

Minutes - Special Meeting
Fire Fighters' and Police Officers' Civil Service Commission
100 W. Houston Street, San Antonio, TX 78205, City Tower Large Conference Room 10.W1003
December 11, 2023

Commission Members Present

Lee Wingert, Chair

Valerie Sprague, Commissioner

Staff Support Present

Sarah Bilger, Senior Management Coordinator

Christina Sanchez, Assistant to the Director

Additional Present

Robert Vara, SAPD

Chris Monestier, SAFD

Melissa Portugal, SAFD

Ralph Reyes, SAFD

Frank Garza, Commission Legal Counsel

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to Order by Chair Wingert at 9:00 AM at the location listed above.

Approval of Minutes:

Chair Wingert calls for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on November 17, 2023. Commissioner Sprague moved that the minutes of the meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Chair Wingert. Motion carried.

Announcements:

New Business:

1. Notice and appropriate action regarding an examination announcement for the rank of Police Lieutenant. The Police Lieutenant examination will consist of a written examination and a video recorded assessment center. The two-hour written examination will be given at 9:00 AM on May 14, 2024, at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, 900 East Market Street, Room 006. Information regarding the date, time, and location of the video recorded assessment center will be announced in the Daily Bulletin at a later date. The eligibility list resulting from this exam will remain in existence for 18 months from the date of certification by the Commission, or until the list is exhausted. Commissioner Sprague moved that the exam announcement be approved. The motion was seconded by Chair Wingert. Motion carried.
2. Notice and appropriate action to approve the announcement for a Fire Lieutenant examination. This two (2) hour written examination will be given at 9:00 AM on February 2, 2024, at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, 900 East Market St., in Room 214. The eligibility list resulting from this exam will remain in existence for one (1) year beginning on the first day of the month following the month the written examination was given or until the list is exhausted. Commissioner Sprague moved that the exam announcement be approved. The motion was seconded by Chair Wingert. Motion carried.
3. Notice and appropriate action regarding the approval to administer a Fire Engineer examination. The two-hour written examination will be given at 9:00 AM on February 12, 2024, at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, 900 East Market St. in Room 221. The eligibility list resulting from this exam will remain in existence for one year beginning on the first day of the month following the month the written examination was given or until the list is exhausted.

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Commissioner Sprague moved that the exam announcement be approved. The motion was seconded by Chair Wingert. Motion carried.

4. Notice and appropriate action regarding the ratification of the eligibility list for the position of Firefighter Trainee created from Firefighter Trainee Examination administered on May 4, 2023. This eligibility list will be valid for a period of one (1) year from the effective date or until the list is exhausted. Commissioner Sprague moved that the eligibility list be approved. The motion was seconded by Chair Wingert. Motion carried.
5. Review, discussion, and possible action regarding an SAFD applicant appeal to beginning positions.
 - a. Arshia Khadivfard – Rule IX 13a1/2 – Illicit Substances – Eligible to reapply when disqualification factor no longer applies
Commissioner Sprague moved that Mr. Khadivfard remain unsuitable. The motion was seconded by Chair Wingert. Motion carried.
 - b. Jose Reyna – Rule IX 8j - Compliance – Eligible to reapply when disqualification factor no longer applies
Commissioner Sprague moved that Mr. Reyna remain unsuitable. The motion was seconded by Chair Wingert. Motion carried.
 - c. Jade Brady – Rule IX 8i/8j – Compliance – Eligible to reapply
Commissioner Sprague moved that Ms. Brady remain unsuitable. The motion was seconded by Chair Wingert. Motion carried.
 - d. Matt Muniz – Rule IX 11 – False Statement of Material Fact – Permanently unsuitable
Commissioner Sprague moved that Mr. Muniz remain unsuitable. The motion was seconded by Chair Wingert. Motion carried.
 - e. Ruben Gaona – Rule IX 11 – False Statement of Material Fact – Permanently unsuitable
Commissioner Sprague moved that Mr. Gaona remain unsuitable. The motion was seconded by Chair Wingert. Motion carried.
6. Review, discussion, and possible action regarding SAPD applicants appeal to beginning positions.
 - a. Jean Batista Fernandez – Rule IX 14h – Criminal Activity – Eligible to reapply 12/24/2030
Commissioner Sprague moved that Mr. Fernandez be placed back into the application process. The motion was seconded by Chair Wingert. Motion carried.
 - b. Ashley Nicole Aldaba – Rule IX 13a2 – Use of Illicit Substances – Permanently unsuitable
Commissioner Sprague moved that Ms. Aldaba remain unsuitable. The motion was seconded by Chair Wingert. Motion carried.
7. Notice of SAPD disciplinary suspensions without pay:
 - a. An agreed forty-five (45) day suspension for Officer Bianca G. Garcia effective November 17, 2023.
 - b. A one (1) day suspension for Officer Brandyn Griffin effective November 15, 2023.
 - c. An agreed one (1) day suspension for Officer Desiree N. Contreras effective November 9, 2023.
 - d. An agreed one (1) day suspension for Officer Jacob I. Hernandez effective November 10, 2023.
 - e. An agreed three (3) day suspension for Officer Nicolas A. Schill effective November 11, 2023.
 - f. A three (3) day suspension for Officer Steven A. Cervantes effective November 10, 2023.

These matters have not been appealed and are therefore final.

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- g. An indefinite suspension for Officer Joe Castaneda effective November 28, 2023. A letter of appeal was received on November 29, 2023.
- h. An indefinite suspension for Officer Jeremias Duque, JR. effective November 28, 2023. A letter of appeal was received on November 29, 2023.

Commissioner Sprague moved that the disciplinary actions meet the requirements of 143.052. The motion was seconded by Chair Wingert. Motion carried.

Public Comment

The Commission adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Signed and dated this 11th day of January 2024.

Lee Wingert
Chair

Francine Prosser-Johnson
Vice-Chair

Valerie Sprague
Commissioner

Renee Frieda
Director, Fire Fighters' and Police Officers' Civil Service Commission