

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION MEETING
February 8, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom platform

MINUTES

Commissioner Falberg called the regular 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, Atty. Tamara Titre, Senior Labor Relations Officer; Acting Fire Chief Lance Edwards, Acting Police Chief Rebeca Garcia, Police Lt. Adam Rozum, Sadiq Sekou, Atty. Thomas Bucci, Robert Thomas, NYPD Sgt. Henry Irizarry, Stephen Silva, Giovanni DeRubeis, Sgt. John Klesyk, Terry Holmes, Sgt. Fabio Pereira, Sgt. John Burke, Lisa Iceretto

Commissioner Falberg offered condolences to Commissioner Rodgers and Ms. Brelsford in the recent loss of family members.

1. Election of Officers – Tabled from December 14, 2021 and January 11, 2022

Mr. Amado said that due to some unforeseen circumstances, the Commission should table the election once again.

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

**** COMMISSIONER GRECH SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. Meeting Minutes

The Minutes from regular monthly meeting on January 11, 2022 are submitted for review.

**** COMMISSIONER GRECH MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 11, 2022 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING.**

**** COMMISSIONER RODGERS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 11, 2022 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. Merit Increases – Certify for Payroll

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

MERIT INCREASES FOR FEBRUARY 8, 2022 C.S.C MEETING

<u>FIRE</u>	<u>JOB TITLE</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 2022</u>
ALEX SCOTT	FIRE FIGHTER	\$56,698.00 (1) TO \$58,454.00 (2)
WILLIAM VOLLENWEIDER	FIRE FIGHTER	\$56,698.00 (1) TO \$58,454.00 (2)
SHPRESA BUNGU	FIRE FIGHTER	\$56,698.00 (1) TO \$58,454.00 (2)

TYSHAUN LESTER	FIRE FIGHTER	\$56,698.00 (1) TO \$58,454.00 (2)
BRIAN ZAYAS	FIRE FIGHTER	\$56,698.00 (1) TO \$58,454.00 (2)
TYSHAWN PORCHEA	FIRE FIGHTER	\$56,698.00 (1) TO \$58,454.00 (2)
MICHAEL SORENSEN	FIRE FIGHTER	\$58,454.00 (2) TO \$65,996.00 (3)
JONATHAN PABON	FIRE FIGHTER	\$58,454.00 (2) TO \$65,996.00 (3)
KYLE CREEM	FIRE FIGHTER	\$58,454.00 (2) TO \$65,996.00 (3)
GEOVANNI ORTIZ	FIRE FIGHTER	\$58,454.00 (2) TO \$65,996.00 (3)
HERBIE MEGHIE	FIRE FIGHTER	\$58,454.00 (2) TO \$65,996.00 (3)
COLIN CLARKE	FIRE FIGHTER	\$58,454.00 (2) TO \$65,996.00 (3)
SAMPHER ADORNO	FIRE FIGHTER	\$58,454.00 (2) TO \$65,996.00 (3)

MERIT INCREASES FOR FEBRUARY 8, 2022 C.S.C MEETING

POLICE	JOB TITLE	EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 6, 2022
JOHN ANDREWS	POLICE LIEUTENANT	\$93,850.00 (1) TO \$96,611.00 (2)

STEP INCREASES JANUARY 1, 2022

Department	Employee	Position	Increase
Emergency Operations	Matthew King	PSC Supervisor	\$72,180 (1) to \$81,362 (Top)
Emergency Operations	Eduardo Rosado	PSC Supervisor	\$72,180 (1) to \$81,362 (Top)
Library	Monika Anton	Librarian I	\$69,805 (4) to \$70,155 (Top)
Library	Adan Cleri	Librarian I	\$67,675 (3) to \$69,805 (4)
Library	Kristin Graf	Librarian I	\$65,569 (2) to \$67,675 (3)
Library	Meghan Rinn	Librarian I	\$63,434 (1) to \$65,569 (2)
Library	Anna Knorovska	Librarian II	\$83,679 (3) to \$84,094 (Top)
Library	Nykia Eaddy	Librarian III	\$87,922 (2) to \$89,691 (3)
Library	Luis Rodriguez	Librarian III	\$87,922 (2) to \$89,691 (3)

