



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

Commission Members

- Lora Kokot, Secretary
- Richard Peterson, Member
- Henry Rodriguez, President
- Tammy Sloss, Vice President
- Michael, Smith, Member
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- Enedina Rodriguez, Recording Secretary
- Shana Levinson, Commission Attorney

*Anthony Copeland, Mayor*

APPROVED

**Minutes of Regular Meeting  
August 6, 2019**

**Call to Order: 5:09**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Present:** Kokot, Sloss, Rodriguez, Peterson, Smith

**Absent:** None

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve August 6, 2019 Agenda made by Commissioner Peterson. Second by Commissioner Smith. A voice vote was called by Commissioner Rodriguez. All in favor. None opposed.

**Motion carries.**

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 15, 2019 made by Commissioner Smith. Second by Commissioner Sloss. A voice vote was called by Commissioner Rodriguez. All in favor. None opposed.

**Motion carries.**

**Correspondence:** None

**Communications from ECPD:**

Deputy Chief Rivera spoke about the manner in which the Fire Department hires. Most significant differences are that it places a lot more responsibility on the applicant and it uses an independent company to do background checks. These methods show whether the applicant is responsible and significantly cuts down on the department's costly burden of conducting background checks in a short period of time.

To place more responsibility on the applicant, as soon as the applicant passes the written and agility test, they receive a letter that they passed the test and notifying them 3 informational meetings. Every applicant must attend one of these meetings, dependent on their schedules.

At that meeting, they're given all of the information about the process and what is expected of them; including who to call to schedule their polygraph, background checks, etc. This reduces the load on the Department significantly.

For background checks, the Fire Department uses a company called Safe Hiring Solutions. He found it very thorough and only took a couple of days. Deputy Chief has put in a call to them and is waiting to find out if they can check all of the criteria the Department wants, including employment backgrounds. Every applicant pays for their own background check - it cost \$36.50 for Fire but that may vary if there are additional criteria to investigate.

They'll bring the information they get from Safe Hiring Solutions back to the Commission and check to make sure the service doesn't need to go out for bid before they make a decision.

The Department would still do a follow up on what the independent company came up with but it

will be a lot less extensive, expensive and time consuming to do so.  
Lastly, Deputy Chief reported that all of the new hires passed the physical assessment for the Academy.

**Communications from Commissioners:** None.

**Committee Reports:** None.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Other Business:** Promotions: Commissioner Kokot stated that the testing notification went out to Sgt Arcuri and confirmed with the testing company. The test will be September 4 at 10 or 10:30. Dina got a read receipt on it.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated that Daniel Williams, an applicant, asked if he'd have to go through the polygraph and background check again since he applied before. It was noted that, during the last process, Williams had confirmed his interview date and time with Lieutenant Kossi but never showed up; not calling in for a week or so thereafter. Even though the Commission has allowed applicants to forego this process in some instances in the past when the hiring processes were conducted closely together, no background check was ever done on Williams because he never showed up for his appointment. Commissioner Rodriguez will notify him that he has to go through every component of the process when he reapplies.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Next Meeting:** August 20, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

**Adjournment:** 5:30 p.m.

  
Henry Rodriguez, President

Attest: 