

October 2, 2008

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners was held on the above date, commencing at 6:25 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Ernesto A. Baca, Vice-Chair
Earl A. Buford
Richard C. Cox
Kathryn A. Hein
Carolina M. Stark

ABSENT: Commissioner: Leonard J. Sobczak (Excused)

ALSO PRESENT: Edward Flynn, Chief, Milwaukee Police Department; and Brian Glassel, Assistant Chief, representing the Milwaukee Fire Department.

The Vice-Chair reconvened the Board in Regular Session, having previously met in Executive Session from 4:35 p.m. to 6:25 p.m. pursuant to Section 19.85 (1)(c) Wis. Stats. to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over whom the Board has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility; and pursuant to Section 19.85 (1) (g) Wis. Stats. to confer with a representative of the City Attorney's Office who will render oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the Board with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved, to wit: Firefighter examination process and Vasquez disciplinary appeal.

The Director presented for adoption minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 18, 2008. Commissioner Cox moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Buford. The motion carried unanimously.

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a) The Director returned to the Board a request from staff to amend Fire and Police Commission Rule V, Section 4 by deleting the title of "Computer Operator II" and adding the titles "Helpdesk Specialist I" and "Helpdesk Specialist II." Commissioner Cox moved approval of the request, seconded by Commissioner Hein. The motion carried unanimously.

b) The Vice-Chair announced that the Board had met earlier in closed session to discuss the Mark Vasquez disciplinary appeal hearing which had been held previously. The issue before the Board is whether to recommend that the Board concurs with the finding of the hearing panel, allowing a pending appeal of the hearing to move forward to Circuit Court. Commissioner Stark moved to concur with the original Findings and Fact of the Board and to allow the case to proceed to Circuit Court. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buford and carried unanimously.

2. NEW BUSINESS:

a) The Director presented a letter dated September 8, 2008, from Police Recruit Officer Brian Maddox who requests an extension of his temporary exemption of the City residency requirement. Officer Maddox was appointed on June 16, 2008 and is required to move into the City by December 16, 2008. He listed his home on June 29, 2008 and has been unable to sell it. Commissioner Cox stated his position that extensions should only be granted for exigent circumstances. However, he acknowledged the current flat housing market and stated he will not oppose the request. Commissioner Stark asked why this request is being handled now rather than closer to December 16th, since he may be able to sell the home between now and then, and it usually takes at least 60 days to finalize the closing once an offer has been accepted. Officer Maddox answered that trying to get housing close to the holidays would be difficult. He requested an extension until at least March, 2009, although he would prefer six months. Commissioner Buford moved to

extend the exemption until March 19, 2009. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stark and carried unanimously.

b) The Director presented a letter dated September 23, 2008, from Police Officer David Grycowski who requests a temporary hardship exemption of the City residency requirement in order to provide in-home care for a seriously ill parent. Commissioner Cox moved approval of the request and requested that Officer Grycowski move back into the City immediately once the reason for the exemption no longer exists. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buford and carried unanimously.

c) The Director presented a letter dated September 26, 2008, from Police Sergeant Shaun Doyne who requests a permanent hardship exemption of the City residency requirement due to his marriage to a Racine County Sheriff's Deputy who is required to live in Racine County. Mrs. Doyne requested an exemption of her residency requirement and was denied due to a state law (sec. 59.26) that prohibits deputy sheriffs from residing outside of the county that they are employed by. The Director stated that such exemptions have been granted by the City in the past when the other jurisdiction would not or could not participate in a reciprocity agreement. He pointed out that the marriage of Sgt. Doyne took place after both parties were already under competing residency requirements, and that an Attorney General Opinion (66 Atty.Gen. 315) requires deputy sheriffs to maintain residency in the county in which they work. Commissioner Cox moved approval of the hardship exemption, with the understanding that approval only exists while the condition exists. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stark and carried unanimously.

d) The Director presented to the Board for their information the 2009 Proposed Plan and Executive Budget Summary for the Fire and Police Commission, Fire Department, and Police Department.

3. EXAMINATIONS:

a) The Director presented for approval an examination announcement bulletin for the position of Police Aide in the Police Department. The Director noted that the regular Spring recruitment was not able to provide enough candidates to fill all the vacancies, so the chief called for a mid-year recruitment. The requirements have not changed. Commissioner Cox moved approval of the bulletin, seconded by Commissioner Stark. The motion carried unanimously.