**** COMMISSIONER RODGERS 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 – FEBRUARY 2022 MEETING

DEPT	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	JOB TITLE	EFFECTIVE DATE
Central Grants	Katz	Joseph	Grant Writer	12/21/2021
Library	Coutts	Jeffrey	Librarian II	1/4/2022

PERMANENT APPOINTMENTS – FEBRUARY 2022 MEETING

ID#	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	JOB TITLE	EFFECTIVE DATE
219967	Montley	Hailey	Kennel person	1/2/2022
220141	Quintiliano	Garcia	Kennel person	1/14/2022
215381	Anderson	Robert	Anti Blight Technician	10/7/2022

**** COMMISSIONER HALL MOVED TO CERTIFY THE PERMANENT APPOINTMENTS FOR PAYROLL.**

**** COMMISSIONER GRECH SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. Vacancy Report

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

VACANCIES – Report 02/08/2022

<u>Competitive Positions</u>	<u>Former</u>	<u>Replacement</u>
EOC		
ECC Supervisor (3)	Sharday Fonseca Jesus Ortiz Joseph Pizzuto	Vacant Vacant Vacant
FIRE		
Fire Equipment Mechanic	Charles McNiece	Vacant
POLICE		
Police Recruits	New	Tommy Trinh Nathan Fowler Thomas Pauciello Rory Anderson Jordan Knight Lesley Bilingslea Andre Gidden Sorie Kamara Jennifer Almeida Jeremy Scialdoni Steve Sadowski Erin Perrotta

CIVIL SERVICE Personnel Director	David Dunn	Eric Amado
<u>Non-competitive Positions</u>	<u>Former</u>	<u>Replacement</u>
ITS Support Specialist II	Bajram Lumani	Vacant
CENTRAL GRANTS Administrative Assistant	Massiel Olivo	Vacant
MAYOR'S OFFICE Press Secretary	Josue Jorge	Vacant

**** COMMISSIONER RODGERS MOVED TO APPROVE THE VACANCY REPORT AS PRESENTED.**

**** COMMISSIONER GRECH SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. Examiner's Report - Fire Equipment Mechanic Examination #2372

The Commission is asked to review and approve the Examiner's Report for the Fire Equipment Mechanic Examination #2372.

Mr. Amado reviewed the examination results as detailed in the Commissioner's information packet with the Commissioners.

**** COMMISSIONER HALL MOVED TO APPROVE THE EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE FIRE EQUIPMENT MECHANIC EXAMINATION #2372 AS PRESENTED.**

**** COMMISSIONER RODGERS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. Fire Equipment Mechanic Examination #2372 Employment List

The Commission is asked to certify the employment list for the Fire Equipment Mechanic Examination #2372.

Mr. Amado presented the final exam results as follows:

Fire Equipment Mechanic #2372

Established 12/28/2021

Last Name	First Name	Final Score	Final Rank	Certified	Probationary
DiPasquale	William	77.404	1		
Mayor Montesi	Vicente	75.282	2		

**** COMMISSIONER GRECH MOVED TO CERTIFY THE EMPLOYMENT LIST FOR THE FIRE EQUIPMENT MECHANIC EXAMINATION #2372 AS PRESENTED.
** COMMISSIONER RODGERS SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. Request to Rescind Resignation – Officer Stephen Silva

The Commission received a request from Officer Stephen Silva to rescind his resignation from the Bridgeport Police Department.

Mr. Amado presented Officer Stephen Silva’s request to rescind his resignation from the Bridgeport Police Department to the Commission. Mr. Amado then reviewed the details of the Municipal Charter Chapter 17, Section 210(a) with those present.

