

May 19, 2011

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners was held on the above date, commencing at 6:07 P.M. at the Milwaukee Fire Department Museum and Historical Society, 1615 W. Oklahoma Avenue.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Richard C. Cox, Chair
Carolina M. Stark
Kathryn A. Hein
Paoi X. Lor
Sarah W. Morgan
Michael M. O'Hear

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Payne, Assistant Chief, representing the Milwaukee Fire Department; and John Hagen, Acting Assistant Chief, representing the Milwaukee Police Department.

The Director presented for adoption minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 21, 2011. He noted at that meeting the 2010 Use of Force report by Dr. Brandl was presented. Commissioner Morgan moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner O'Hear. The motion carried unanimously.

1. NEW BUSINESS:

a) The Director presented to the Board for adoption the Fire and Police Commission (FPC) 2010 Annual Report. Kristin Kappelman, Research and Policy Analyst, was present and spoke regarding the report. In 2010, the FPC celebrated 125 years of service to the City of Milwaukee. The Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS) merged with the FPC on January 1st. OEMHS distributed more than \$4 million to local public safety departments and initiated response to the massive flooding in July 2010. They coordinated data collection and worked with federal and state agencies to distribute over \$40 million in assistance to flood victims. The Police Department's use of force was analyzed by Dr. Steven Brandl and was a follow up to a similar report published in 2009. The FPC staff published two informational memorandums concerning the referral of individuals for driver's license reexamination, and assignment priority classification; and three research reports including two on vehicle pursuits and one on the use of force against canines. In 2010, 253 citizen complaints were filed with the FPC, a 20.7% decrease from 2009. Of these complaints 167 were classified as informal, and 86 as formal. Use of force was the most common formal complaint allegation. Eighty-four complaints involved Police Department employees, and Fire Department employees in two complaints. The rate of citizen complaints per 1,000 police contacts is 1.64, a decline from the 2009 rate of 3.36. The FPC is a unique oversight agency in that it has the civil service function of conducting exams for positions in both departments. In 2010 the exams were conducted by the Department of Employee Relations with oversight by the FPC, in 2011 the FPC has taken back this function. Fourteen exams were conducted in 2010, three for the Fire Department, including one entry level and two promotional, and 11 entry level for the Police Department. One Firefighter recruit class of 35 and one Police Officer recruit class of 48 started. Forty-four individuals were appointed to the Fire Department, 47 were promoted, and 64 separated. In the Police Department 117 were appointed, 61 were promoted, and 110 separated. Community relations are interwoven into many FPC functions. Fifty-nine complainants were surveyed; staff attended 120 meetings in the community and volunteered at three events. After a nation-wide search, Mark Rohlfing was sworn-in as Fire Chief on May 3rd. The Fire Department reported three civilian fire deaths, the fewest number ever recorded. The Police Department reported a 7.1% decrease in violent crime and an 11.2% decrease in property crime. The Board approved changes to the MPD vehicle pursuit policy. The report is currently available on the Commission's website and will be available in hard copy next week. The Director and Board commended Ms. Kappelman for her work in putting the report together. Commissioner Stark moved approval of the report, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

b) The Director introduced Milwaukee Fire Department Historical Society member and retired Deputy Fire Chief Warren Skonieczny who gave a brief presentation about the Historical Society and Museum. The building was an active firehouse until 1995, when it was closed and relocated further west on Oklahoma Avenue. Everything

in the building is around the time of 1927, including the fixtures, stove, icebox, etc. There are four pieces of apparatus, including two built by the Fire Department repair shop. The hand pump is the second piece of equipment the Fire Department ever had. The museum is open the first Sunday of each month from 1pm to 4pm, but can also be opened by appointment for community members and events. The Historical Society works with the Chief's office and can be contacted that way. He thanked everyone for being here this evening. The Director thanked Mr. Skonieczny for hosting the Board meeting and the community.

c) The Director presented a letter dated April 26, 2011, from staff, wherein Police Officer Michael Kuykendall requests a temporary exemption of the City residency requirement. Commissioner Stark asked if Officer Kuykendall considered having his grandmother move in with him. Officer Kuykendall responded that he currently lives in a small one bedroom apartment and his grandmother has a large house and if she would pass, she wants it to be at home. Commissioner Lor asked who takes care of his grandmother while he is at work. Officer Kuykendall stated his mother does occasionally, but he makes her meals everyday and helps her out before he goes to work. Commissioner Hein asked where his grandmother lives. Officer Kuykendall replied that she lives in Greenfield. The Chair asked what hours Officer Kuykendall works. Officer Kuykendall responded that he works 4pm to midnight. The Chair asked about his grandmother's health. Officer Kuykendall responded it goes up and down, but it is fairly okay right now. The Chair asked how long of an extension was being sought. Officer Kuykendall stated he would move back if his grandmother passed away or moved into a nursing home. The Chair suggested the status of the request be reviewed every 90 days. Commissioner Stark moved approval of the request for six months with the requirement that if anything changes Officer Kuykendall contact the Board to place the item on the next meeting agenda, seconded by Commissioner Lor. The motion carried unanimously.

2. EXAMINATIONS:

a) The Director presented for adoption an eligible list for the position of Police Telecommunicator-Seasonal in the Police Department, consisting of two names. Commissioner Hein moved approval of the list, seconded by Commissioner O'Hear. The motion carried unanimously.

b) The Director presented for adoption an eligible list for the position of Police Telecommunicator in the Police Department, consisting of 12 names. Commissioner Morgan moved approval of the list, seconded by Commissioner Lor. The motion carried unanimously.

