MERRILLVILLE METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES
Merrillville Town Hall, 7820 Broadway

October 2, 2026

Regular Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM

ITEM 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION
The Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

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 Vasel – Assistant Chief of Police, Present
Lori Sanfratello – Chief's Executive Director, Present

A quorum is present.

ITEM 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE September 4, 2026, REGULAR MEETING.

Commissioner Pawlak made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 4, 2026, Regular Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Rich. 5 ayes, motion passed.

ITEM 5. CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Nuses presented the August 2026 Statistical Report; 3,836 Total Incidents; 54,784 Calls for Service; 236 Total Citations; 3 OWI Arrests; 167 Traffic Warnings; 83 Adult Arrests; 4 Juvenile Arrests; 16 Domestic Battery.

Chief Nuses stated, "There was a high-profile funeral that took place over the past week, and I wanted to send a thank you to all the various agencies throughout the County, the State, and even Illinois that came and assisted us with it. I'd also like to give a huge shout out to my Command Staff, Commander Diehl, Commander Paunicka, and Berzac. They really went above and beyond, and I just wanted it to be made know what they were able to do."

ITEM 6. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

ITEM 7. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Cuttino made a motion to Award Ofc. Wright and Det. Meyer with a Level II Commendation and was seconded by Commissioner Pawlak. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Pawlak made a motion to Award Ofc Evans and Det. Osborne with a Level II Commendation and was seconded by Commissioner Rich. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Dragojevic made a motion to Award Cpl Bunnell with a Level III Commendation and Ofc Bronowski with a Level I Commendation and was seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Dragojevic made a motion to Amend General Order 2.3 Holding Facility and was seconded by Commissioner Pawlak. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Dragojevic made a motion to Amend General Order 2.8 Town Warrants and was seconded by Commissioner Pawlak. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to Amend General Order 7.2 Telephones and was seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Cuttino made a motion to Amend General Order 12.1 Department Vehicles and was seconded by Commissioner Rich. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Pawlak made a motion to Amend General Order 15.8 Uniform Statewide Defensive Tactics Training Program and was seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Dragojevic made a motion to Adopt New General Order 17.10 Automated License Plate Readers and was seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Pawlak made a motion to Table New General Order 29.3 Stray Animals Intake and was seconded by Commissioner Dragojevic. 5 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Cuttino made a motion to Approve Extended Sick Leave request from Ofc. Timothy Michels until the end of the year

and revisit it at the January 2027 meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Pawlak. 5 ayes, motion passed.

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

Commissioner Rich made a motion to Open a New Lateral Hiring Process and was seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 5 ayes, motion passed.

ITEM 8. INTRODUTION AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

There was none.

ITEM 9. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Cpl. Miskus addressed the Commission regarding and email he sent the Commission regarding a disciplinary action and was requesting a hearing. Commissioner Poling stated they would discuss it in the next Executive Session.

ITEM 10 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Police Commission meeting was set and changed to November 6, 2026, at 2:00 pm with an Executive Session at 1:00 pm.

ITEM 11 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 2:23 pm.

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

Lori Sanfratello
Chief's Executive Director
Police Commission Secretary

William Poling
Police Commissioner, Chairman