



City of Palos Heights  
Public Safety Committee  
Tuesday, June 27, 2023  
MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The Public Safety Committee meeting was held on June 27, 2023 at the Palos Heights City Hall. Chairman Basso called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. In attendance were Chairman Basso, Alderman McGovern and Alderman Lewandowski. Also in attendance were Chief Czajkowski, Deputy Chief Yott, Officer Wiegand, 11 members of the public and Recording Secretary Morgan Pukula.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Alderman Basso moved to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2023 Public Safety meeting, seconded by Alderman McGovern. All in favor. **Motion Carried.**

**LIFE SAVING AWARD RECIPIENT**

Chief Czajkowski presented Officer Jake Wiegand with the Life Saving Award for his courageous efforts on May 29, 2023. Chief stated, on May 29, 2023 you were dispatched to a residence in regards to a male subject who was found collapsed in the backyard of his home by family members. Upon arrival, you found the man to be unresponsive and recognized that he was in serious medical crisis. You immediately took over CPR and rescue breathing efforts and carried them out until the Fire Department arrived on scene, all while gathering critical information for the paramedics. Prior to being transported to the hospital for further treatment, the paramedics reported that the man was breathing on his own and had a pulse. Your quick response time, immediate and accurate assessment of the situation, and your calm and professional conduct were crucial in bridging the time before the man could be treated by medical professionals, and helped to ease the concerns of family members present. Your actions, which are indicative of your diligence, expertise, training, and dedication to duty are a credit, not only to yourself, but also to the entire Palos Heights Police Department and Community. Congratulations on your outstanding work!

Chief Czajkowski reported as follows:

**POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT**

749 total calls for service

**TRAFFIC CRASH REPORT**

Hit & Run	4
Property Damage	38
Personal Injury	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>

## **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS**

- a) Within the packet can be found, the Police Department Budget Report
- b) Red Light Report – violations issued
- c) MSI Report— 78 citations issued
- d) Training – 372 hours

YEAR TO DATE DUI SUMMARY – 24 Arrests

YEAR TO DATE TRAFFIC STOP SUMMARY – 1552 Traffic Stops

YEAR TO DATE ARRESTS – 107 Arrests

YEAR TO DATE CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM – 13 Cases

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Chief Czajkowski stated they are still researching and deciding on a vendor for the in-car and body cameras.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The department administered a promotional exam. Currently, we have two openings: one for lieutenant and one for sergeant. We received the results from the exams and met with the Police and Fire Commission this morning, where they certified the results. In the near future, we hope to make these promotions following our patrol shortage. Also discussed at the meeting was testing for another eligibility list. Our eligibility list, by state statute is good for 2 years, but at this time, it has been exhausted. We recently had 2 officers resign, so we do have 2 vacancies with no active eligibility list. We are exploring the option of establishing a second list for lateral hires. The test will be held remotely on August 22, 23, 24 of this year, so we hope to have a new list established by mid-September. With our last test, we had 60 candidates take it, and had over 30 eligible for the department.

Alderman McGovern asked, of the officers we have today, how many of them could have been considered a lateral transfer. Chief responded by saying, the last 6 of our hires came from different departments. Once we establish another eligibility list, and potentially adopt the lateral transfer, we do not anticipate any issues with hiring new officers.

Alderman Lewandowski questioned the promotional and eligibility exams. Chief stated, the promotional exam is good for 3 years and it is not mandated by the state. But, by state statute we do need to have an active eligibility list for new potential new hires and test every 2 years.

Our department requires a college degree: an associates in Criminal Justice or related field or a bachelor's degree in any field. You need the physical degree in order to apply and test. The process from there includes a polygraph, extensive background, psych test, medical/drug examination, oral interview, and the state mandated POWER test. Our department offers a voluntary POWER test for the officers to participate in, where around 70% take part. If they do pass, we offer them a fitness credit with a local vendor for either gym equipment, gym shoes, etc.

The command levels at the police department entail a Chief, 2 Deputy Chiefs, 5 Sergeants and 20 patrolmen.

## **CORRESPONDENCE/EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

- A mother who lost her only daughter, in a car accident on Route 83 back on December 27, 2021, wrote an appreciation letter to the PHPD. She expressed her gratitude and appreciation to all the officers that were involved in this tragedy. She further stated that the residents of Palos Heights are blessed to have such an amazing police department.

- On May 19, 2023, the PHPD raised \$20,891.96 for the annual Cop on the Rooftop event, which helps raise awareness and money for the Special Olympics athletes. Our 2 local Dunkin Donuts on Harlem Avenue and Southwest Highway participated.
- PHPD celebrated National Police Week on May 19, with a lunch catered by POPS for all of the officers' dedication and service.
- Both officers, Forrest Marcinowski and Sean Poindexter were given Peer Recognition Awards for a vehicle lockout with 2 children inside. They responded to the scene and calmed a clearly distraught mother as well as the kids who were crying after being what they deemed to be a very scary situation.

#### **ALDERMEN'S COMMENTS**

Alderman Lewandowski stated residents have spoken to him about a vehicle driving on the bike path near Lake Katherine and 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The department and Chief were aware of the incident and it seemed to be a confused resident who drove onto the trail. The issue was addressed and was an isolated situation.

#### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chairman Basso made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman McGovern. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Morgan Pukula, Recording Secretary