

MERRILLVILLE METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES
Merrillville Town Hall, 7820 Broadway

March 6, 2026

Regular Meeting called to order at 2:08 PM

ITEM I PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL William Poling – Police Commissioner Chairman, Present
Petar Dragojevic – Police Commissioner Vice Chairman, Present
Michael Rich – Police Commissioner, Present
Thomas Pawlak – Police Commissioner, Present
W. Luther Cuttino – Police Commissioner, Present
Justin Murphy – Police Commission Attorney, Present
Konstantinos Nuses – Chief of Police, Present
Shana Levinson – Chief's Attorney, Present
Matthew Vassel – Assistant Chief of Police, Absent
Lori Sanfratello – Chief's Executive Director, Present

A quorum is present.

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE February 6, 2026, REGULAR MEETING.

Commissioner Pawlak made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 6, 2026, Regular Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 5 ayes, motion passed.

ITEM VII CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Presented the December 2025 Statistical Report; 107 State Reports; 201 Total Citations; 285 Traffic Stops; 2,280 Calls for Service; 3,912 Total Incidents; 17 Domestic Battery; 23 Thefts; 77 Adult Arrests; 1 Juvenile Arrest.

January 2026 Statistical Report; 128 State Reports; 394 Total Citations; 295 Traffic Stops; 93 Adult Arrests; 3 Juvenile Arrests; 3,667 Total Incidents; 1 Homicide; 12 Thefts.

2025 Annual Statistical Report; 30,085 Calls for Service; 52,709 Total Incident Reports; 1,142 State Reports; 4,448 Total Citations; 78 OWI Arrests; 5,041 Traffic Stops; 1 Homicide; 193 Domestic Battery; 320 Thefts.

ITEM VI

INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS.

Commissioner Cuttino made a motion to Approve Resolution 1056 Removal of Probationary Classification of Corporal for Ian Fultz and Pavle Popovich and was seconded by Commissioner Dragojevic. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to Approve Resolution 1057 Removal of Probationary Classification of Sergeant for Jason Besse and Matthew Paunicka and was seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Dragojevic made a motion to Approve Resolution 1058 Approving Employment for a Full Time Code Enforcement Officer Paul Francis Jr. and was seconded by Commissioner Pawlak. 5 ayes, motion passed.

ITEM VII

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

ITEM VIII

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Pawlak made a motion to award Level III Commendations for Cpl. Nash, Ofc. Knight, and Det. Mason and was seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to award Level I Commendations for Ofc. Michels, Ofc Olson, and Level II Commendations for Ofc. Garza and was seconded by Commissioner Dragojevic. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Pawlak made a motion to award Level I Commendations for Lt. Rice, Lt. Horvath, Ofc. Davidson-Dugan, Ofc Evans, Ofc. Allen, and Level II Commendations for Cpl. Fultz, Det DeCero, and Det. Earley and was seconded by Commissioner Dragojevic. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Cuttino make a motion to award Level I Commendations for Det. Ridgway, Det. Van Rite, Det. DeCero, Det. Earley, and Level II Commendations for Lt. Smith, Cpl. Henry, Cpl. Ervin, Ofc. Reid, Ofc. Novak, Ofc. Enyeart, Ofc. O'Hern, and Ofc. Bartholomew, and was seconded by Commissioner Pawlak. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Dragojevic made a motion to Expire the Exhausted Lateral Hiring Process and was seconded by Commissioner Rich. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to Approve New General Order 23.12 Lateral Hire Benefits and was seconded by Commissioner Pawlak. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Dragojevic made a motion to Amend Section 26 Duties of the Special Service Officer and was seconded by Commissioner Pawlak. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Pawlak made a motion to Approve a Letter of Resignation from Ofc. Sarsfield and was seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Dragojevic made a motion to Approve a Letter of Resignation from Ofc. O'Hern and was seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to Approve a Rich made a motion to Approve a Letter of Resignation for Ofc. Davidson-Dugan and was seconded by Commissioner Dragojevic. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Pawlak made a motion to Open a New Lateral Hiring Process to run from March 9, 2026, through April 2, 2026, and was seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 5 ayes, motion passed.

ITEM IX PUBLIC COMMENT.

There was none

ITEM X ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Police Commission meeting was set for April 10, 2026 at 2:00 pm.

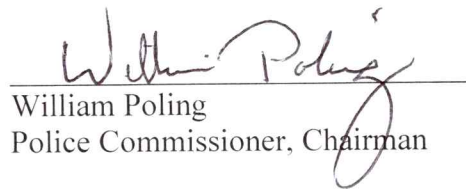
ITEM XI ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Pawlak made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 5 ayes, motion passed

AS THERE WAS NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at 2:37 pm.

Passed and adopted on this 10th day of April 2026.


Lori Sanfratello
Chief's Executive Director
Police Commission Secretary


William Poling
Police Commissioner, Chairman