3. FIRE DEPARTMENT:

a) The Director presented a letter dated May 12, 2011, from Chief Rohlfing, wherein he nominates Fire Captain Dale A. Schwark to the exempt position of Battalion Chief, Fire in the Fire Department, to be effective June 12, 2011. Pursuant to Rules of the Board, final action on this nomination was laid over to permit the nominee to be interviewed.

b) The following promotions, as presented by Chief Rohlfing, were approved by the Board:

TO FIRE CAPTAIN, on a waiver basis, from eligible list established February 20, 2011, effective May 29, 2011:

#5 – SCOTT A. HALL.

TO FIRE LIEUTENANT, on a waiver basis, from eligible list established December 17, 2009, effective May 29, 2011:

#24 – BENJAMIN D. LOPEZ.

c) The Director presented a letter dated May 2, 2011, from Chief Rohlfing, wherein he notifies the Board that he has granted Fire Lieutenant William J. Echevarria an unpaid military leave of absence, effective May 4, 2011.

d) The Director presented a letter dated May 3, 2011, from Chief Rohlfing, regarding the civilianization of the Fire Department since 2000. The Director noted this item came up at the meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Common Council a few weeks ago. The report was requested by the Committee to be filed by each public safety department, but is being filed with the Board first.

4. POLICE DEPARTMENT:

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

TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS SUPERVISOR, from eligible list established April 21, 2011, effective May 29, 2011:

#1 – JILL PRICE.

b) The following appointments, as presented by Chief Flynn, were approved by the Board:

TO POLICE TELECOMMUNICATOR-SEASONAL, returns from previous seasons, contingent upon successful completion of a background investigation, medical examination, drug screening, and psychological test, effective May 31, 2011:

SANDRA L. BROUGHTON; BRIAN BARTHOLOMEW; and TENINE FLECK.

TO POLICE TELECOMMUNICATOR-SEASONAL, from eligible list established July 1, 2010, contingent upon successful completion of a background investigation, medical examination, drug screening, and psychological test, effective May 31, 2011:

#10 – JESSICA KLOS; #11 – KIM LEWIS; #12 – BELINDA VAZQUEZ; and #13 – TINA BAILEY.

TO POLICE TELECOMMUNICATOR-SEASONAL, from eligible list established May 19, 2011, contingent upon successful completion of a background investigation, medical examination, drug screening, and psychological test, effective May 31, 2011:

#1 – JEREMIAH CHANG* and #2 – VIOLET FUNCHES*.

Note: * appointments presented by Assistant Chief Harpole.

TO POLICE TELECOMMUNICATOR-SEASONAL, from Police Telecommunicator (Regular) eligible list established May 19, 2011, contingent upon successful completion of a background investigation, medical examination, drug screening, and psychological test, effective May 31, 2011:

#1 – ALECIA DENNIS.

c) The Director presented a letter dated May 11, 2011, from Chief Flynn, wherein he informs the Board that Police Officer Tiffany Wunder has returned from her unpaid military leave of absence effective April 25, 2011, which commenced August 22, 2010; and Police Officer Bradley Nickel has been granted an unpaid military leave of absence effective May 3, 2011, ending May 31, 2011.

d) The Director presented a letter dated April 27, 2011, from Chief Flynn, wherein he notifies the Board that Diane Marek has been granted a one year extension to her leave of absence for the purpose of continuing to assume an exempt position of Special Assistant to the Comptroller. The leave shall expire June 7, 2012, and may be renewed upon request.

e) The Director presented a letter dated April 13, 2011, from Chief Flynn, wherein he notifies the Board that Police Sergeant John P. Corbett has been suspended sixty (60) working days for violation of Department Rules

under Personnel Order 2011-61 dated April 13, 2011. The Director noted that Sergeant Corbett did not appeal his discipline.

f) The Director presented a letter dated April 13, 2011, from Chief Flynn, wherein he notifies the Board that Police Aide Twyla M. Sheffa has been terminated for violation of Department Rules under Personnel Order 2011-63 dated April 13, 2011. The Director noted that as a probationary employee Ms. Sheffa does not have appellate rights.

g) The Director presented a letter dated May 10, 2011, from Chief Flynn, wherein he requests that the position of Communication Systems Manager be classified as an exempt position under Commission Rule V, Section 4. The Director stated the regular recruitment was unsuccessful and he concurs with the Department's reasons for wanting this specialized position to be exempt. Commissioner O'Hear asked how many people fill the position. Val Williams, Personnel Administrator, replied that it is filled by one person. Commissioner O'Hear approved the request, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

h) The Director presented a letter dated April 15, 2011, from Chief Flynn, wherein he requests classification of a newly created position of Lead Police Services Specialist-Investigator in the Human Resources Division, Background Investigation Section. The Chair referred the request to the Department of Employee Relations for study and report.

i) The Director presented a letter dated May 13, 2011, from Chief Flynn, wherein he requests a review of the salary grade for the rank of Inspector. The Chair referred the request to the Department of Employee Relations for study and report.

j) The Director presented a letter dated May 11, 2011, from Acting Assistant Chief John Hagen, regarding the civilianization of the Police Department since 1994. As the Director stated earlier the report was requested by the Public Safety Committee of the Common Council.

k) The Director presented Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) – 450 Mediation. It is a new SOP the Department created to include mediation as a resolution for citizen complaints. The mediations will go to the Milwaukee Mediation Center. The hope is more citizen complaints will be resolved via mediation and there will be better participation by Department members in the program.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Chair thanked Alderman Terry Witkowski for attending the meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting concluded at 6:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael G. Tobin
Executive Director