Acting Police Chief Garcia said that Officer Silva had left the Department in good standing, gone to the Westport Police Department and left there before six months were up. She requested Officer Silva to explain his reasons for leaving the Westport Police Department.

Officer Silva said that he was still in his probation period when he was in a motor vehicle accident. Acting Police Chief Garcia said that she had also been told that Officer Silva was given 2 counseling sessions and said he had not attended 2 training classes. Before he took the classes, he was in the accident. Acting Police Chief Garcia asked Officer Silva if he was in good standing when he elected to transfer back to Bridgeport. He said that the Westport Police Chief and Assistant Chief had told him that he was in good standing. Upon further questioning by Acting Police Chief Garcia, Officer Silva said he was given an option to resign from Westport. Acting Police Chief Garcia stated that he would not have been in good standing. Acting Chief Garcia asked Officer Silva if he possibly would have been terminated from Westport and he replied, “Possibly, yes.”

Discussion followed about the details and the reasons why he wished to return to the Bridgeport Police Department.

**** COMMISSIONER FALBERG ASKED THE COMMISSIONERS TO VOTE ON THE REQUEST FROM OFFICER STEPHEN SILVA TO RESCIND HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

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

**** THE REQUEST TO RESCIND OFFICER STEPHEN SILVA TO RESCIND HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

9. Appeal – Mr. Giovanni DeRubeis

The Commission has received a request for an appeal from Mr. Giovanni DeRubeis regarding his disqualification from the selection process for entry level Police Officer examination #2365 for habits and conduct.

Mr. Amado reviewed the item for the Commission. Mr. DeRubeis stated his appeal could be heard in Public Session.

Mr. Amado then reviewed the various issues listed in the letter notifying Mr. DeRubeis that he was disqualified from the selection process for entry level Police Officer examination #2365 for habits and conduct. He directed the Commission's attention to the fourth page of the report listing the issues in detail.

Mr. DeRubeis said that he did not have a planned response but simply wished to know what the allegations against him were. He added that he did not know where the allegations were coming from. Mr. Amado said that the polygraph and background check were the items that were reviewed.

Mr. DeRubeis stated for the record that he wished to withdraw his appeal.

10. Appeal – Mr. Robert Glen Thomas

The Commission has received a request for an appeal from Mr. Robert Glen Thomas regarding his disqualification from the selection process for entry level Police Officer examination #2365 for habits and conduct.

Mr. Amado reviewed the item for the Commission. Mr. Thomas stated his appeal could be heard in Public Session.

Mr. Amado directed the Commission's attention to the disqualification letter and the polygraph test results that listed the areas of concern. Mr. Thomas had not been successful in his application to numerous other police departments. Mr. Amado also reviewed the numerous reprimands from other jobs.

Mr. Thomas said that he has learned not to let his personal life interfere with his professional life. He said that some of the incidents happened when he was a teenager and he is trying to learn from his past mistakes. He said that he was trying to give back to his community and trying to be better. His current manager and other references would confirm this. He said that Officer Henry Irizarry, who is an NYPD Sergeant, was on the call.

Sgt. Irizarry said that he had known Mr. Thomas for 10 years. Sgt. Irizarry said that he had applied to Bridgeport 11 years ago. He said that he did not think it was necessarily a trend when a person was late to work 4 times. He felt that Mr. Thomas would be an asset to the City.

Ms. Lisa Iceretto, his current work manager, said that Mr. Thomas was a very good worker and very enthusiastic.

Mr. Terry Holmes, a retired NY State Trooper and currently a pastor, then spoke about how some candidates are interested in the job due to the pay or benefits. As a pastor, he had met many people and dealt with many individuals in his work as a State Trooper. He said that Mr. Thomas should be given an opportunity because his persistence, despite the previous rejections, shows his dedication. Mr. Holmes said that he had spent 32 years in the military and Mr. Thomas' answers on the polygraph speaks to his honesty.

