

**CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

January 11, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom platform

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Falberg called the regular monthly meeting of the Civil Service Commission to order at 4:37 p.m. Present were Commissioners Rodgers, Hall, and Grech; Personnel Director Eric Amado; Clerk to the Commission Deborah Brelsford; Atty. John Mitola; Acting Fire Chief Lance Edwards; Deputy Fire Chief Buck; Acting Police Chief Rebeca Garcia; Craig Nadrizny, Acting Public Facilities Director; Tamara Titre, Senior Labor Relations Officer; Joe Sinaguglia, Ahmed Hamad, Jesse Lawrence, Jah'maine Mercer, David Teixeira, Philip White, Labor Relations; Officer Ovelize Elena, NAGE President; Steven Curran, ASFME 468

**1. Election of Officers – Tabled from December 14, 2021**

Mr. Amado requested the Commission to table this item again.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HALL MOVED TO TABLE THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS TO THE NEXT MEETING.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER RODGERS SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**2. Meeting Minutes**

The Minutes from the special Civil Service Commission meeting on December 2, 2021 and the regular monthly meeting on December 14, 2021 are submitted for review.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HALL MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING AND THE DECEMBER 14, 2021 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER RODGERS SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING AND THE DECEMBER 14, 2021 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. Merit Increases – Certify for Payroll**

Mr. Amado then reviewed the merit increases with the Commissioners.

**MERIT INCREASES FOR JANUARY 11, 2022 C.S.C MEETING**

<b><u>FIRE</u></b>	<b><u>JOB TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 6, 2022</u></b>
DONOVAN POWELL	FIRE FIGHTER	\$65,996.00 (3) TO \$70,393.00 (4) TOP
JUSTIN CONTE	FIRE FIGHTER	\$65,996.00 (3) TO \$70,393.00 (4) TOP
ROBERTO CINTRON	FIRE FIGHTER	\$65,996.00 (3) TO \$70,393.00 (4) TOP
JOSE COTTO	FIRE FIGHTER	\$65,996.00 (3) TO \$70,393.00 (4) TOP

JIHAD WHITAKER	FIRE FIGHTER	\$65,996.00 (3) TO \$70,393.00 (4) TOP
BRIAN COPPOLO	FIRE FIGHTER	\$65,996.00 (3) TO \$70,393.00 (4) TOP
AVERY MOLNAR	FIRE FIGHTER	\$65,996.00 (3) TO \$70,393.00 (4) TOP
MARCO BARRAZA	FIRE FIGHTER	\$65,996.00 (3) TO \$70,393.00 (4) TOP

- \*\* COMMISSIONER GRECH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MERIT INCREASES AS PRESENTED.**
- \*\* COMMISSIONER HALL SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. Permanent Appointments – Certify for Payroll**

Mr. Amado then reviewed the Permanent Appointments with the Commissioners.

**PERMANENT APPOINTMENTS – JANUARY 2022 MEETING**

D#	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	JOB TITLE	EFFECTIVE DATE
219069	Romaniello	Michael	Maintainer I, Grade I	11/17/2021
219911	Kilian	Jozef	Painter	12/14/2021

**POLICE PERMANENCY JANUARY 11, 2022 C.S.C. MEETING**

<b>POLICE</b>	<b>JOB TITLE</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE</b>
TRESHA PARKS	POLICE SERGEANT	1/23/2022
MICHAEL SIGRIST	POLICE SERGEANT	1/23/2022

- \*\* COMMISSIONER GRECH MOVED TO CERTIFY THE PERMANENT APPOINTMENTS FOR PAYROLL.**
- \*\* COMMISSIONER HALL SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. Vacancy Report**

Mr. Amado then reviewed the Vacancy Report with the Commissioners.

**VACANCIES – Report 01/11/2022**

<b><u>Competitive Positions</u></b>	<b><u>Former</u></b>	<b><u>Replacement</u></b>
<b>CIVIL SERVICE Personnel Assistant I</b>	<b>New</b>	<b>Vacant</b>

Non-competitive Positions

Former

Replacement

**BUILDING**  
Building Official

Bruce Nelson

Upon Bruce Nelson's Retirement

**PUBLIC FACILITIES**  
Maintainer I Grade II  
Janitress

Louis Parrella  
Amos Williams

Anthony Rosado  
Vacant

**\*\* COMMISSIONER GRECH MOVED TO APPROVE THE VACANCY REPORT AS PRESENTED.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HALL SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. Appeal – Mr. Carlos Padillo – Tabled from December 14, 2021**

The Commission has received a request for an appeal from Mr. Carlos Padillo regarding termination from his employment with the City of Bridgeport as Custodian 1.

