

May 18, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners was held on the above date, commencing at 5:36 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Steven M. DeVougas, Chair
Ann Wilson
Marisabel Cabrera
Fred Crouther
Angela McKenzie
Nelson Soler

ABSENT: Commissioner: Kathryn A. Hein (Excused)

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Rohlfing, Chief, Milwaukee Fire Department; and James Harpole, Assistant Chief, representing the Milwaukee Police Department.

The Chair reconvened the Board in Regular Session, having previously met in Executive Session from 5:20 p.m. to 5:30 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, to wit: performance evaluation of candidates for promotion to Police Lieutenant and Detective.

The meeting was staffed by Executive Director MaryNell Regan. The Director announced that the New Business item would be moved to the end of the agenda. The Chair opened the meeting with Public Comment but no comments were made.

1. CONSENT AGENDA:

The Director presented the following items for approval on the consent agenda. (Detailed information concerning the items can be found under the appropriate regular meeting agenda heading in the minutes.)

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes – May 4, 2017
- B. Request to Rescind Police Officer Appointments (13 positions)
- C. Correspondence regarding Police Officer Contingency Appointments (6 positions)
- D. Request for Voluntary Demotion of Police Officer
- E. Request for Voluntary Demotion of Health and Safety Officer
- F. Correspondence regarding Suspension of Police Officer
- G. Request to Reclassify Police Alarm Operator (2 positions)

There being no objections, all of the items were approved for adoption.

2. FIRE DEPARTMENT:

a) The Director presented a request dated May 9, 2017, from Chief Rohlfing, to extend the Fire Equipment Dispatcher Eligible List for one year from its expiration date of June 18, 2017 to June 18, 2018. There are 16 candidates left on the list, and there are only a few vacancies each year. Commissioner Crouther moved approval of the request, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion carried unanimously.

3. EXAMINATIONS:

a) The Director presented for approval an examination announcement bulletin for the position of Fire Equipment Repairer II (Fire Equipment Upholsterer) in the Fire Department. Marti Cargile, Human

Resources Representative in the Department of Employee Relations, talked about the duties, responsibilities, educational requirements and selection process. Commissioner Wilson moved approval of the bulletin, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion carried unanimously.

4. POLICE DEPARTMENT:

a) The following promotions, as presented by Chief Flynn, were approved by the Board:

TO POLICE LIEUTENANT, on a waiver basis, from eligible list established July 16, 2015, contingent upon successful completion of a drug screening, effective June 4, 2017:

#35 – WESAM F. YAGHNAM.

TO DETECTIVE, on a waiver basis, from eligible list established December 17, 2015, contingent upon successful completion of a drug screening, effective June 4, 2017:

#34 – MICHAEL A. LEES; #35 – ADRIAN M. HARRIS; and #36 – NICHOLAS T. RICE.

b) The following communications, as presented by Chief Flynn, were approved by the Board under the Consent Agenda, Items B, D, E and G:

A letter dated May 10, 2017, from Chief Flynn, wherein he requests that the appointments to Police Officer of Lane Cooke, John Mueller, Eliezer Gonzalez-Valentin, Matthew Herman, Julian Nelson, James Richards, Joel Lopez, Linda Kosterman, Juana Flores, Mark Sayas, Preston Harris-Tucker, William Harris, and Rodney Weary, approved at the April 20, 2017 Regular Meeting, be rescinded as the candidates either withdrew or did not qualify for the position.

A letter dated May 15, 2017, from Chief Flynn, wherein he presents a request from Police Officer Sarah L. Smith for voluntary demotion to her former position of Health and Safety Specialist, to be effective May 21, 2017.

A letter dated May 15, 2017, from Chief Flynn, wherein he presents a request from Health and Safety Specialist Susan M. Wroblewski for voluntary demotion to her former position of Administrative Assistant II, to be effective May 21, 2017.