Acting Police Chief Garcia said that she would like Internal Affairs to speak. Sgt. John Klesyk of Internal Affairs said that Mr. Thomas failed to mention about how he broke into a UB student's room and stole CD's and other items in 2003. There were other incidents where Mr. Thomas was found to be carrying knives. Mr. Thomas never mentioned half of the information that he discovered.

Mr. Thomas said that he had passed other polygraphs in the past. Mr. Thomas said that he had done that when he was younger. After he was jumped from behind, he started carrying a knife. He said that his past looks bad on paper, but was trying his best throughout the process. Bridgeport is his hometown and he has grown a lot.

Acting Police Chief Garcia thanked Mr. Thomas for his candor and having his references come forward. She expressed concern about the reports, particularly the reports that he applied to 29 different law enforcement agencies. While people make mistakes, it is important to remember that they will reflect on one's life goals. It was only six years ago when Mr. Thomas engaged in sexual misconduct. She noted a number of other issues that were concerning.

Mr. Thomas said that he loves his city and was trying his best to rectify his life and set an example to others. He repeated that he was looking for a chance to better himself.

**** COMMISSIONER FALBERG ASKED THE COMMISSIONERS TO VOTE ON THE APPEAL REQUEST FROM MR. ROBERT GLEN THOMAS REGARDING HIS DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION #2365 FOR HABITS AND CONDUCT.**

COMMISSIONER GRECH MOVED TO DENY THE APPEAL.

COMMISSIONER RODGERS MOVED TO DENY THE APPEAL.

COMMISSIONER HALL MOVED TO DENY THE APPEAL.

**** THE APPEAL REQUEST FROM MR. ROBERT GLEN THOMAS REGARDING HIS DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION #2365 FOR HABITS AND CONDUCT WAS UNANIMOUSLY DENIED.**

11. Appeal – Ms. Tamara Garcia

The Commission has received a request for an appeal from Ms. Tamara Garcia regarding her disqualification from the selection process for entry level Police Officer examination #2365 for habits and conduct. Ms. Garcia is represented by Attorney Thomas Bucci.

Mr. Amado reviewed the item for the Commission. Atty. Bucci stated his client wished to have her appeal heard in Executive Session.

**** COMMISSIONER GRECH MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO HEAR THE APPEAL FROM MS. TAMARA GARCIA REGARDING HER DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION #2365 FOR HABITS AND CONDUCT.**

**** COMMISSIONER HALL SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners, Mr. Amado, Acting Police Chief Garcia, Sgt. Burke, Lt. Rozum, Atty. Mitola, Atty. Bucci, Ms. Garcia and Ms. Brelsford entered into Executive Session at 5:37 p.m. to hear the appeal from Ms. Tamara Garcia regarding her disqualification from the selection process for entry level Police Officer examination #2365 for habits and conduct. They returned to Public Session at 6:05 p.m. No actions were taken or motions made during Executive Session.

**** COMMISSIONER FALBERG ASKED THE COMMISSIONERS TO VOTE ON THE APPEAL FROM MS. TAMARA GARCIA REGARDING HER DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION #2365 FOR HABITS AND CONDUCT.**

COMMISSIONER GRECH MOVED TO GRANT THE APPEAL.

COMMISSIONER HALL MOVED TO GRANT THE APPEAL.

COMMISSIONER RODGERS MOVED TO GRANT THE APPEAL.

**** THE APPEAL REQUEST FROM MS. TAMARA GARCIA REGARDING HER DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION #2365 FOR HABITS AND CONDUCT WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

12. Appeal – Ms. Luisa Merced

The Commission has received a request for an appeal from Ms. Luisa Merced regarding her disqualification from the selection process for entry level Police Officer examination #2365 for habits and conduct. Ms. Merced is being represented by Attorney Thomas Bucci.

Mr. Amado reviewed the item for the Commission. Atty. Bucci stated his client wished to have her appeal heard in Executive Session.