Mr. Amado said that the item should be withdrawn because the City and the bargaining unit have come to an agreement. The appeal is being withdrawn due to that agreement.

**7. Request to Extend Probationary Period**

The Commission has received a request from Acting Police Chief Rebeca Garcia to extend the probationary period for Probationary Police Officer David Teixeira.

Mr. Amado presented the item to the Commissioners. Officer Teixeira said that the matter could be held in public session.

Acting Police Chief Garcia said that Officer Teixeira sustained an injury during his Academy training and they wish to extend his probationary period. They have also contacted POST about this. Acting Police Chief Garcia said she would like to extend the probation for 3 months.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER FALBERG ASKED THE COMMISSIONERS TO VOTE ON THE REQUEST FROM ACTING POLICE CHIEF REBECA GARCIA TO EXTEND THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD FOR PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICER DAVID TEIXEIRA UNTIL APRIL 11, 2022:**

**COMMISSIONER GRECH MOVED TO GRANT THE REQUEST.**

**COMMISSIONER HALL MOVED TO GRANT THE REQUEST.**

**COMMISSIONER RODGERS MOVED TO GRANT THE REQUEST.**

**\*\* THE REQUEST FROM ACTING POLICE CHIEF REBECA GARCIA TO EXTEND THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD FOR PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICER DAVID TEIXEIRA UNTIL APRIL 11, 2022 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**8. Request to Withdraw Waiver**

The Commission has received a request from Mr. Jesse Lawrence to rescind his withdrawal from the entry level Police Officer examination #2365.

Mr. Amado presented the item to the Commission. He explained that Mr. Lawrence had withdrawn due to an injury. Mr. Lawrence would be placed back on the list and be subject to the remaining portions of the process.

Mr. Lawrence greeted the Commissioners and explained that he had sustained some fractures and had to withdraw because he could not pass the physical with those injuries. Mr. Lawrence said that he was now 100% recovered from his injuries.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER FALBERG ASKED THE COMMISSIONERS TO VOTE ON THE REQUEST FROM MR. JESSE LAWRENCE TO RESCIND HIS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION #2365.**

**COMMISSIONER RODGERS MOVED TO GRANT THE REQUEST.  
COMMISSIONER HALL MOVED TO GRANT THE REQUEST.  
COMMISSIONER GRECH MOVED TO GRANT THE REQUEST.**

**\*\* THE REQUEST FROM MR. JESSE LAWRENCE TO RESCIND HIS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION #2365 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **9. Request to Rescind Resignation**

The Commission has received a request from Officer Ovelize Elena to rescind her resignation from the Bridgeport Police Department.

Mr. Amado reviewed the item with the Commissioners.

Officer Elena said that having a public hearing would be fine. She said she was hired by Bridgeport about 5 1/2 years ago and resigned to pursue her career with another department. However, her transfer took a toll on her home life and her young daughter. This is why she is requesting the rescinding her resignation.

Acting Police Chief Garcia said that they had checked into Officer Elena's time with the other department. She asked what Officer Elena's commitment to the Department would be.

Officer Elena said that it was a valid question. She said that she did not realize what she had until she left Bridgeport. Her intention is to come back and remain in Bridgeport.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER FALBERG ASKED THE COMMISSIONERS TO VOTE ON THE REQUEST FROM OFFICER OVELIZE ELENA TO RESCIND HER RESIGNATION FROM THE BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

**COMMISSIONER HALL MOVED TO GRANT THE REQUEST.  
COMMISSIONER RODGERS MOVED TO DENY THE REQUEST.  
COMMISSIONER GRECH MOVED TO GRANT THE REQUEST.**

**\*\* THE REQUEST TO RESCIND OFFICER OVELIZE ELENA'S RESIGNATION FROM THE BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT PASSED.**

**10. Appeal – Mr. David Harrison – Tabled from November 9, 2021 and December 14, 2021**

The Commission has received a request for an appeal from Mr. David Harrison regarding recission of residency points for entry level Firefighter examination #2360. He is represented by Attorney Thomas Bucci.

Atty. Mitola said that he had received a call from Atty. Bohannon and Atty. Bucci informing him that the matter had been resolved. This item can be withdrawn from the agenda.

**11. Appeal – Mr. Jah'maine Mercer**

The Commission has received a request for an appeal from Mr. Jah'maine Mercer regarding his disqualification from the selection process for entry level Police Officer examination #2365 due to not being recommended for hire based on his psychological evaluation.

Mr. Amado reviewed the item for the Commission. Mr. Mercer said that holding the appeal in public session was fine. Mr. Amado explained that the psychologist felt that the candidate was not qualified for hire as a Police Officer.