A letter dated May 8, 2017, from Chief Flynn, wherein he requests that two positions of Police Alarm Operator be reclassified to Police Dispatcher due to retirements, in accordance with the Salary Ordinance.

c) The following communications were previously received by the Board under the Consent Agenda, Items C and F:

A letter dated May 10, 2017, from Chief Flynn, wherein he informs the Board that the contingency appointments to Police Officer of Edgar Rodriguez, Craig Ziarnik, Freddy Vazquez, Tanya Rosales, Angeline White, and Aaron Froh, Jr., approved at the April 20, 2017 meeting, were utilized due to some of the original appointees not being able to accept the position.

A letter dated May 3, 2017, from Chief Flynn, wherein he notifies the Board that Police Officer Lisa M. Baake has been suspended for 45 days for violation of Department Core Values under Personnel Order 2017-42 dated May 3, 2017.

d) The Director presented a letter dated May 9, 2017, from Chief Flynn, wherein he requests that the probationary period of Detective Melanie M. Beasley be extended for a period of 169 consecutive days, until November 11, 2017, due to an approved leave of absence. Commissioner Crouther moved approval of the request, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

a) The Director returned to the Board the 2016 Vehicle Pursuit Report and an addendum to the report, which had been posted on the website in advance of this meeting. David Gelting, Fire and Police Commission Research & Policy Analyst, presented an overview of the report findings (see attachment). The report provides an overview of the historical evolution of the Milwaukee Police Department's (MPD) Standard Operating Procedure governing the practice and a statistical summary of the available data on police vehicle pursuits going back to 2002 including the number of pursuits, the time of pursuit initiation, the number of pursuits per Police District, the maximum speed of pursuits, the number of pursuit accidents and injuries, the apprehension rate of pursuits, and the outcome of pursuits. The report provides additional analysis of the data by correlating a number of pursuit variables including the age of pursuit subjects, the number of pursuits reaching speeds above 75 mph, and the number of pursuit related injuries. Assistant Chief Harpole outlined how an officer decides whether to initiate a pursuit or not.

Mr. Gelting continued with the overview of the report addendum that details the available data regarding non-pursuits, which are instances in which a Police Officer turns on their squad emergency lights and/or siren while ordering a vehicle to pull over, the vehicle does not comply with this order, and the Police Officer does not pursue the fleeing vehicle. This addendum provides a historical overview of the MPD's reporting practice for these events and a statistical summary of the available data including the number of non-pursuits per month, the reasons for the attempted stop, the availability of license plate information in non-pursuit events, a summary of the number of stolen vehicles involved in non-pursuits, and a review of the number of vehicle owners subsequently cited for the infraction. Inspector Terrance Gordon spoke about how the Star Chase technology works. The Commissioners asked many questions about the Star Chase program, stolen vehicles, plate readers, and red light running.

Alderman Michael Murphy was present and expressed his concerns about the success of the Star Chase program and whether it should receive funding to expand; how can we reach out to change the behavior of a certain group of people that are stealing cars and driving recklessly; why information about pursuits is contained in a text field in the CAD system instead of a data field that could allow the information to be pulled more efficiently, why the FPC doesn't have direct access to this system so they can dig deeper into the data, and why the FPC has only one research analyst; why there is such a drastic increase in the number of vehicles not being pursued; why owners of the cars that are not pursued but were identified by license plates are not being cited for violations; and what policy and procedure changes is the FPC proposing to stop these driving behaviors. He suggested booting the cars of owners who have been cited multiple times. Commissioner Wilson asked if Ald. Murphy was willing to advocate for more money for any plan the FPC comes up with, and he answered in the affirmative. He spoke about the need to restore the driver's education program to the schools. Commissioner Wilson suggested having a controlled speed track made available since a lot of young people have told her they engage in this behavior because it is fun to go fast. Ald. Murphy said this problem will need creative solutions. He hopes controlling the Police Department's actions through the budget process will not be one of them.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Crouther moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion carried unanimously.

(Adjournment:)

(Reg. 5/18/17 – Page 4)

The meeting concluded at 6:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Regan", written in a cursive style.

MaryNell Regan
Executive Director

MNR:REK:rk