**** COMMISSIONER GRECH MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO HEAR THE APPEAL FROM MS. LUISA MERCED REGARDING HER DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION #2365 FOR HABITS AND CONDUCT.**

**** COMMISSIONER HALL SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners, Mr. Amado, Acting Police Chief Garcia, Sgt. Burke, Lt. Rozum, Atty. Mitola, Atty. Bucci, Sgt. Pereira, Atty. Bucci, Ms. Merced and Ms. Brelsford entered into Executive Session at 5:37 p.m. to hear the appeal from Ms. Merced regarding her disqualification from the selection process for entry level Police Officer examination #2365 for habits and conduct. They returned to Public Session at 6:33 p.m. No actions were taken or motions made during Executive Session.

**** COMMISSIONER FALBERG ASKED THE COMMISSIONERS TO VOTE ON THE APPEAL FROM MS. LUISA MERCED REGARDING HER DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION #2365 FOR HABITS AND CONDUCT**

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

**** THE APPEAL REQUEST FROM MS. LUISA MERCED REGARDING HER DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION #2365 FOR HABITS AND CONDUCT WAS GRANTED.**

13. Appeal – Mr. Darrell Williams

The Commission has received a request for an appeal from Mr. Darrell Williams regarding his disqualification from the selection process for entry level Police Officer examination #2365 for habits and conduct. Mr. Darrell Williams is being represented by Attorney Thomas Bucci.

Mr. Amado said that Atty. Bucci's client had requested his appeal to be tabled to the March 8, 2022 meeting.

**** COMMISSIONER GRECH MOVED TO TABLE THE APPEAL FROM MR. DARRELL WILLIAMS REGARDING HIS DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION #2365 FOR HABITS AND CONDUCT.**

**** COMMISSIONER HALL SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

14. Appeal – Mr. Michael Millea

The Commission has received a request from Mr. Michael Millea regarding his disqualification from the selection process for entry level Police Officer examination #2365 for habits and conduct. Mr. Millea is being represented by Attorney Thomas Bucci.

Mr. Amado reviewed the item for the Commission. Atty. Bucci stated his client wished to have his appeal heard in Executive Session.

**** COMMISSIONER HALL MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO HEAR THE APPEAL FROM MR. MICHAEL MILLEA REGARDING HIS**

DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION #2365 FOR HABITS AND CONDUCT.

**** COMMISSIONER RODGERS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners, Mr. Amado, Acting Police Chief Garcia, Sgt. Klesyk, Lt. Rozum, Atty. Mitola, Atty. Bucci, Mr. Millea and Ms. Brelsford entered into Executive Session at 6:36 p.m. to hear the appeal from Mr. Millea regarding his disqualification from the selection process for entry level Police Officer examination #2365 for habits and conduct. They returned to Public Session at 6:57 p.m. No actions were taken or motions made during Executive Session.

**** COMMISSIONER FALBERG ASKED THE COMMISSIONERS TO VOTE ON THE APPEAL FROM MR. MICHAEL MILLEA REGARDING HIS DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION #2365 FOR HABITS AND CONDUCT.**

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. MICHAEL MILLEA REGARDING HIS DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION #2365 FOR HABITS AND CONDUCT WAS UNANIMOUSLY DENIED.**

15. **Legal Report** No report at this time.

16. **Personnel Director Report**

Exam Update

There are requests for updated proposals for Police Captain and Police Sergeant from various vendors. The primary focus is on the job analysis for Assistant Police Chief.

The entry level Firefighter process is underway with a target date of the spring of 2022. The application will be available online on February 14th. A press conference to announce the Bridgeport recruitment drive is scheduled for February 9th at Fire Headquarters. CPAT scholarship vouchers will be available to 100 Bridgeport residents

The Public Safety Supervisor candidates have been notified of the preliminary results and the 30 day review period is underway for that classification. Mr. Amado said that the certification list should be ready for the March 8, 2022 regular Civil Service Commission meeting.

The main focus is on the Tax Assessor. The Finance Director has requested an exam be given for that classification. Purchasing and contractors have been notified regarding this.

The next regular monthly CSC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 8, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services