Mr. Mercer thanked the Commissioners for hearing the appeal. He said that there were a number of inaccuracies and incorrect information. He said that he had stopped smoking marijuana more than 10 years ago, but his last time that he smoked marijuana was in 2016 when he was unemployed.

Mr. Mercer said that he had been unjustly accused of theft in one job and subsequently terminated. The second termination had to do with making a mistake in 2010 and being accused of stealing. This was also followed by termination. Since then he had not done anything to jeopardized his job and he works with integrity every day. He would like to take another psychological exam because he had worked hard to improve.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER FALBERG ASKED THE COMMISSIONERS TO VOTE ON THE APPEAL REQUEST FROM MR. JAH'MAINE MERCER REGARDING HIS DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION #2365 DUE TO NOT BEING RECOMMENDED FOR HIRE BASED ON HIS PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION.**

**COMMISSIONER GRECH MOVED TO DENY THE REQUEST.  
COMMISSIONER RODGERS MOVED TO DENY THE REQUEST.  
COMMISSIONER HALL MOVED TO DENY THE REQUEST.**

**\*\* THE APPEAL REQUEST FROM MR. JAH'MAINE MERCER REGARDING HIS DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION #2365 DUE TO NOT BEING RECOMMENDED FOR HIRE BASED ON HIS PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION WAS UNANIMOUSLY DENIED.**

## **12. Appeal – Mr. Joseph Sinaguglia**

The Commission has received a request for an appeal from Mr. Joseph Sinaguglia regarding his disqualification from the selection process for entry level Police Officer examination #2365 due to not being recommended for hire based on his psychological evaluation.

Mr. Amado presented the item to the Commissioners. Mr. Sinaguglia said his appeal could be heard in public session.

Mr. Sinaguglia thanked the Commissioners. He then said that there was an error in the polygraph exam regarding garnished wages. He had not had any garnished wages. When he was asked about this, he said that he did not have garnished wages and this was deemed to be a lie. He said that he understood that they could not overturn a psychologists finding.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER FALBERG ASKED THE COMMISSIONERS TO VOTE ON THE APPEAL REQUEST FROM MR. JOSEPH SINAGUGLIA REGARDING HIS DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION #2365 DUE TO NOT BEING RECOMMENDED FOR HIRE BASED ON HIS PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION.**

**COMMISSIONER GRECH MOVED TO DENY THE REQUEST.  
COMMISSIONER HALL MOVED TO DENY THE REQUEST.  
COMMISSIONER RODGERS MOVED TO DENY THE REQUEST.**

**\*\* THE APPEAL REQUEST FROM MR. JOSEPH SINAGUGLIA REGARDING HIS DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION #2365 DUE TO NOT BEING RECOMMENDED FOR HIRE BASED ON HIS PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION WAS UNANIMOUSLY DENIED.**

## **13. Appeal – Mr. Ahmed Hamad**

The Commission has received a request for an appeal from Mr. Ahmed Hamad regarding his disqualification from the selection process for entry level Police Officer examination #2365 due to not being recommended for hire based on his psychological evaluation.

Mr. Amado presented the item to the Commissioners. Mr. Hamad said that he would like to hold his appeal in Executive Session.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER GRECH MOVE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO HEAR THE APPEAL FROM MR. AHMED HAMAD REGARDING HIS DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION #2365 DUE TO NOT BEING RECOMMENDED FOR HIRE BASED ON HIS PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HALL SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners, Mr. Amado, Mr. Hamad, Atty. Mitola, Acting Police Chief Garcia and Ms. Brelsford entered into Executive Session at 5:20 p.m. to hear the appeal from Mr. Hamad regarding his disqualification from the selection process for entry level Police Officer examination due to not being recommended for hire based on his psychological evaluation. They returned to Public Session at 5:38 p.m.

No actions were taken or motions made during Executive Session.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER FALBERG ASKED THE COMMISSIONERS TO VOTE ON THE APPEAL FROM MR. AHMED HAMAD REGARDING HIS DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION # 2365 DUE TO NOT BEING RECOMMENDED FOR HIRE BASED ON HIS PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION.**

**COMMISSIONER GRECH MOVED TO DENY THE APPEAL.**

**COMMISSIONER HALL MOVED TO DENY THE APPEAL.**

**COMMISSIONER RODGERS MOVED TO DENY THE APPEAL.**

**\*\* THE APPEAL REQUEST FROM MR. AHMED HAMAD REGARDING HIS DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION # 2365 DUE TO NOT BEING RECOMMENDED FOR HIRE BASED ON HIS PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION WAS UNANIMOUSLY DENIED.**

#### **14. Appeal – Mr. Jason Diaz**

The Commission has received a request for an appeal from Mr. Jason Diaz regarding his disqualification from the selection process for entry level Police Officer examination #2365 due to failing to appear for his medical examination appointment.

