CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
OFFICE OF CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
FIRE DEPARTMENT

IN RE:)
REGULARLY SCHEDULED)
MEETING)
_____)

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

The transcript of proceedings as held in person Monday, January 12, 2026, commencing at or about 4:30 p.m. CST, and as reported by the duly engaged verbatim stenographer for said meeting, Rebecca A. Lempa, Associate Reporter.

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COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

VALERIANO GOMEZ, President
ROBERT NUNEZ, Vice President
STANLEY KUBAS, Commissioner

TOLBERT & TOLBERT, LLC
BY: SHELICE TOLBERT
1085 Broadway, Suite B
Gary, Indiana 46402
(219) 427-0094

Appearing via Zoom on behalf of Chief Escobedo

ALSO PRESENT:

Fire Chief Marc Escobedo

Deputy Chief Ronald Bergren

Captain Daniel Buckley

Secretary Dina Rodriguez

(Members of the public present in person and via Zoom.)

ATTACHMENTS TO RECORD:

Memo 26-001, E-mails of Transfer Requests, Updated Seniority List, 7 pages

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Monday, January 12, 2026 --

(Parties present in person and via Zoom at or about 4:30 p.m.)

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Okay. Good afternoon, everyone. I'd like to call to order the Fire Civil Service Commission for January 12th, 2026. Before I do roll call, I'd like to welcome our new commissioner, Robert Nunez. Welcome to the board.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER NUNEZ: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Let's do roll call.

SECRETARY RODRIGUEZ: Commissioner Gomez?

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Present.

SECRETARY RODRIGUEZ: Commissioner Kubas?

COMMISSIONER KUBAS: Here.

SECRETARY RODRIGUEZ: Commissioner Nunez?

COMMISSIONER NUNEZ: Here.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Okay. We have election of officers now. Any nominations -- we'll start with president -- nominations for president?

COMMISSIONER NUNEZ: I nominate Val.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Okay. Any other nominations? Okay. Nominations for vice president. I'd like to nominate Robert Nunez; any other nominations? Okay. There being no further

nominations, I'd like to make a motion to accept the position of president to Val Gomez; for vice president, Robert Nunez; and Stanley will be member again. Okay? I'd like to make that motion; is there a second?

COMMISSIONER NUNEZ: I'll second.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: All in favor say aye.

(Ayes in unison.)

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Okay. Now we have approval of the agenda; I'd like to make a motion to approve the agenda. I think we're gonna have -- we're gonna add one thing under new business. Chief, you or one of your staff has something to say under new business; right?

FIRE CHIEF ESCOBEDO: Yes.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: What's the title of it?

FIRE CHIEF ESCOBEDO: EMT status update.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Okay. So, we're gonna add that to new business; okay?

FIRE CHIEF ESCOBEDO: Okay. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Okay. Now we have the approval of the minutes from December 2025; I'd like to make a motion to approve the minutes as written. Second?

COMMISSIONER NUNEZ: Second.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: All in favor, say aye.

(Ayes in unison.)

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Motion passes. We have no correspondence; we're gonna go to communications.

Is there any communications from our attorney or any of the commissioners? No? Okay. We're gonna move on to -- we do have communications from the chief; we have a memo, 26-001. This is promotional transfers and reassignments.

It's in our packets; we're gonna make it part of the record. I believe these were the promotions that were done in December and transfers?

FIRE CHIEF ESCOBEDO: Correct.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: And everything on there.

There was conversations with all officers and everything?

FIRE CHIEF ESCOBEDO: Yes.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Okay. And then we have three e-mails from each respective turn; this is from the assistant chiefs requesting the moves?

FIRE CHIEF ESCOBEDO: They request the summary assignments within their shifts.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Okay. No issues?

FIRE CHIEF ESCOBEDO: No.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Okay. Then we have the updated seniority list. Any questions on the updated seniority list? Everybody have a chance to review it? No questions?

COMMISSIONER NUNEZ: No questions.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: No? You're good? So, we'll enter all these communications from the chief into the record. Okay. From the chief examiner, nothing was submitted in the agenda before. Is she online?

SECRETARY RODRIGUEZ: She's on Zoom, yes.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Do you wanna add anything, Angel? No? Okay. Any other communications? No?

Okay. Under new business we have the chief. Chief, you have the floor.

FIRE CHIEF ESCOBEDO: I was just following up. At the last meeting, I requested an EMT, I guess, a compliance status update within our personnel and department from the chief examiner; I was sent the list from April of 2025.

Basically, I was just looking for a current update on that, just regarding their status; meaning, whether they're taking another course, if

they still have attempts to pass the certification course, just to kind of see where everyone was at. On our end, as I mentioned before, through the department, we're doing our best to get them in courses through Superior Ambulance at no cost, so I know that's pretty enticing for most individuals.

We're also, through our training department -- which I'll bring up Captain Buckley shortly here. He's the one that reached out to each individual to get their -- their position with this, but he's also formulating a plan to assist them with daily training to focus on EMT.

So, if you have no questions for me, I'd like to bring him up, and he can touch on some of the things.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Okay. And you said the list you have right now is from April?

FIRE CHIEF ESCOBEDO: The list I was sent. I was requesting, through the chief examiner, a current. So, what we did on our end, we just, as they come through the front office, we just -- and he can touch on that a lot more. But, yeah, he was just following up with her position on the EMT.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Okay.

CAPTAIN BUCKLEY: Chief, aside from stuff you just mentioned, I don't really have anything additional to add, aside from our status updates.

And then with that, moving forward, and then incorporating something for our daily training to try to kind of help guys progress the best we can. But that's about it from my side.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Thank you.

FIRE CHIEF ESCOBEDO: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Do you have something more?

FIRE CHIEF ESCOBEDO: No, that was it.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Okay. I'll move on to public comments. Any comments from the public?

CAPTAIN MATA: No. Just wanted to say Happy New Year, everybody, and congratulations to Commissioner Nunez. So, that's all.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Okay. Any other comments? Ron? Nothing?

DEPUTY CHIEF BERGREN: Nothing, no.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Okay. So, that concludes everything on our agenda for tonight; I'd like to make a motion for adjournment.

COMMISSIONER NUNEZ: Second.

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: All in favor, say aye.

(Ayes in unison. Meeting adjourned at or about 4:34 p.m. CST.)

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STATE OF INDIANA)
)SS:
COUNTY OF LAPORTE)

COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Rebecca Lempa, Associate Reporter, do hereby certify that I reported by the means of CAT shorthand the proceedings held on January 12, 2026, commencing at or about the hour of 4:30 p.m., held in person before the Office of Civil Service Commission, Fire Department;

That I have transcribed my shorthand notes into the typewritten form, and that the foregoing and attached pages or parts of pages, numbered one through 9, comprise a complete, true, and accurate transcript of said proceedings to the best of my skills and abilities;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 13th day of January, 2026.



REBECCA A. LEMPA

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