



LANSING POLICE DEPARTMENT

120 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING MI 48933

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Andy Schor, Mayor

Board of Police Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Lansing Police Department – HQ 2nd Floor Conference Room
120 W. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48933

The Board of Police Commissioners met in regular session and the meeting was called to order at 5:29 p.m. by Chair Jones.

Present at Rollcall: Commission Members: Brewster, Cotton, Farhat, Hernandez, Jones, Milton, Watkins
Also present: Chief Backus, Elizabeth O’Leary, Ofc. Jason Murdock, Julie Browne, Matthew Staples, Keith Goodwin, and Jacqueline Lutz

Public Attendees: 5

Rollcall was taken and quorum was present.

Commissioner Bitely emailed in her absence. Motion to excuse by Commissioner Brewster. Commissioner Farhat seconded.

By Vote: Yeas:7
Nays:0

Pledge of Allegiance: Lead by Commissioner Jones

Correspondence Sent and Received: None received.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: 0

Additions To the Agenda: Commissioner Jones entertained a motion to include recommendations under New Business for June meeting for Chair and Vice Chair. Motion made by Commissioner Brewster, seconded by Commissioner Farhat

By Vote: Yeas: 7
Nays: 0

Approval Of Agenda: Chair Jones moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Brewster 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: April 21, 2026.
- b) Approval of April Departmental Reports.

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

By Vote: Yeas: 7
Nays: 0

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION: Officer Jason Murdock, Southside Corridor CPO

- Community policing in the southside corridor: loss prevention within the big box stores and smaller stores.

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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – Chief Backus

- Award’s Ceremony tomorrow, walk through for the new PSB, mass shooting, Safe Summer Initiative starting soon (10 officers moving to a “summer shift” 11 am to 9 pm—metrics will be collected), continued OT on Fridays and Saturdays funded through a grant, Asst. Chief Pratl going to Police Institute at Boston University

LEGAL UPDATE – Assistant City Attorney Matthew Staples

- Nothing to report

HUMAN RESOURCES – Director Elizabeth O’Leary

- 1 New Hire started on May 11, 21 applicants considered for August academy, 2 applicants pending MCOLES, Cadet posting closed—6 applicants, 5 are moving on. Central Records Specialist interviews happened yesterday and today

COMMISSION INVESTIGATOR REPORT:

- Julie Browne, Commission Investigator
 - 5 opened, 6 closed, and 0 to the Chief

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None as of today

NEW BUSINESS: (Information) Chair Jones recommends that Commissioner Brewster takes over as Chair and Commissioner Milton joins as Vice-Chair for Vote at June meeting

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Budget – Received report from Budget Supervisor, continuing to review outstanding needs for department equipment. Fiscal Year 27 budget approved. No amendments to the budget to this point
- Government/Community Liaison Committee – Law enforcement Sunday with the community, Clergy forum attended by Asst. Chief Pratl, thanks to the chief for being so approachable
- Awards and Incentives Committee – Award’s ceremony tomorrow, invite came through email. Always opportunities for this committee, a couple members can be on that committee. It’s a lot of reading, but it’s phenomenal.
- Ad Hoc Committee – Commissioner Bitely not present.
- Citizen Complaint Oversight Committee – Met today. Pretty straightforward, good review.
- Recruitment and Hiring – Nothing

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS – (Informational)

- Farhat – Nothing, looking forward to tomorrow
- Watkins – No comment
- Cotton – Like to thank CI Browne and Chief, taking care of the Car Wash, the property itself needs some attention still
- Hernandez – No comment
- Milton – Congratulations to Chair Jones on Doctoral accomplishment
- Brewster – None
- Jones – Thank you, Commissioner Milton. Not able to attend the Award’s Ceremony due to daughters’ performances. Hope tomorrow is a wonderful ceremony.

PUBLIC COMMENT: 2

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Jones moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 pm. Commissioner Brewster made the motion with Commissioner Farhat seconding.

By Vote: Yeas: 7

Nays: 0

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