

Memorandum

REPORT TO: City Commission

FROM: Alex Newby, Deputy City Clerk
Mike Maas, City Clerk
Chuck Winn, City Manager

SUBJECT: Appointment to the Police Commission

MEETING DATE: May 20, 2025

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Citizen Advisory Board/Commission

RECOMMENDATION: **Consider the Motion:** *I move to appoint one member with a term expiring April 30, 2026 to the Police Commission.*

STRATEGIC PLAN: 1.2 Community Engagement: Broaden and deepen engagement of the community in city government, innovating methods for inviting input from the community and stakeholders.

BACKGROUND: The Police Commission currently has one position with an expired term as of April 30, 2025. We have received three applications.

The Police Commission is created under Section 7-32-4151, Montana Code Annotated. The three-member board is appointed by the City Manager, with the concurrence of the City Commission, and is comprised of those who are “residents of such city or town who shall have the qualifications required by law to hold a municipal office therein.”

Members are appointed to staggered three-year terms. Under Section 7-32-4152, M.C.A., one member must be appointed annually at the first regular meeting of the City Commission in May.

[Section 7-32-4154, MCA](#) describes the role of police commission in examination of applicants for police force; and, [Section 7-32-4155, MCA](#) describes the role of police commission in hearing and deciding appeals brought by police officers.

The Police Commission conducts hearings and decides on appeals brought by any member of the Police Department who has been disciplined, suspended, removed, or discharged.

This board currently has one available position. The City Clerk’s Office has received three qualifying application, with their relevant qualifications indicated below.

1. One position with a term ending April 30, 2028 | Qualifies: R. Gale, R. Blank, P. Thigpen

Applicant:

Richard Gale

Roger Blank

Paul Thigpen

There is no City Commission Liaison for this board.

Police Commission appointments are City Manager appointments with the concurrence of the City Commission.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None.

ALTERNATIVES: As suggested by the City Commission.

FISCAL EFFECTS: None.

Attachments:

[05-03-25 - CAB Applications - Paul Thigpen.pdf](#)

[04-29-25 - CAB Applications - Roger Blank.pdf](#)

[04-14-25 - CAB Applications - Richard Gale.pdf](#)

Report compiled on: May 9, 2025