

POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

July 8, 2022

2:00 PM

IN ATTENDANCE: William Poling – Police Commissioner Chairman  
Petar Dragojevic – Police Commissioner Vice Chairman/Secretary  
Michael Rich – Police Commissioner  
Gene Ward – Police Commissioner  
W. Luther Cuttino– Chief of Police  
Kosta 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 Attorney Deppe.

ITEM I Motion was made to accept the minutes of the Police Commission Meeting dated June 3, 2022, as presented.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to accept June 3, 2022, minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Commissioner Poling asked if there were any discussion.

Hearing none Commissioner Poling stated, “Motion carries”.

ITEM II STATISTICS REPORT

The Chief of Police presented the May 2022 Monthly Statistical Reports; 540 Total Citations; 3,145 Calls for Service.

ITEM III LETTERS OF CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioner Poling read a letter of commendation from Commander Bunnell.

I received a request from Sgt. Croarkin #221 for Officer Ryan Kijurna #402 to receive a Commendation for his actions on June 5, 2022 while working graduation at Merrillville High School. It was brought to his attention by another officer about a large physical disturbance that had broken out at the conclusion of the graduation ceremonies.

Sgt. Croarkin spoke with Officer Kijurna about the incident and these are the details about the incident.

As people were exiting the building around 8:00 p.m., there were several exits being used to let the crowds out of the building. As Officer Kijurna exited the building, he was surrounded by an unruly crowd outside the building. Officer Kijurna then requested backup to his location because most of the other security officers had exited the building and left. Officer Kijurna broke up several fights as a lone officer for several minutes until other officers arrived at the scene to assist.

Sgt. Croarkin stated in his memo that he was able to review video footage of the incidents Kijurna was involved in and the professional manner that he was able to confront the people to break up the fights, he did so in a manner that the incident was not escalated because of this professionalism.

Stg. Croarkin felt that the situation Officer Kijurna was involved in was greatly handled in a heightened and volatile situation.

After the incident was over and calmed down, Officer Bronowski spoke with several people involved in the incident.

Sgt. Croarkin requested that Kijurna be recognized by the administration and a commendation received with a copy of his memo in his personnel file.

Commissioner Dragovjevic made motion to accept the letter of commendation awarding a Level II Commendation 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."

Commissioner Poling discussed a letter of commendation from Commander Bunnell.

Commander Bunnell presented a letter of Commendation for Officer Davidson-Dugan and Officer Wright for going above and beyond the call of duty to respond to an accident just outside our jurisdiction and tend to the medical needs of the driver until other medical services arrived.

Commander Bunnell is requesting a Level I commendation for their actions a the traffic accident scene.

Commissioner Dragovjevic made motion to accept the letter of commendation awarding a Level I Commendation 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 IV

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

ITEM V

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Poling read Resolution 988 Approving Secretary Olivia Bermudez to be moved to a Law Enforcement Technician effective from and after 12:01 AM, July 3, 2022. This position will be for the duration of a one-year probationary period from this date and that the rate of pay will be set by the Chief of Police.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to accept Resolution 988 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 Rich, "Aye"

Commissioner Poling, "Aye"

Commissioner Ward, "Aye"

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

Motion was made to expire the January 2022 Eligibility List.

Commissioner Dragojevic made motion to expire list and was seconded by Commissioner Ward.

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

Chief Cuttino took a roll call vote.

Commissioner Dragojevic, "Aye"

Commissioner Rich, "Aye"

Commissioner Poling, "Aye"

Commissioner Ward, "Aye"

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

## ITEM VI

### ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Dragojevic made motion to adjourn 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."

Commissioner Poling stated, "Adjourn."

Commissioner Poling stated the next regular meeting will be Friday August 5, 2022 at 2:00 P.M.

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