



**CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
POLICE MERIT COMMISSION**
Email: ecmeritboard@gmail.com

Commission Members

Ricardo Chavarria

Diane Perez

Henry Rodriguez

Rodolfo Sanchez

Tammy Sloss

Enedina Rodriguez, Recording Secretary

Shana Levinson, Commission Attorney

Anthony Copeland, Mayor

**Minutes of March 2, 2022
Regular Meeting via ZOOM**

Call to Order: 435PM

President Rodriguez welcomed new Commissioner, elected by active members of the police department, Diane Perez. Commissioner Perez thanked all and is excited to be there and looking forward to the challenge.

Roll Call Attendance: In Person: Chavarria, Perez, Rodriguez, Sanchez and Sloss
Also in person: Attorney Levinson (Commission Attorney) and Deputy Chief Rivera
Appearing via Zoom: Chief Rosario

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda made by Commissioner Sloss. Second by Commissioner Sanchez

Roll Call: Ayes: Chavarria, Rodriguez, Sanchez and Sloss

Abstain: Perez

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIES

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of February 16, 2022 made by Commissioner Chavarria. Second by Commissioner Sanchez

Roll Call: Ayes: Chavarria, Rodriguez, Sanchez and Sloss

Abstain: Perez

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIES

Correspondence

Communication from the ECPD: Chief has nothing at this time. The new applicant process is moving forward. Dina has sent an email and regular mail with regards to the written exam.

Deputy Chief Rivera: Advised that the Commission may receive communication from one of the officers regarding an investigation. It deals with policy violation and an internal affairs investigation is still pending that is why it is not before the Commission at this time. Since the act that he committed is considered criminal in nature, it was forwarded to the state police. I don't think he understands that process. I have nothing to give you guys because it's an ongoing, criminal investigation, not an internal

right now. So I just I don't want to catch you guys off guard later if he comes to a meeting or sends you guys letter. I don't even have an internal investigation report.

Communication from the Commissioners or Commission Attorney: Attorney Levinson thought it would maybe be helpful since this is Commissioner Perez' first meeting to discuss a little bit about the hiring process. The following was part of the discussion:

Since the Merit Commission was adopted in 2012 it has governed using the Indiana Statute that applies to the merit system.

Everybody who comes in for hiring and disciplinary matters comes before this commission. The commission developed a schedule on how people go through the process, but certain things are required. A written test is required, which is where we are right now. We sent out for applications. We post notice we get those applications in. We have 18 of those applications.

Often times when we get the applications, the Commissioners each go up to the Police Department. Administrative offices and review them to see if there's anybody who just right off the bat doesn't meet the qualifications or raises too many red flags are purged. We're on a tighter schedule right now and the commission hasn't had an opportunity to do that yet. They're not prepared to make those purge but the applicants can be purged at any time throughout the process.

We have that written exam which is again governed by state law. That's going to be administered on March 12 on a Saturday morning. It takes place at the police department and there will be a proctor from the testing exam company. This is a new company so it's going to be a little new for everybody. But there's a study session in the morning for the applicants that they have to attend and then go into the test at the conclusion of the break.

Commissioners are all welcome to be present for the. Everybody who passes with a 70% moves on unless they're purged by you all based on something in their history. Everybody below a 70 is purged automatically.

The following weekend will be the physical agility test (the requirements for the agility test are given with the application). That is a little less than what they give the officers at NILEA. If they don't meet least those minimum standards, then we they fail right there.

The individuals who do pass then that's when we start with the background checks, which now we do have a company that does the background checks for us. The individuals who are still in the process submit to a polygraph, to make sure that everything is okay.

At each step of the way, the Commission is getting feedback about and how the individuals and what they're doing on their background and what the polygraph looks like. You have the opportunity to potentially purge people. Then the Commissioners, the deputy chief and the chief and I think sometimes oftentimes one other individual who is present for the interviews.

In the past, each commissioner during the interview process will ask a minimum of 2 - 3 questions.

We have executive session to discuss things that we don't want to discuss in a public setting.

Other Communications: Motion to approve the new testing dates March 12 and March 19 made by Commissioner Chavarria. Second by Commissioner Sanchez

Roll Call: Ayes: Chavarria, Perez, Rodriguez, Sanchez and Sloss

Abstain: None

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIES

New business: Emergency hiring process. Mr. King will be tested on same day as new hires since he is already a police officer. He takes an agility and basic police knowledge written test

The test is fairly new and has been revised to more current information.

The Commission would like to open the emergency hire process but will have to wait until Mr. King either passes or fails the upcoming test.

The matter will be addressed at the next meeting on March 16, 2022.

Other Business: Contract for testing Company: Motion to approve contract with testing company made by Commissioner Chavarria. Second by Commissioner Sloss.

Roll Call: Ayes: Chavarria, Perez, Rodriguez, Sanchez and Sloss

Abstain: None

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIES

Public Comment: None

With no further business to discuss motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Sloss. Second by Commissioner Sanchez. Meeting adjourned 513PM

Police Merit Commission