4. FIRE DEPARTMENT:

a) The following promotion, as presented by Fire Chief Douglas Holton, was approved by the Board:

TO OFFICE ASSISTANT III, from Office Assistant II, effective October 5, 2008:

AMBER K. LAWSON.

b) The Director presented a letter dated September 24, 2008, from Chief Holton, wherein he notifies the Board that Fire Lieutenant Bradley W. Davis was granted a Military Leave of Absence from September 9 through 22, 2008.

c) The Director presented two letters dated September 25, 2008, from Chief Holton, wherein he informs the Board that Firefighter Matthew A. Palmer successfully completed his extended probation period under the terms of the Settlement Agreement dated July 11, 2007, and Firefighter Brian M. Manske successfully completed his extended probation period under the terms of the Settlement Agreement dated January 7, 2008.

d) The Director presented a letter dated September 24, 2008, from Chief Holton, wherein he requests that one position of Audiovisual Specialist II, assigned to the Bureau of Instruction and Training, be studied and classified to reflect the duties and responsibilities that have been added since this position was created in the

2004 budget. The Vice-Chair directed that the request be referred to the Department of Employee Relations for study and report.

5. POLICE DEPARTMENT:

a) The following promotion, as presented by Chief of Police Edward Flynn, was approved by the Board:

TO POLICE DISTRICT OFFICE ASSISTANT, from Office Assistant I, effective October 5, 2008:

LA CINDA R. SLOAN.

b) TO POLICE TELECOMMUNICATOR (REGULAR), from eligible list established February 1, 2007, contingent upon successful completion of a background investigation, medical examination, and drug screening, effective October 6, 2008:

#76 – PEARLETTE R. MOORE.

c) The Director presented a letter dated September 22, 2008, from Chief Flynn, wherein he notifies the Board that Lieutenant Edith Hudson will serve as Acting Captain of the Third District for less than 30 days, effective September 21, 2008. She will replace Captain James Harpole who has been promoted to Assistant Chief.

d) The Director presented a letter dated September 22, 2008, from Chief Flynn, wherein he requests that the probationary period of Detective David Lopez be extended for a period of 79 days, until January 9, 2009, due to a significant amount of sick leave. Commissioner Stark moved approval of the request, seconded by Commissioner Hein. The motion carried unanimously.

e) The Director presented a letter dated September 22, 2008, from Chief Flynn, wherein he requests that the probationary period of Police Officer Joshua M. Seidl be extended for a period of 111 days, until February 6, 2009, due to an on-duty injury. Commissioner Cox moved approval of the request, seconded by Commissioner Buford. The motion carried unanimously.

The Director presented a letter dated September 25, 2008, from Assistant Chief Dale Schunk, wherein he requests that the probationary period of Police Officer Justin W. Decleene be extended for a period of 201 days, until August 29, 2009, due to on-duty injuries. Commissioner Cox moved approval of the request, seconded by Commissioner Hein. The motion carried unanimously.

f) Chief Flynn gave a presentation to the Board on the Differential Police Response (DPR). This program went into effect in April, 2008. The greatest stress on the department is calls for service. There were 120 officers on light duty. Those officers can now use their policing skills over the telephone. Most of the calls are merely for advice on current and past incidents and do not require sending out a squad. These officers have the time to talk to people and provide a resolution for them which squad officers cannot. Priority 3 and 4 calls make up 50% of the calls. DPR is located in Districts 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 on two shifts. Between April 1 and September 30, these officers handled 11,037 calls for service. This frees up other officers for bike patrol, park patrol, etc. Surveys were given to 1,402 callers who utilized the DPR program, and 70.5% reported being satisfied or very satisfied with the level of service received. More officers will be trained in October. The officers handling the calls are happy because they feel they are contributing to the department's mission, and the other officers are happy because they have more time to do anti-crime work.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Assistant Chief Brian Glassel informed the Board that the Fire Department has made pink department polo shirts available for sale during October with the proceeds going to breast cancer research. Over 1,000 shirts were sold in three days.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Buford moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Stark. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting concluded at 7:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael G. Tobin".

Michael G. Tobin
Executive Director

MGT:REK:rk