



CITY OF EAST CHICAGO  
POLICE MERIT COMMISSION  
Email: [ecmeritboard@eastchicago.com](mailto:ecmeritboard@eastchicago.com)

APPROVED

Anthony Copeland, Mayor

Commission Members

Lora Kokot, Secretary

Richard Peterson, Member

Henry Rodriguez, President

Tammy Sloss, Vice President

Michael, Smith, Member

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Enequina Rodriguez, Recording Secretary

Shana Levinson, Commission Attorney

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
Feb 5, 2019

Call to Order 504PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Kokot, Peterson, Rodriguez and Sloss Absent: Smith

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve Agenda by Commissioner Sloss. Second by Commissioner Peterson. A voice vote was called by President Rodriguez. All were in favor. None opposed.

Motion Carries

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of January 22, 2019 with corrections was made by Commissioner Peterson. Second by Commissioner Sloss. A voice vote was called by President Rodriguez. All were in favor. None opposed.

Motion Carries

Correspondence: None

Communications from ECPD: 11 applications have been received.

Communications from Commissioners: Commissioner Peterson informed the Commission that he spoke with applicant Brandon Myers and his application has been pushed over to this round of applications.

Committee Reports: Nothing to report

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Other Business: Attorney Levinson advised that tort claim notices have been received but no action is necessary at this time.


Public Comment: Officer Kokot—attached statement

Next Meeting: February 19, 2019 @ 5PM

Adjournment: 516PM

Minutes Approved on 19<sup>th</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 2019

  
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President

Attest: 

My suspension is not going to need to be appealed and that is not what I am here requesting. Quite the contrary. It is going to require this Merit Commission to revisit it based upon the proven perjuries by Chief Smith, Deputy Chief Rosario and former Patrol Commander Taylor, as well as the motion made by Commissioner Rodriguez and seconded by Commissioner Sloss, both mayoral appointees to this Commission, which demonstrated an obvious lack of fairness, impartiality, and most importantly, ignoring the facts of perjury and the utilization of a false departmental document.

On December 4, 2018, I attended the Merit Commission meeting wherein, during Public Comment, I stated that I had submitted Disciplinary Reports against Chief Smith, Deputy Chief Rosario and former Patrol Commander Taylor, regarding numerous departmental violations committed during my July 31<sup>st</sup> hearing. I also alluded to the fact that I felt that the department would turn a blind eye toward or totally ignore those violation documents. It appears that I was correct in my assumption.

This afternoon, I re-submitted Disciplinary Reports on the same three individuals, through the proper chain-of-command, in hopes that Commander Arcuri will finally do his duty, according to Section 203.26 of the current rules and regulations manual of the department. To date, he has been derelict in his duty. Maybe a Commission member would like to ask why he has not conducted a formal investigation and has not proffered a formal report to the Chief of Police with his recommendations.

In speaking with former Commission President Peterson on several occasions, he advised me that he had spoken to Commissioner Henry Rodriguez at the conclusion of my hearing. During their conversation Commissioner Peterson asked Commissioner Rodriguez why he made a motion to sustain my suspension, when

it was proven that the administrators who testified had perjured themselves and utilized a false document? Commissioner Peterson explained that Commissioner Rodriguez was silent at first, but then replied that he had wanted to hear all of the witnesses and hear from both sides. That response is in total contradiction to making the motion.

In another exchange, at a later date, Commissioner Peterson advised me that he had another opportunity to speak with Commissioner Rodriguez about my hearing. During this discussion, Commissioner Rodriguez stated he had just wanted the hearing to be done.

That response by Commissioner Rodriguez was not only highly suspect but would insinuate that he had no interest or felt no responsibility in being fair or impartial during my hearing.

Commissioner Peterson will tell you that I said from the on-set of this whole situation that Commission members Rodriguez and Sloss would vote against me no matter what. It appears as if Attorney Christopher Cooper's statement that East Chicago is an anomaly and does as it pleases. Sounds just like what the old Citizens In Action group fought against. This is extremely similar to the old Pastrick regime.

Ms. Levinson, as the Commission attorney, what is the policy and procedure for filing a complaint or having an investigation initiated against a member or members of the Merit Commission? What is the policy or procedure for the Merit Commission to initiate their own investigation about departmental personnel?

POLICE MERIT COMMISSION  
EAST CHICAGO, IN

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