

**CITY OF LAWRENCE**  
**Police Merit Commission**  
**July 12, 2021**  
**Regular Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Wheeler, Gail Gartin and Bob Hendrickson

MEMBERS BY ZOOM: Robert Crouch and Karen Horth Powers

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Kathleen Walton

STAFF PRESENT: Police Chief Hofmann, Deputy Police Chief Woodruff and Captain Cantrell

STAFF BY ZOOM: Captain Erika Schneider

Commission President Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. and announced a quorum was present.

He then called for a moment of silence to honor Detective Greg Ferency from the Terre Haute Police Department who lost his life in recent days while serving the people of his community.

COMMENTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mrs. Gartin moved to approve the minutes of the special meeting on June 1, 2021. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hendrickson. By a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Police Chief Hofmann discussed the recommended selection criteria for the 2021 hiring process; determination of 0.5 point for each selection criteria (weight given applicants based on IC 36-8-4-10) and 0.5 point for a graduate from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) and approval of final list rankings for the 2021 hiring list. Following discussion, Mrs. Gartin moved to approve the selection criteria to add 0.5 points to the totals of applicants for specified categories identified under IC 36-8-4-10 and add 0.5 points to the totals of applicants for a graduate from ILEA. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hendrickson. By a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

Police Chief Hofmann requested approval of the 2021 hiring process eligibility list. He recommended striking candidate number one from the eligibility list and certifying the list starting with candidate number 2 through 14. Following questions from the Commission, Mr. Hendrickson moved to approve the 13 applicants (ranked in order from 2 to 14) on the 2021 eligibility hiring list and remove 17 applicants based on unfavorable background results, withdrawals or incomplete applications. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gartin. By a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

Captain Schneider said the Board of Works and Safety will need to certify the 2021 hiring eligibility list on July 22, 2021.

PERFORMANCE RECOGNITION: In the wake of the very successful City of Lawrence July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration, Police Chief Hofmann, asked Captain Cantrell to come forward. Police Chief Hofmann informed the Commission of Captain Cantrell's exemplary performance in planning and executing the public safety strategy for the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade, fish fry, car show, carnival, and spectacular fireworks show. Planning and carrying out all the public safety requirements for such an event is always a challenge. It was especially so this year as the community emerged from COVID-19 quarantine. There were large crowds everywhere. Captain Cantrell served as the main point of contact for the entire team effort that included the Lawrence Police Department, Lawrence Fire Department, medical support services, Parks Department, and DPW. All performed skillfully during the 18 hours of the event. The consensus is that this year's July 4<sup>th</sup> festival was the best in recent memory, well managed, incident free. Captain Cantrell will say correctly that this was a team effort. That said, I am proud of Captain Cantrell's efforts in coordinating that effort this year and in several recent years. After his comments, Police Chief Hofmann presented a Police Merit Commission certificate of recognition to Captain Cantrell.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: None

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

Captain Schneider requested a special meeting to approve the Sergeant and Lieutenant promotion eligibility lists. There will be a special meeting on Monday, August 30, 2021, at 6 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m., by the unanimous vote of the Commission.

---

Charles Wheeler, President

---

Kathleen Walton, City Clerk

These minutes are not intended to be verbatim. They are a summary of discussions held, with the exception of the motions. An audiotape is made which provides a detailed record.