

WEST LAFAYETTE POLICE MERIT COMMISSION MINUTES  
October 12, 2015

The West Lafayette Police Merit Commission met in regular session in Room 211 at the Morton Center on October 12, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

PRESENT: Commission President Shafer, Vice President Corrigan, and Commissioner Kirkpatrick

ABSENT: Commissioners No and Troyer

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Dombkowski and Deputy Chief Leroux

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commission President Shafer called the meeting to order. President Shafer asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the September meeting. Commissioner Kirkpatrick moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Corrigan. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

Deputy Chief Leroux asked that the Commission make permanent two promotions per Article 5, Section 8.1. The promotions of Jon Eager, and Dave Lord have now passed the year probation, so by merit rule we have to make those promotions permanent effective September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Commissioner Kirkpatrick had questions in regard to this rule with Deputy Chief Leroux answering them to her satisfaction. Commission President Shafer asked for a motion to approve the permanent promotions of Sargent Eager and Lieutenant Lord, with Commissioner Kirkpatrick making that motion and Commissioner Corrigan seconding it. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Deputy Chief was asked about the new hires and where we stand in that process. Last Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, WLPD conducted interviews. We interviewed 9 individuals on Friday, with 6 passing with a score of 75 or greater and 3 not passing. Backgrounds will be completed on November 2, 2015. Deputy Chief Leroux asked if the Commission wanted to set up interviews at the November meeting if they so desired. Commission President Shafer suggested to meet on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November quickly for 15 min meeting and then do the interviews after that. It was discussed and decided that is what would happen. Sgt. Choate will notify the applicants.

Openings were discussed by Commission President Shafer and Chief Dombkowski. Chief Dombkowski stated there was approval for adding another patrolman in 2016 and one in 2017. There are two patrol officers currently at the academy. They are expected to be released for solo patrol in March of 2016. Commission President Shafer asked if

any current candidates had military background. Deputy Chief Leroux was not certain of that, but will research and let Commission President Shafer know

#### CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Dombkowski stated that we had 3 officers that received letters of commendation, those being Officer Ferguson, Officer Thompson, and Officer Kendricks with two officers receiving summary discipline, those officers being Officer Spray and Officer Glick. The commission stated that they were not notified of those two occurrences.

Chief Dombkowski said that it was a very busy month for the department. The numbers were up compared to last year at this time. There were 3 home football games with 15 arrests.

WLPD launched the traffic division in August...focusing heavily on school zones, which resulted in 246 stops in a month. Chief Dombkowski expects the numbers to come down in the following months as the citizens get used to the motorcycles in the areas. Capt. Harris compiled a report about the robbery of CVS on September 10<sup>th</sup> in the morning that led to several arrests with one subject still at large. Our patrol division and detectives working with other departments led to these arrests.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick asked if there was a pattern in the arrests that occurred during this time period with Deputy Chief Leroux answering the question stating that he believed that it was really random and no real pattern. She asked about car break-ins locally, and Deputy Chief Leroux stated that there were two groups operating in two different areas of town with arrests of people in those groups.

President Shafer asked about the jamming of Wi-fi systems with Chief Dombkowski saying that the TCPD was looking into that to make sure it was valid complaint.

Commission President Shafer asked Chief Dombkowski about having another Citizens Academy this year. Chief Dombkowski said that Cindy Marion would be in charge of that but probably wouldn't have another until 2016. Commission President Shafer hopes that it will be promoted to the public and give people time to sign up for it.

Commissioner Corrigan asked about the interaction with PUPD. Chief Dombkowski said that he believes the move of dispatch to PUPD is working out very well. Commissioner Kirkpatrick asked about having the dispatch in another location being a disadvantage with communication. Chief Dombkowski stated that he didn't believe it was a disadvantage since dispatch has been out of our building for 12 years.

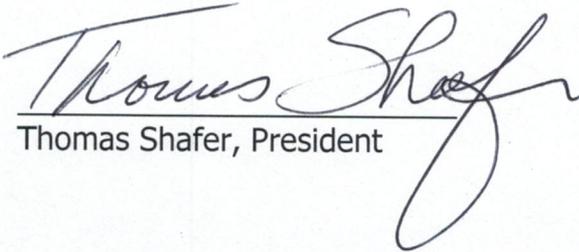
Commission President Shafer asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kirkpatrick made that motion with Commissioner Corrigan seconding it. The motion was passed with a unanimous voice vote.

The next meeting will be held on November 9, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Morton Center.

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Dr. Song No, Secretary

Attest:



Thomas Shafer, President