

Muncie Police Merit Commission

Call to order:

A meeting of the Muncie Police Merit Commission was held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 300 N. High Street Muncie, IN 47305- City Hall Basement (Police Roll Call Room)
Jonathan Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm

Roll Call:

Attendees included –Jonathan Mitchell, Deb Mace, Mike Mueller, Chief Sloan, Dea Bell and Phillip Miller

Members not in attendance:

Members not in attendance- Attorney Mark Ervin

Approval of minutes:

Deb Mace made a motion to accept the February 25, 2021 meeting minutes as presented, Mike Mueller seconded the motion. Motion to accept meeting minutes as presented is carried by voice vote.

Business from Chief Sloan:

Chief Sloan began by reading a commendation letter presented to Officer Danielle Bradford from Officer Sean Dennis.

Business from Attorney Mark Ervin:

n/a

Other Business:

Deb Mace made a motion to amend Rule #3, section 2, part B to read: applicant must be under the age of 40 at the time of employment begins with the Muncie Police Department. Dea Bell seconded the motion, motion is carried by voice vote.

Mike Muller made a motion for the adoption of the amended Rule and Procedure #4 as presented in the previous meeting. Jonathan Mitchell explained that what they will be voting on is the final language, which Attorney Mark Ervin will provide to the Commission with the final draft. Dea Bell seconded the motion. Motion is carried by voice vote.

Dea Bell made a motion that if available, Steve Cox, Seth Stanley and Amy Kesler, with Dave Porter as an alternate, conduct the Oral Interviews for the Lateral Hiring Process. Deb Mace seconded the motion. Motion is carried by voice vote.

Adjournment:

Dea Bell made a motion to adjourn. Jonathan Mitchell seconded the motion. Motion to adjourn is carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:19 pm.



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March 7, 2021

Chief Sloan,

I am writing this letter to commend Officer Bradford for her work on a call (CR 21-7505) that she, other officers, and I were on during our shift tonight.

Officers were dispatched to 720 W Howard Street Apartment C in reference to a suicide threat. A male named Raymond Morrison had called the Veterans Helpline stating that he had intent to commit suicide and also a plan on how he would do it. Raymond told the Helpline that he was going to either hang himself or cut himself with a machete. Raymond did tell the Helpline that he was wanting to get himself help, but they were unsure if Raymond would escalate when officers arrived.

Officers were able to make contact with Raymond at his apartment. Raymond told officers that he was having a hard time and was not taking his medication that he was prescribed. Raymond felt that he was not receiving the help he needed and was trying to find someone to help him.

After speaking with Raymond for a while it was clear that he wanted to go to the hospital and needed help. However, Raymond at the time was being somewhat hostile towards the police when officers asked him if he had a plan to hurt himself. Raymond asked for another officers glasses to "shove them" into his throat while speaking with us. At the time, one of the officers on scene grabbed a pocket knife that was on the table sitting next to where Raymond was seated for officer safety. When the officer took the knife, Raymond became very aggravated and hostile towards police.

Officer Bradford stepped in and began speaking with Raymond. She quickly built a rapport with him and was able to calm him down. She did this by speaking about Raymond's dog that was inside the apartment that he was very clearly passionate about. Raymond continually stated he wanted and needed help, but was not willing to separate himself from the dog. We all tried explaining to Raymond that the hospital would most likely not be allowed to go with him. Raymond stated he was absolutely not going anywhere if his dog was not going with him. Officer Bradford was able to calm him back down when he started becoming upset about having to leave his dog.

She then contacted IU BMH PD and explained the situation that officers had. She explained that Raymond was a veteran with PTSD, anxiety, a panic disorder, and other mental health issues. At first the officer she was speaking to was not willing to work with us, even though Officer Bradford explained that we were trying to avoid having to go hands on with Raymond



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which seemed very much possible. She asked the officer at BMH to speak with a doctor and see if they would be willing to work with us.

A short time afterwards, Officer Bradford received a phone call from the hospital stating that they were willing to help work with Raymond and allow him to bring his dog out to the hospital with him. When Officer Bradford told Raymond that his dog Milo was allowed to go with him, his attitude completely changed. Raymond was much friendlier with officers and seemed to cheer him up quickly from the slump that he was in.

I think any other officer on scene could tell that Raymond needed to go to the hospital, but would put up a fight if he was not able to go with his dog. Officer Bradford's demeanor and handling of the call by all means prevented any kind of use of force from happening during the call. I wanted to write the letter to give some kind of recognition for the work that Officer Bradford did on this call, and also continually does while on shift.

Professionally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean Dennis".

Sean Dennis