sign."

Hearing none Commissioner Poling stated, "Motion carries"

Commissioner Poling read a Letter of Commendation from Detective Commander Gonzales recognizing Detective Diehl, Detective Garza, and Officer Hickok for displaying outstanding performance while carrying out their duties.

On 9/1/2021 Detective Diehl was contacted by Sgt. Gootee of Hammond Police Department requesting assistance in a shooting investigation that occurred in Hammond, IN. Det. Diehl was advised the subject resided in Merrillville and Hammond would like officers to sit on the residence and take the subject into custody should he leave while they secured a search warrant for the residence. Sgt. Gootee advised the subject is known to be armed and believed to be responsible for shooting into a residence in Hammond.

Surveillance was set up immediately in the vicinity of the residence. Officers observed the subject in question exit the residence and enter his vehicle Officer Hickok conducted a traffic stop on the individual and along with the other officers took him into custody for Hammond PD.

The involved officers then assisted Hammond by maintaining constant surveillance on the residence until the search warrant could be executed. The involved officers then assisted Hammond PD Gang Unit in executing the search warrant where the suspected firearm as well as a pound of marijuana was seized from the residence.

I was later contacted by Master Sergeant Michael Schmidt of Hammond PD Gang Unit commending the involved officers for their efforts in taking this dangerous individual into custody and aiding in their investigations.

I am recommending Det. Diehl, Det. Garza, and Ofc. Hickok be awarded a Level II Commendation.

Commissioner Dragojevic made a motion to accept the Level II Commendations for Det. Diehl, Det. Garza, and Officer Hickok and was seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Commissioner Poling stated all in favor signify by saying, "Aye."  
All replied, "Aye."  
Commissioner Poling stated, "Opposed, same sign."

Hearing none Commissioner Poling stated, "Motion carries"

ITEM IV OLD BUSINESS

ITEM V NEW BUSINESS

Chief Cuttino announced that the Physical Agility testing and Written Testing will be held Saturday October 2, 2021 at the Merrillville Hight School at 8am.

Assistant Chief Nuses requested we open up an Emergency Hiring Process to run along side the New Applicants to replace the two Officers we lost.

Commissioner Guernsey made motion to accept an Emergency Hiring Process and was seconded by Commissioner Dragojevic.

Commissioner Poling asked if there were any discussion.

Commissioner Poling stated all in favor signify by saying, "Aye."  
All replied, "Aye."  
Commissioner Poling stated, "Opposed, same sign."

Hearing none Commissioner Poling stated, "Motion carries".

ITEM VI ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ward made motion to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Guernsey.

Commissioner Poling stated all in favor signify by saying, "Aye."

All replied, "Aye."

Commissioner Poling stated, "Opposed, same sign."

Commissioner Poling stated, "Adjourn."

Commissioner Poling stated next meeting will be Friday October 8, 2021 at 2:00 P.M.

AS THERE WAS NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.