

MERRILLVILLE METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES
Merrillville Town Hall, 7820 Broadway

January 9, 2026

Regular Meeting called to order at 2:04 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, Present
Lori Sanfratello – Chief's Executive Director, Present

A quorum is present.

ELECTION OF POLICE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.

Commissioner Poling asked for nominations for Chairman.

Commissioner Dragojevic nominated Commissioner Poling for Chairman and was seconded by Commissioner Pawalak. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Pawlak nominated Commissioner Dragojevic for Vice Chairman and was seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 5 ayes, motion passed.

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE November 7, 2025, EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 7, 2025, Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Dragojevic. 5 ayes, motion passed.

ITEM IV APPROVAL OF MINRTES OF THE December 5, 2025, REGULAR MEETING.

Commissioner Pawlak made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2025, Regular Meeting, and was seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 5 ayes, motion passed.

ITEM V APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE December 5, 20225, SPECIAL MEETING.

Commissioner Cuttino made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2025, Special Meeting, and was seconded by Commissioner Rich. 5 ayes, motion passed.

ITEM VI APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE December 19, 2025, EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Commissioner Pawlak made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2025, Executive Session, and was seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 5 ayes, motion passed.

ITEM VII APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE December 19, 2025, SPECIAL MEETING.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to approve the December 19, 2025, Special Meeting, and was seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 5 ayes, motion passed.

ITEM VII CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Presented the November 2025 stats; 110 State Reports; 432 Traffic Stops; 376 Total Citations; 9 OWI Arrests; 275 Traffic Warnings; 96 Adult Arrests; 3 Juvenile Arrests; 2,450 Calls for Service; 220 False Alarms; 11 Domestic Battery; 10 Thefts.

ITEM VI INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS.

Commissioner Dragojevic made a motion to Approve Resolution 1053 Promoting Probationary Patrolman Ofc. Griffin Belt and Ofc. Braden Anderson to Second Class Patrolman and was seconded by Commissioner Pawlak. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Rich mad a motion to Approve Resolution 1054 Promoting Second Class Patrolman Ofc. Christiopher Trotter-Borrelli, Ofc. Thomas Sarsfield, and Ofc. Roberto Espinosa to First Class Patrolman and was seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 5 ayes, motion passed.

ITEM VII OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

ITEM VIII

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Poling read resignation letter from Code Enforcement Ofc. Dave Degard.

Commissioner Poling read the 2025 Officer of Year Award for Sgt. Lance Schmidt. Sgt Schmidt was present with the Award and Certificate.

Commissioner Pawlak made a motion to award a Level II Commendation for Ofc. Mazurek and was seconded by Commissioner Dragojevic. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to approve a Level III Commendation for Ofc. Knight and was seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Cuttino made a motion to approve a Level I Commendation for Ofc. Knight and was seconded by Commissioner Pawlak. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to Amend General Order 27.6 Application Hiring Process and was seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to Open a New Hiring Process effective 1/9/2026 to 2/13/2026 and was seconded by Commissioner Dragojevic. 5 ayes, motion passed.

ITEM IX

PUBLIC COMMENT.

There was none

ITEM X

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Police Commission meeting was set for February 6, 2026 at 2:00 pm.

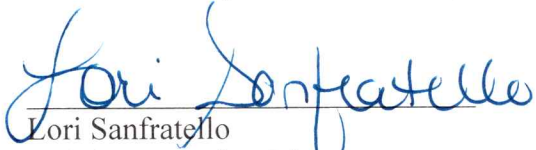
ITEM XI

ADJOURNMENT

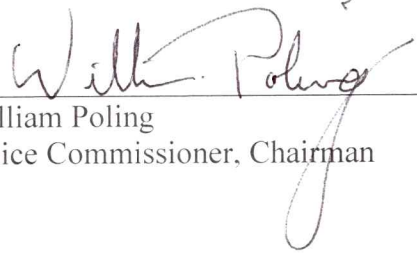
Commissioner Pawlak made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Dragojevic. 5 ayes, motion passed

AS THERE WAS NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at 2:31 pm.

Passed and adopted on this 6th day of February 2026.



Lori Sanfratello
Chief's Executive Director
Police Commission Secretary



William Poling
Police Commissioner, Chairman