

AGENDA
POLICE MERIT COMMISSION
Monday, January 13, 2025 9:00 a.m.
Council Chambers

Municipal Building, 229 S. Second Street, Elkhart, IN 46516

<https://signin.webex.com/join>

Meeting Number 2318 791 6392

Password Police25

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approve Agenda**
- 4. Election of 2025 Officers**
- 5. Approve Minutes- Special Meeting December 13, 2024**
- 6. Police Department**
 - **Change of Status- Cpl. Kenneth Ulanowicz**
 - **Disciplinary Notice- Cpl. Derek Eller**
 - **Commendations- Det. Jesse Morganthaler, Sgt. Jesus Carlos Contreras**
- 7. Public Participation**
- 8. Adjournment**

POLICE MERIT COMMISSION
Friday, December 13, 2024

President Jim Rieckhoff called a special meeting of the Police Merit Commission (PMC) to order at 9:00 a.m., Friday, December 13, 2024. Clerk Nancy Wilson called the role. Commissioners Jim Rieckhoff, Brad Billings, Thomas Barber, and Clifton Hildreth attended in person. Jean Mayes attended on WebEx.

1. APPROVE AGENDA

On motion by Clifton Hildreth, seconded by Thomas Barber and carried 5-0, the agenda was approved as presented.

2. APPROVE MINUTES: Regular Meeting November 25, 2024

On motion by Brad Billings, seconded by Clifton Hildreth and carried 5-0, the minutes from November 25, 2024 were adopted.

3. POLICE

Chief Dan Milanese presented two prospective officers for hire. Prospective Officer Gabriel Lee Freyermuth passed all of the required medical and psychological screenings, as well as the appropriate background searches necessary to become employed with the Elkhart Police Department as a Police Officer. He asked the Commissioners to approve of his hiring and that he be sworn in. On motion by Clifton Hildreth, seconded by Thomas Barber and carried 5-0, the PMC hired Gabriel Lee Freyermuth as a Police Officer with the Elkhart Police Department.

Prospective Officer Arthur Edward Arriaga passed all of the required medical and psychological screenings, as well as the appropriate background searches necessary to become employed with the Elkhart Police Department as a Police Officer. He asked the Commissioners to approve of his hiring and that he be sworn in. On motion by Thomas Barber, seconded by Clifton Hildreth and carried 5-0, the PMC hired Arthur Edward Arriaga as a Police Officer with the Elkhart Police Department.

Mayor Rod Roberson swore the new Officers in as follows: "I swear that I will diligently, honestly, faithfully, and impartially perform all my duties as a Police Officer of the City of Elkhart according to law. I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Indiana. I will observe the rules and regulations established by the Police Merit Commission, and the Chief of Police of the Elkhart Police Department." Jim Rieckhoff took a brief recess.

Chief Milanese presented a Disciplinary Notice for Lt. Anthony Tweedy. He violated Policy 320.5.8 (c) Standards of Conduct- Performance and received a 3-day suspension without pay and Remedial Training. Jim Rieckhoff formally accepted the notification and placed it on file.

Chief Milanese presented a Disciplinary Notice for Sgt. Jeremy Snow. He violated Policy 422.5(b) In-car Mobile Camera Use and Policy 320.5.10(d) Safety and received a 2-day suspension without pay and Corrective Training. Jim Rieckhoff formally accepted the notification and placed it on file.

4. 2025 PMC Appointments

Jim Rieckhoff announced that Thomas Barber was re-appointed by the Mayor to serve another term. Brad Billings was appointed by the Elkhart City Common Council to serve another term. Jim Rieckhoff was elected by the on-duty Police Officers to serve another term. The new term for all three newly appointed Commissioners is from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2028.

POLICE MERIT COMMISSION
Monday, November 25, 2024

5. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Brad Billings, seconded by Clifton Hildreth and carried 5-0, the City of Elkhart, Indiana Police Merit Commission was adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

_____ Jim Rieckhoff, President

Attest: _____ Clifton Hildreth, Secretary



Rod Roberson
Mayor

Dan Milanese
Chief

Police Department
175 Waterfall Dr.
Elkhart, IN 46516

574.295.7070
Fax: 574.293.0679

December 27, 2024

Police Merit Commission
229 S. Second Street
Municipal Building
Elkhart, IN 46516

Re: Change of Status
Corporal Kenneth Ulanowicz #461

Dear Commissioners:

December 27, 2024 Corporal Kenneth Ulanowicz was chosen for the position of Acting Detective with the Elkhart Police Department. Starting date is TBD.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel Milanese
Chief of Police

CC: Personnel File
Payroll

Rod Roberson
Mayor
Dan Milanese
Chief



Police Department
175 Waterfall Dr.
Elkhart, IN 46516
574.295.7070
Fax: 574.293.0679

December 20, 2024

Police Merit Commission
Municipal Building
229 S. Second St.
Elkhart, IN 46516

RE: Cpl. Derek Eller
Disciplinary Action


Dear Commissioners:

Due to the violation of the policies listed below Cpl. Derek Eller has received 5 days suspension without pay and De-Escalation Training for violating policies 300.3, 320.5.8(i), 320.5.9(b), 320.5.9(f). Cpl. Eller received a complaint that revolved around an incident that occurred in which force was used while restraining an individual that was being detained at a crime scene. There was also a concern with the way Cpl. Eller verbally communicated with the individual

SUSTAINED: Policy 300.3 – Use of Force
Policy 320.5.8(i) Standard of Conduct/Performance (discrediting behavior)
Policy 320.5.9(b) Standard of Conduct/Conduct (improper use of force)
320.5.9(f) Standard of Conduct/Conduct (discourteous conduct)

ACTION: 5 Days suspension without pay
De-Escalation Training

Respectfully,


Daniel Milanese
Chief of Police

cc: Police Merit Commission
Personnel File
Captain Hamlin (email copy)
Professional Standards (email copy)
Captain Snider (email copy)
Payroll (email copy)

COMMENDATION



TO: Det. Jesse Morganthaler

DATE: 9/23/2024

RE: Commendation

On 9/23/2024 Sgt. Snow submitted the following into Benchmark. "I would like to formally commend Cpl. Morganthaler for his exceptional productivity and initiative in combating the issues of drug-related crimes and gun violence within our community. His dedication to getting dangerous subjects off the streets has significantly contributed to enhancing public safety. Cpl. Morganthaler's collaborative efforts with fellow officers and various agencies have not only led to successful investigations but have also fostered a spirit of teamwork that is essential in our line of work. His proactive approach and relentless commitment to making our community safer for all are truly commendable. I have personally worked with Cpl. Morganthaler by entering information into the Flock Camera system, Jail calls, and or CLEAR reports which was then shared back with Cpl. Morganthaler to assist in bringing those people to justice. Thank you, Cpl. Morganthaler, for your hard work and dedication. Your contributions are greatly valued and inspire us all to strive for excellence in service.
Thank you
Sgt. Jeremy Snow"

I agree with Sgt. Snow and believe you are worthy of this Commendation for all the hard work and dedication you put forth in the profession! Every day you show up to work with a passion that is unmatched.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Capt. Hamlin #4116'.

Travis Hamlin
Uniform Captain

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Daniel Milanese 394'.

Daniel Milanese
Chief of Police

C: Administration
Personnel File

COMMENDATION



TO: Sgt. Contreras
DATE: 11/03/2024
RE: Commendation

I received the following email from Lt. Walsh of the Elkhart County Homicide Unit

"Sir,

In addition to the email I just sent regarding the uniform officers involved in the homicide from yesterday, I also want to add something about Carlos.

It's my understanding that Carlos was on his way home from working 12 hours when he heard the call go out. He recognized that he could be of benefit to the investigation as most parties involved in the incident spoke Spanish. Instead of going home, he made the decision to go to the call knowing that it would likely result in him working at least several more hours, again, beyond the 12 hours he had already worked.

When I spoke with Carlos at the scene he was knowledgeable on the progress of the investigation which greatly assisted when he and I were communicating with people. As things at the scene were beginning to wind down, he agreed to assist the homicide unit by translating during interviews and returned to our office where he was involved in at least two valuable interviews. All of this was completed while he was holding at least somewhat (based on my understanding) of a supervisory role at the scene.

Had Carlos not made the decision he did by going to the shooting call, our investigation would likely not be as far along as it is, and it certainly wouldn't have done as efficiently as it was. His efforts and willingness to do what he knew needed to be done are appreciated.

Thank you,

Lt. Matthew Walsh A249"

I agree with Lt. Walsh and commend Sgt. Contreras for his hard work and taking the initiative to support his fellow officers on this complex call after working an extended shift.

Comm24-12-64

Case# 2024-1103-015

Respectfully,



Travis Hamlin
Uniform Captain



Daniel Milanese
Chief of Police

C: Administration
Personnel File