Mr. Amado presented the item. Mr. Diaz stated that his appeal could be heard in public session.

Mr. Amado explained that there had been several attempts to schedule a medical examination for Mr. Diaz.

Mr. Diaz said that there was a series of unfortunate events that prevented him from making the appointments, but explained he was from New Jersey. He noted that his current employer would penalize him for taking time off during the work week. He was able to make the appointment for the stress test, but after taking the stress test, he became ill due to his regular job being outside. He was able to reschedule the blood test, but discovered a flat tire on his car when he went to leave for the appointment. He was not able to arrange transportation from New Jersey to Bridgeport for the appointment.

Mr. Diaz said that he has used the time lapse to acquire a CPR license for both adult care and pediatric care in order to improve himself for the job.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER FALBERG ASKED THE COMMISSIONERS TO VOTE ON THE APPEAL FROM MR. JASON DIAZ REGARDING HIS DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION #2365 DUE TO FAILING TO APPEAR FOR HIS MEDICAL EXAMINATION APPOINTMENT.**

**COMMISSIONER HALL MOVED TO GRANT THE REQUEST.  
COMMISSIONER GRECH MOVED TO DENY THE REQUEST.  
COMMISSIONER RODGERS MOVED TO DENY THE REQUEST.**

**THE APPEAL FROM MR. JASON DIAZ REGARDING HIS DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION #2365 DUE TO FAILING TO APPEAR FOR HIS MEDICAL EXAMINATION APPOINTMENT WAS DENIED.**

### **15. Tripartite Vote**

The Commission has received a request from Mr. Craig Nadrizny, Acting Director Public Facilities, to terminate probationary employee, Mr. Freddy Gonzalez, from his position of Maintainer 1 Grade 1 in the Public Facilities Department, Roadway Division.

Mr. Amado presented the item. He gave a brief overview of the paperwork in the packet regarding this matter. Mr. Gonzalez said that having his appeal heard in public session was fine.

Mr. Gonzalez said that he had made a terrible mistake. He explained that he was working a second job to make ends meet and arrived at work very tired. While driving the truck, he felt drowsy and pulled over. He fell asleep and woke two hours later. He apologized to his supervisor and the City.

Mr. Nadrizny said that he did not condone that behavior for his permanent or probationary employees.

Mr. Steve Curran with ASFME 468 said the contract does allow for probationary extensions. He noted that Mr. Gonzalez was truthful about the event. He requested that the Commission consider extending the probation for six months.

**\*\* A TRIPARTITE VOTE ON THE REQUEST FROM MR. CRAIG NADRIZNY, ACTING DIRECTOR PUBLIC FACILITIES, TO TERMINATE PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEE, MR. FREDDY GONZALEZ, FROM HIS POSITION OF MAINTAINER 1 GRADE 1 IN THE PUBLIC FACILITIES DEPARTMENT, ROADWAY DIVISION WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:**

**ACTING DIRECTOR PUBLIC FACILITIES NADRIZNY VOTED TO TERMINATE.**

**PERSONNEL DIRECTOR AMADO VOTED TO TERMINATE.**



**THE COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:**

**COMMISSIONER GRECH VOTED TO TERMINATE.  
COMMISSIONER HALL VOTED TO TERMINATE.  
COMMISSIONER RODGERS VOTED TO TERMINATE.**

**\*\* BASED ON THE TRIPARTITE VOTE, THE REQUEST FROM MR. CRAIG NADRIZNY, ACTING DIRECTOR PUBLIC FACILITIES, TO TERMINATE PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEE, MR. FREDDY GONZALEZ, FROM HIS POSITION OF MAINTAINER 1 GRADE 1 IN THE PUBLIC FACILITIES DEPARTMENT, ROADWAY DIVISION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

**16. Legal Report -- No report.**

**17. Personnel Director Report**

Mr. Amado presented his report.

Exam Update --

- The Fire Equipment Mechanic exam is in the review period and the list will be presented to the Civil Service Commission at the next regular meeting.
- The Public Safety Telecommunicator Supervisor exam will take place at the end of January. This should be presented to the Civil Service for certification at the March 2022 meeting.
- Discussions are underway regarding the Tax Assessor classification with the Finance Department.

Meeting Time -- The time change has been made from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Anticipated Police Officer examination #2365 appeal requests – There are appeals expected from the examination. Mr. Amado will be in touch if a Special Meeting is needed to hear the appeals.

Next regular monthly CSC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, 2022.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER RODGERS MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* COMMISSIONER HALL SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services