

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
Monday, February 15, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the City Civil Service Commission was held on Monday, February 15, 2021 via Zoom pursuant to the Louisiana Open Meetings Law, specifically, La. R. S. 42:17.1. Ms. Doddie Smith, Personnel Administrator of the Management Services Division, called the roll. Present were Chairperson Brittney Richardson, Commissioner Mark Surprenant, Commissioner John Korn, and Commissioner Ruth White Davis. Chairperson Richardson convened the meeting at 10:31 a.m. At 10:38 a.m. on the motion of Commissioner Korn and the second of Commissioner Surprenant, the Commission voted unanimously to go into executive session.

At 11:06 a.m. the Commission completed its executive session and proceeded with the business portion of the meeting.

Item #1 was the minutes for January 25, 2021. Commissioner Korn motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Surprenant and approved unanimously.

Item #2 under Classification and Compensation Matters was a request for a hiring rate above the minimum for Crime Lab Director under Rule IV Section 2.6. Robert Hagmann, Personnel Administrator over the Classification and Compensation Division, stated that the increase is based on restructuring the position. The position will now supervise both the Criminalists and the DNA section. There is also a change in the minimum qualifications to require DNA experience. The salary will increase from \$63,960 to \$86,176 in order to maintain parity with the DNA series. Commissioner Surprenant motioned to approve the hiring rate. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and approved unanimously.

Item #3 was the ratification of Public Integrity Bureau (PIB) Extension Requests. Commissioner Richardson called for public comment. There being none, Commissioner Surprenant moved for approval of the 30- and 60-day extension requests. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Korn and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Davis motioned to take up items #4 and #5. These items required at least two thirds vote of the Commission to be considered pursuant to L.A. R.S. 42:17.1. Commissioner Korn seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Item #4a under Classification and Compensation Matters was a request from Police Captain Anthony Caprera for back pay for acting as a Police Captain. Eric Hessler, representing Anthony Caprera, stated that the 8<sup>th</sup> District had a Captain who was removed from his command. As a result, Mr. Caprera was appointed as acting Captain of the 8<sup>th</sup> District on March 10, 2020. He continued to act in this capacity until he was formally promoted to provisional Captain on April 30, 2020. During this period, he only received pay as a Lieutenant. Mr. Caprera is asking to be made whole and receive his pay and all benefits. Mr. Hagmann stated that the issues is that Captain Baldassaro was not officially removed from the Captain classification until May 3, 2020. At that time, it freed up the position in the 8<sup>th</sup> District for Mr. Caprera to be promoted. Mr. Hagmann stated that staff believes Mr. Caprera should be promoted but the Captain position was not free because the official action was not taken in a timely manner to move Mr. Baldassaro into the appropriate job class. Mr. Baldassaro was a provisional Captain so he was not entitled to the additional compensation. Mr. Hagmann noted that staff has requested Mr. Baldassaro be placed in the proper appointment as of March 10<sup>th</sup> to free up the position for Mr. Caprera. Mr. Hagmann stated in effect you are paying twice for the same work. Commissioner Surprenant asked when the request to remove Mr. Baldassaro was made of NOPD and how much longer does Mr. Caprera have to wait for pay he has clearly earned. Mr. Hagmann responded that it could be done today. Personnel Director Amy Trepagnier stated that staff would also want some corresponding action to remove the pay from Mr. Baldassaro. Commissioner Surprenant asked why should Mr. Caprera's pay be held up until that takes place. Director Trepagnier responded that the issue is that NOPD is not agreeable to removing the pay. Commissioner Surprenant asked if staff agrees that Mr. Caprera is owed the pay. Director Trepagnier said yes and suggested that the Commission approve Mr. Caprera's pay today and take up the issue with Mr. Baldassaro at the next meeting. Commissioner Surprenant motioned to approve the back pay for Anthony Caprera. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richardson and approved unanimously.

Item #4b was a request from Mubashir Maqbool for mid-level pay in the Construction Manager IV series. Mr. Maqbool was not present, so

Commissioner Surprenant motioned to defer the item. The motion to defer was seconded by Commissioner Davis and approved unanimously.

Item #5(a) under Recruitment and Selection Matters was the approval of examination announcements 10370-10378. Commissioner Surprenant moved to approve the announcements. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Surprenant moved for adjournment at 11:26 a.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and approved unanimously.

  
Brittney Richardson (Apr 12, 2021 15:44 CDT)

Brittney Richardson, Chairperson

  
J H Korn (Apr 13, 2021 13:45 CDT)

John Korn, Commissioner

  
Mark C. Surprenant (Apr 9, 2021 15:45 CDT)

Mark Surprenant, Commissioner

  
Ruth Davis (Apr 12, 2021 12:03 CDT)

Ruth White Davis, Commissioner