

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSIONERS OF
THE CITY OF NORTH CHICAGO**

August 20, 2015

Held at the City of North Chicago Police Annex,
1801 Sheridan Road, North Chicago, Illinois

1. Chairwoman Dicker called the meeting to order at 9:07 A.M.
2. Roll call identified the following Commissioners present:
Chairwoman Velma Dicker
Commissioner Vanderbilt Blanchard

Commissioners absent:
Secretary Shawna Huley

Other persons present included:
Attorney Joseph Miller, III of the law firm of Ottosen-Britz, Ltd. [arrived 9:34am]
Attorney Brian O'Connor of the law firm of Ottosen-Britz, Ltd.
Deputy Chief Richard Wilson, North Chicago Police Department [arrived 9:28am]
~~Lieutenant~~ ~~Patrolman~~ Morris Wade, North Chicago Police Department [arrived 9:28am]

Commissioner Blanchard to serve as Secretary *pro tem*.
3. Chairwoman Dicker opened the meeting for Public Comment: No public comment was offered.
4. Approval of minutes.
 - a. Motion by Chairwoman Dicker, Seconded by Commissioner Blanchard to approve the open session minutes from the Special Meeting held July 9, 2015, as presented. There being no discussion, a roll call vote was taken on the motion with the following results: Yes – 2, No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 1. Motion to approve the identified minutes carried.
 - b. Motion by Chairwoman Dicker, Seconded by Commissioner Blanchard to approve and release the closed session minutes from the Special Meeting held July 9, 2015, as presented. There being no discussion, a roll call vote was taken on the motion with the following results: Yes – 2, No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 1. Motion to approve the identified minutes carried.
5. Old Business.
 - a. Discussion/possible action on invoices for Commission services. Chairwoman Dicker identified 2 invoices for ratification for which payment had already been made: (1) Steve Olson, printer of the applications for the police officer original appointment process now underway, in the amount of \$199.00, and (2) the Commissioners' legal firm, Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd. In the amount of \$6,428.00, for a total of \$6,627.00. Motion by Chairwoman Dicker to ratify payment of the 2 identified invoices, seconded by Commissioner Blanchard. There being no discussion, a roll call vote was taken on the motion

with the following results: Yes – 2, No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 1. Motion to approve payment of the invoices carried.

6. New Business.

a. Chairwoman Dicker and Attorney O'Connor summarized progress to date on the entry level police officer appointment examination process.

i. Ratify approval of Initial Eligibility Register.

1. Per earlier Commissioners direction Chairwoman Dicker prepared, and Attorney O'Connor reviewed the Initial Eligibility Register prior to posting on July 15.
2. The Commissioners reviewed that Initial Eligibility Register.
3. Motion by Chairwoman Dicker, seconded by Commissioner Blanchard, to ratify approval of the Initial Eligibility Register as prepared. There being no discussion, a roll call vote was taken on the motion with the following results: Yes – 2, No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 1. Motion to ratify approval of the Initial Eligibility Register carried.

ii. Ratify approval of Preliminary Eligibility Register.

1. Per earlier Commissioners direction Chairwoman Dicker prepared, and Attorney O'Connor reviewed the Preliminary Eligibility Register prior to posting on August 5.
2. The Commissioners reviewed that Preliminary Eligibility Register.
3. Motion by Chairwoman Dicker, seconded by Commissioner Blanchard, to ratify approval of the Preliminary Eligibility Register as prepared. There being no discussion, a roll call vote was taken on the motion with the following results: Yes – 2, No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 1. Motion to ratify approval of the Preliminary Eligibility Register carried.

iii. Approve the Final Eligibility Register.

1. Per earlier Commissioners direction Chairwoman Dicker collected the candidates' request for preference points (military service, education, residency). 16 candidate applications for preferences were received by the stated submission deadline.
2. The Commissioners reviewed all applications submitted for compliance and sufficiency: 2 were not complete (Alex Fayta, Pvvavish Patel), 14 were complete.
3. 5 candidates had applied for and were eligible for veteran's preference (Gary Sanders,, Todd Smith, Christopher Aylesworth, Oscar Juarez, Alex Harden).
4. 9 candidates had applied for and were eligible for educational preference (Anthony Wells, Uraacan Astudillo, Patrick Fajardo Jr., Rosa Vargas, Christopher Mueller, Kevin Hartmann, Patrick Scanlan, Dominik Di Mare, Joseph Semple).
5. 1 candidate had applied for and was eligible for residency preference (Uraacan Astudillo).

Deputy Chief Wilson, Lieutenant Wade and Attorney Miller arrive during application evaluations.

6. A Summary of the 2015 Preference Points Applications/Awards is included with the minutes.
7. Attorney O'Connor is to prepare the Final Eligibility Register based upon the Commissioners' preference point determinations for

approval by the Commissioners at a Special Meeting to take place in mid-September.

