



**CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
POLICE MERIT COMMISSION**
Email: ecmeritboard@gmail.com

Commission Members

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

Anthony Copeland, Mayor

**Minutes of Public Hearing
February 4, 2020**

Call to Order: 500PM

APPROVED

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: All present

Public hearing to hear public comment on the Police Merit Commission Rules and Regulations.

Attorney Levinson stated that the Amended Rules and Regulations were according to statute placed on file in the Clerk's Office and the Chief's office on January 23, 2020 which is in excess of 10 days from today. The public hearing was also published and properly noticed up for today.

Attorney Lyles was present and had comments on the rules and regulations.

He stated the following:

- Rules are different from ordinance. The Commission exists by ordinance and therefore cannot come out of the ordinance and statute by which they are created. The changes suggested in the rules are more ordinance changes and not rule changes which the Commission does not have the authority to make.
- Page 8 selection of Commissioners--the original statute 36-8-3.5-6 should be here and clarifies 36-8-10 does not apply to determine the political affiliation of the Commission. It is determined by the voter record of the last three elections.
- Page 9 expanding the authority under the statute where it talks about the duties and powers of the Commission in the original statute there is no mention of performance review, career development or major discipline. If those things want to be added that has to be done through legislative authority.
- Page 13--powers to review needs limitation or deleted. Attorney Levinson stated that if the commission takes later action the same rules would apply.
- Page 15--General Requirements 2 Age would like to change that language from 21 years and less than 36 years of age to 21 years of age and no older than 36 years of age. The letter the department sends out to people to apply is 35 not 36.
- Page 20--Conditional offer of employment D. inserting power of police chief it is not in the ordinance or in the City Council ordinance. Attorney Levinson restated it is the Chief who makes the conditional offer of employment from the eligibility list. Trying to create rules and not going against statute. Reword to say the Chief shall make a conditional offer as a probationary police officer...

- E. Dire need came from administration in order to get people on the street quicker.
- Page 30 Transfers, Specially Appointments and Transfers asked that it be deleted. No need for the rule because the Commission does not have authority. Attorney Levinson is just a point of clarification that transfers do not count in so far as discipline
- Page 32 Administrative Leave B. Suspensions-- the Commission has no authority to put someone on leave or with or without pay. 2 through 4 should be deleted. Chief has the authority. E. Investigations should be deleted F. Disagree with the discipline up to five days go before the Commission. Attorney Levinson stated that is per statute.
- Page 36 I. Discovery a charge member disciplinary record is discoverable prior too kudos to the Commission

All comments were taken under advisement. Attorney Levinson will make agreed upon changes.

Comment from Sgt. Arcuri asked a question about the administrative leave. Has the board anytime in the past had any say when a prior chief put someone on administrative leave Attorney Levinson the only time the Commission weighed in was back when this was under the Board of Public Safety not under this Commission. Chief can put someone on paid leave but not on unpaid leave without the Commission being notified.
Due process meaning you are entitled to hearing

There being no further public comment the public hearing adjourned at 540PM

Minutes approved this 3rd day of March, 2020.

Police Merit Commission