



LANSING POLICE DEPARTMENT

120 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING MI 48933

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Andy Schor, Mayor

Board of Police Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Lansing Police Department – Operations Center

Community Service Unit Conference Room

5815 Wise Rd., Lansing, MI

The Board of Police Commissioners met in regular session and the meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Jones.

Present at Rollcall: Commission Members: Bitely, Brewster, Cotton, Farhat, Jones, Milton, and Watkins.
Also present: Chief Backus, Deputy City Attorney Lisa Hagen-Lawrence, HR Director Elizabeth O’Leary and Ruth Grant

Public Attendees: 4

Rollcall was taken and quorum was present.

Commissioner Omar arrived at 5:40 PM after rollcall and vote on items was taken.

Pledge of Allegiance: Lead by Chair Jones.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None.

Additions To The Agenda: Correspondence was received by a concerned citizen and they will speak during Public Comment.

Approval Of Agenda: Chair Jones moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Bitely made the motion to approve with Commissioner Farhat seconding the motion.

By Vote: Yeas: 7

Nays: 0

Consent Agenda: Chair Jones moved for approval of agenda items:

- a) Approval of Meeting Minutes: November 18, 2025.
- b) Approval of November Departmental Reports.

Chair Jones moved to approve the minutes and department reports. Commissioners Farhat made the motion with Commissioner Bitely seconding the motion.

By Vote:

Yeas: 7

Nays: 0

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION: Deputy City Attorney Lisa Hagen-Lawrence

- Explained the multiple ways the Office of City Attorney interacts with the Board and with the Police Department.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – Chief Backus

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- From the Chiefs Office: The trend of crime, update on new facility, new software, post-Silver Bells summary, holiday activities of LPD for community, promotions.

LEGAL UPDATE – Deputy City Attorney Lisa Hagen-Lawrence
No updates.

HUMAN RESOURCES – Directory Elizabeth O’Leary

- Human Services report.

COMMISSION INVESTIGATOR REPORT:

For December, 4 open cases, 8 closed; 1 went to Chief for matrix.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Budget – No updates.
- Government/Community Liaison Committee – No report.
- Awards and Incentives Committee – No report. Chair Jones noted two more commissioners will be needed on this subcommittee.
- Ad Hoc Committee – No report.
- Citizen Complaint Oversight Committee – Met December 15th.
- Recruitment and Hiring – No additional report.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS – (Informational)

- Farhat – Merry Christmas to everyone and be good health.
- Watkins – Happy Holidays.
- Cotton – No comment.
- Omar – Happy holidays and be safe.
- Milton – Thank you to Chief Backus with one of the recent shootings.
- Brewster – Attended Silver Bells on new float. Merry Christmas and be safe to all.
- Jones – No comment.
- Bitely – Silver Bells was very nice this year.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Two public comments.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Jones requested to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 pm. Commissioner Omar made a motion with Commissioner Bitely seconding the motion.

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