8. Chairwoman Dicker reminded all that the current Police Officer Original Appointment List expires September 30, 2015.
 - b. Attorney Miller advised the Commissioners of a request by the City through its legal counsel, attorney Chuck Smith, to reintroduce "Chief's Points" into the Police Promotional process. Attorney Miller noted this could be done by amending the Commissioners' Rules at the Special Meeting to be held in mid-September. Consensus of the Commissioners to Attorney Miller was to prepare documents to amend the Commissioners' Rules at the Special Meeting to be held in mid-September to reintroduce "Chief's Points" into the Police Promotional process.
 - c. Attorney Miller advised the Commissioners of continuing, but as yet unsuccessful efforts to obtain a key to the Commissioners' files from the City. Attorney Miller was unable to explain the lack of responsiveness by the City to this basic request. The Commissioners directed Attorney Miller to convey to City legal counsel Chuck Smith the Commissioners displeasure at being unable to access Commissioners files, and potential liability arising from that lack of access (e.g., inability to timely respond to FOIA requests). Attorney Miller agreed to convey the Commissioners displeasure to the City.
7. Closed Session. None needed.
 8. Action on items from closed session. Not applicable.
 9. Adjournment. There being no further business for the Commission, a motion was made by Chairwoman Dicker, seconded by Commissioner Blanchard, to adjourn at 10:07 A.M. A roll call vote was taken on the motion with the following results: Yes – 2, No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 1. Motion carried.

Reminder:

Next Special Meeting, at the Police Annex at 9:00 A.M. in mid-September 2015.
Next Regular Meeting, at the Police Annex at 9:00 A.M. on Thursday, October 1, 2015.

Attachment: Summary of the 2015 Preference Points Applications/Awards (2 pages)

Respectfully submitted,

Brian J. O'Connor
One of the Commission's Attorneys

Approved by the Commission on September 24, 2015.

Velma Dicker
Chair, Board of Fire and Police Commissioners
City of North Chicago

ATTEST:

Vanderbilt Blanchard Jr.
Secretary, Board of Fire and Police Commissioners *pro tem*
City of North Chicago

**CITY OF NORTH CHICAGO
BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSIONERS
PREFERENCE POINT CLAIM FORM AND AFFIDAVIT FOR POLICE OFFICER CANDIDATES**

SUMMARY OF 2015 PREFERENCE POINTS APPLICATIONS/AWARDS

Candidate	Veteran's Preference Points (65 ILCS 5/10-2.1-9(a)) ¹	Educational Preference Points (65 ILCS 5/10-2.1-9(a)) ²	Residency Preference Points (Max. 5 points) ³	TOTAL POINTS
Gary Sanders Jr.	DD-214			5
Alex Fayta		No Transcript		0
Anthony Wells		Bachelor's Degree		5
Todd Smith	DD-214			5
Uracan Astudillo		Assoc. Degree – Criminal Justice	Driver's License	10
Patrick Fajardo Jr.		Bachelor's Degree		5
Rosa Vargas		Assoc. Degree – Law Enforcement		5
Christopher Mueller		Bachelor's and Master's Degrees		5
Kevin Hartmann		Bachelor's Degree		5
Patrick Scanlan		Bachelor's Degree		5
Dominic Di Mare		Assoc. Degree – Criminal Justice		5
Christopher Aylesworth	DD-214			5
Joseph Semple		Assoc. Degree – Criminal Justice		5
Oscar Juarez	DD-214			5
Alex Harden	DD-214			5
Pvavish Patel		No Degree Awarded		0

¹ – DD-214 forms submitted by candidates were confirmed by Commissioner Blanchard and Attorney O'Connor, both military veterans, and reviewed by both Chairwoman Dicker and Commissioner Blanchard.

² – Chairwoman Dicker and Commissioner Blanchard, and Attorneys O'Connor and Miller, reviewed educational transcripts submitted by candidates.

³ – Chairwoman Dicker and Commissioner Blanchard, and Attorneys O'Connor and Miller, reviewed the Driver's License submitted by candidate.

Date Initial Eligibility List was posted: July 15, 2015

Date Preliminary Eligibility List was posted: August 5, 2015

Date of Submission of Claim Form: 5:00 P.M., August 17, 2015

Received by: Chairwoman Velma Dicker

**EXTRACT FROM RULES
CITY OF NORTH CHICAGO
BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSIONERS
FOR 2015 PREFERENCE POINTS FOR POLICE OFFICER CANDIDATES**

After the preliminary eligibility list is created, candidates who are eligible for preference points may submit a claim for these points in writing to the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners on its standard form. This claim must be made within ten (10) days after the posting of the preliminary eligibility list or the points will be deemed waived. Applicants may claim three types of preference points:

1. **Veteran's Preference Points**

Applicants who were engaged in the military or naval service of the United States for a period of at least one year and who were honorably discharged there from, or who are not on may hereafter be on inactive or reserve duty in such military or naval service (not including, however, in the case of offices, positions and places of employment in the police department, persons who were convicted by court-martial of disobedience of orders, where such disobedience consisted in the refusal to perform military service on the ground of religious or conscientious objections against war) shall receive five (5) points. Proof of such service must include a copy of Military Form DD-214 (long form) as proof of active service, evidence of the honorable discharge, and a sworn affidavit by the applicant. Veteran's and educational preference points shall not be cumulative.

2. **Educational Preference Points**

Applicants who have successfully obtained an associate's degree in the field of law enforcement, criminal justice, or a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university; and persons who have been awarded a certificate attesting to the successful completion of the Minimum Standards Basic Law Enforcement Training Course as provided in the Illinois Police Training Act (50 ILCS 705/1 *et seq.*) and are currently serving as a law enforcement officer on a part-time or full-time basis within the State of Illinois shall receive five (5) points provided that the applicant has not received Veteran's preference points. A certified transcript must be included with the request for preference points as proof of the attainment of degree.

3. **Residency Preference Points (maximum 5 Points)**

Applicants who maintain their principal personal residence within the boundaries of the City of North Chicago at the time of application shall receive five (5) preference points. Proof of residency must be shown in order to obtain the points.