



CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

We Are One Community

Glenda McDonald
Mayor

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of September 3, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by Chairman Johnson.

Roll Call:

Present: Chairman Ryan Johnson, Commissioner Brenda Hicks, Commissioner RJ Watkins, Commissioner Michael Curis, Commissioner Erica George, Internal Affairs Investigator Lackey, Chief McMahon, Chief Payne, Officer Monroe, Mayor Glenda McDonald

Approval of Minutes

Chairman: The minutes of June 4, 2025, were approved.

Opening Remarks

Chairman:

Police Department

Chief McMahon: WE talked about our recruit, Officer Bass, who is in the academy right now. Her test scores look great. WE look forward to her return in October. Our National Night Out was a success. We want to thank our commissioners for being there and supporting the event. In terms of staffing, we have not lost anyone and gained more officers. Most of our civilian positions are filled and looking for more licensed officers. In our stats, the burglaries are up in compared to last year. We had a group targeting houses and several of the individuals were arrested. Larsons are up as well. Many of the situations are cars being left unlocked or cars left running. I do not see a concern. We have more retail fraud like the dollar stores. Recently, the stores are changing policies to prosecute so we should see a change. The vehicle theft is down, which will have a positive effect on insurance rates in the area. Many of our CSC crimes are down such as rape, etc. The robberies statistics are down. I believe our citizens are more involved and contacting us. Much of our success is based on the community.

Commissioner Hicks: Is there a specific area hit more than others for larceny?

Chief: Yes, apartment complexes, townhomes, and dollar stores.

Chairman: Have we increased our rounds?

Chief: We are doing more proactive policing. Our resources are limited so it does put some restraint on us. In the future, I would like to see more targeted policing of these areas. We see a significant increase in our call volume which helps us overall.

Commissioner Hicks: Do you see this more in warmer weather?

Chief: Yes, crime typically increases more in the nice weather. Overall, we are in a great position. We are working on more mental health days for our officers. We want to monitor our officers and provide services.

Commissioner George: Are you all still collaborating with DWIHN?

Chief: Yes, Officer Monroe is working with them closely. We have expanded our less lethal options. We will have some certified mental health workers on the road with us. I think it will be a game changer.

Officer Monroe: We did get an approval of the DWIHN grant. We are able to start purchasing equipment for the CIT team. We were recognized by CIT council. They asked us to come back next year on how we created a program for everyone to receive the resources. Many larger cities get all these resources but does not get out to everyone and most police department cannot manage a clinician. Ramp is a technology company and asked us to keep collaborating on creating less lethal weapons.

Fire Department

Chief Payne: The commissioners are receiving the last three months of statistics. In June we had fires in commercial buildings. You can compare the stats to last year. We did get a new truck and in better condition.

Chairman: How many miles on this truck?

Chief: I believe 26,000 miles. We had a few truck issues. Also, we were able to become fully staff thanks to the mayor. We have a luncheon next Thursday at the fire station. Each department has been contributing to this each month.

Commissioner Curis: The last two months looks like service calls increased. What does that contribute too?

Chief: We now group in fire alarms needing replacement, fixing a flag, etc.

Internal Affairs

Dir. Lackey: We have and a few issues. Our complaints increased. We have figured out the root cause and addressing it. It is a specific issue. WE have nine active investigations across three staff members.

Commissioner Hicks: Is the nature of complaints the same?

Dir.: Several of the complaints are of similar nature. WE are asking the supervisors to handle these matters within 60 days. Currently, we contract with Axon for our body cameras, etc.

Recently they released LPR cameras that would allow live feeds and recording. It will give us visibility into 19 different areas. It comes with a drone. It has not been approved yet.

Chief: One of our members is a nation guard and can drive the drone.

Chief Payne: We have a person that can drive a drone.

Dir.: The money is not that much and we could share it across departments. I just received the numbers yesterday. It is very similar to what we already agreed upon.

Commissioner George: How has blue light been going?

Dir.: The state just used it. We are trying to expand on it which will give us 19 more points.

Chairman: Are we expanding to other business?

Dir.: We are trying.

Public Comments

Mayor: Thank you to the commissioners being back in action. It has been smooth sailing and helped us with investigations, community services, etc. we truly appreciate it. To the chiefs, I want to say thank you. You all take a lot from the public, council, etc. but you all do a hell of a job. The two chiefs are truly dedicated to make sure our community is safe, people know what's going on and they are accessible. Director Lackey gets it done. I want to ask about Homeland Security. Do you think there is any funding that could help us get that drone?

Chief McMahon: I know we are using the funds to get our centralized siren.

Mayor: I noticed it during the state drill but we do not have the actual siren. We are working to get that replaced and back up. Again, I just want everyone to know how proud I am of them. We are going to do the work and I appreciate you all.

Dir. Lackey: The grants are competitive. We have acquired some grants but we need to have someone to know law enforcement and grant writing together.

Officer Monroe: Currently, everything is customs. For cities like Hamtramck and Highland Park, we are harder to get it because we are surrounded by a large city like Detroit.

Robert Douglas: Hello everyone. I was not meaning to crash your meeting. I would like to find out when the traffic committee will meet. I am the block club president and I want to thank the Chief police for helping. Officer Monroe has been out to do wellness checks as well.

Chief McMahon: We are looking for

Rena Ford: It feels good to come to a meeting where you all are laughing and we are not hearing cussing. Thank you.

Chairman: We thank you so much.

Commissioner Curis: We have never had an argument in here. We have never had a

Sister Bryant: If the alarm goes off on our home, the police are there quickly. I thank everyone. Our concern was the street Winona and the holes. Also, the speeding.

Chief: It has been brought to our attention and something we will address. It seems to be around the times the plant takes a break or get off work so we will write citations.

Sister Bryant: Who takes care of the street?

Chief: We only have so much money due to our budget. Everyone wants perfect roads. We try to do patch work through DPW. WE can throw money at but we do not have that luxury like other communities and we have to be creative and frugal. Thank God we received a fire truck and finally someone donated a truck. Although it is a 1999 truck, it functions and we are thankful but this stuff is costly. I am sure the mayor can address this matter.

Mayor: People think there is a pot of money. There is money that helps pay for what we have.

We only have ten members in DPW which use to have a department of 35. We need people paying taxes and this is why we are pushing to sell the properties and get business established. No one should be blocking progress. I asked the engineers to look at Ferrand Park, Winona and Stevens Street that needs to be done. To tear up a street and put it down correctly that cost us millions. They do not give out funds for side streets. This is why we have not done the roads.

What we are working on is trying to figure out where we go to get street money. They will start tearing some streets and we are still looking for more funds. The state just gave us 100 million dollars to do this current infrastructure for pipes, streets, bills and master meters. Next, I will beg for money towards our streets. Next, I am trying to get our jail moved over. Please bear with us.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 6:00 pm, Zoom and In-person
cc: City Clerk