

**CITY OF LAWRENCE**  
**Police Merit Commission**  
**January 10, 2022**  
**Regular Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Wheeler, Gail Gartin, Karen Horth Powers and Ronald Christensen were present

MEMBERS BY ZOOM: Bob Hendrickson

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Kathleen Walton

STAFF PRESENT: Police Chief Hofmann, Deputy Police Chief Woodruff and Officer Mateo Agresta

STAFF BY ZOOM: None

Commission President Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and announced a quorum was present.

COMMENTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS: Mr. Wheeler began by welcoming Ronald Christensen to membership on the Police Merit Commission. Mr. Christensen responded by expressing his appreciation for the opportunity to serve.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Powers moved to approve the minutes of the executive session on September 13, 2021. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gartin. By a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0. Mrs. Gartin moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on September 13, 2021. The motion was seconded by Ms. Powers. By a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The election of President of the Police Merit Commission was opened for nominations. Mrs. Gartin nominated Charles Wheeler for President. Mr. Wheeler three times called for any additional nominations. Mr. Wheeler closed nominations for President. Thereupon, Mr. Wheeler, as the only nominee, was elected unanimously by acclamation.

The election of Vice President of the Police Merit Commission was opened for nominations. Ms. Powers nominated Gail Gartin for Vice President. Commission President Wheeler three times called for any additional nominations. Mr. Wheeler closed nominations for Vice President. Thereupon, Mrs. Gartin, as the only nominee, was elected unanimously by acclamation.

The election of Secretary of the Police Merit Commission was opened for nominations. Mrs. Gartin nominated Ms. Karen Horth Powers for Secretary. Commission President Wheeler three times called for any additional nominations. Mr. Wheeler closed nominations for Secretary. Thereupon, Ms. Powers, as the only nominee, was elected unanimously by acclamation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Powers moved to approve the 2022 meeting schedule. Mrs. Gartin seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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PERFORMANCE RECOGNITION: Mr. Wheeler asked Police Chief Hofmann to recognize Officer Mateo Agresta for his actions on the morning of January 3, 2022. Police Chief Hofmann and Officer Agresta came to the podium where the chief presented Officer Agresta with a Police Merit Commission certificate of recognition. Police Chief Hofmann's comments that document Officer Agresta's outstanding performance of duty are attached to these minutes.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: None

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

Mr. Wheeler thanked the Commission for serving the citizens of the City of Lawrence. He went on to explain the timeline for commission meetings and expressed that he looks forward to working with them. He indicated that he would like to expand performance recognitions to citizens in situations during which they assist police officers.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m., by the unanimous vote of the Commission.

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Charles Wheeler, President

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Kathleen Walton, City Clerk

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