

**MUNICIPAL FIRE AND POLICE CIVIL SERVICE  
LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA  
300 N. DUGAS RD  
LAFAYETTE, LA 70507  
(337) 291-8762**

A meeting of the Lafayette Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board was held on August 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Lafayette Consolidated Government Civil Service Testing Room, 705 West University Avenue, Lafayette, Louisiana. Audio recording of this meeting will become part of the Board's permanent records.

Present at the meeting were Chairman Ron Clark, Vice-chairman L. Wayne Prejean, Dwight Prudhomme, Lane T. Cortez, Board Attorney Candice Hattan, CAO Rachel Godeaux, Police Chief Paul Trouard, Interim Fire Chief John Bourgeois, Chief Antoinette Gerald, Chief Troy Gauthier, Paula Broussard, Alton Trahan, Cristen Johnston, Mia Terry, Clebe Stutes, Lance Boudreaux, Terry Castille, Board Secretary Mary Francis

Board member Charley "Chip" Whipp III was not present for the meeting

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. and opening statement read by Chairman Ron Clark.

1. Board authorization to approve minutes of July 9, 2025 board meeting

Motion was made to approve minutes by L. Wayne Prejean  
Motion seconded by Dwight Prudhomme  
Public comment: None  
Opposition: None  
Motion carried unanimously

2. Board authorization to approve posting for Differential Response Officer (DRO)

Motion was made to approve posting by L. Wayne Prejean  
Motion seconded by Dwight Prudhomme  
Public comment: None  
Opposition: None  
Motion carried unanimously

3. Board authorization to approve posting notices for Criminal Intelligence Analyst (Police Dept.), Fire Chief, and Fire Training Chief

Motion was made to approve request by L. Wayne Prejean  
Motion seconded by Lane T. Cortez  
Public comment: Terry Castile gave praise to recently retired Fire Chief Robert Benoit and requested that a revamp of the test questions be conducted for the Fire Chief exam. The board confirmed that the update was completed.  
Opposition: None  
Motion carried unanimously

4. Board consideration to post adoption of proposed revisions to Police Major classification plan

Board Chairman Clark noted that the board will comply with the proposed revisions to post the adoption due to changes in the state law.

Motion was made to approve scores by L. Wayne Prejean  
Motion seconded by Lane T. Cortez  
Public comment: None  
Opposition: None  
Roll was called with L. Wayne Prejean, Lane T. Cortez, Dwight Prudhomme, and Chairman Ron Clark voting yes  
Motion carried unanimously

5. DISCUSSION: Request by Paula Broussard to discuss circumstance surrounding testing issues and other matters related to Fire Communications Officer II position

Ms. Broussard requested clarity from the board on whether or not they can approve the FCOII promotion. Chairman Clark clarified that the board does not control promotion, but the board does sign the personnel action forms, noting that no approval or disapproval of promotions is done by the board.

Ms. Broussard recapped the prior meeting's discussion of the FCOII exam, highlighting concerns about who has the authority to call off exams. She emphasized that the board minutes did not reflect Fire Communications Chief Antoinette Gerald's statement about contacting board member Whipp III regarding the two active FCOII lists, which led to the exam posting's cancellation.

Chairman Clark affirmed that exam cancellations should be called by the Fire Chief. He stated that he isn't able to answer for the Fire department, but for the Police department; he would not pull an examination without a request from the Chief of police.

Now with a passing FCOII score, Ms. Broussard is seeking a resolution to make right of the circumstances, noting that a discrepancy took place.

Board attorney Hattan explained the circumstances of the FCOII posting cancellation. She noted Board member Whipp III told the board the Chief requested the exam's removal from the agenda; it may not have been a direct request, but the Chief was present at previous discussions and did not object. Ms. Hattan identified three legal issues: the exam not being given within 18 months, exam posting notices not being posted as required, and the removal of the exam posting from the agenda. She clarified that Fire Chief Benoit neither confirmed nor denied cancelling the notice, and Chairman Clark noted that he mentioned the option of holding off promotions to the Fire Chief. Ms. Hattan explained that recourse might be with the district court if the examiner's office is involved. She stressed that if a posting is not in compliance with a statute to let the board know because posting requirements are within the jurisdiction of the board. Ms. Broussard noted that since the issue has been brought to the board's attention, the statute requirements for posting notices are now being handled accordingly.

Chairman Clark finalized by noting that the board can't undo what has been done, but they try to fix their mistakes to avoid future issues and can address issues to make corrections. Confirming he agrees with Ms. Hattan's suggestion for recourse through the district court.

Fire Communications Chief Antoinette Gerald responded, noting she did not recall whether she or Mr. Whipp III initiated contact. She stated she cannot cancel exams, but that she did tell Mr. Whipp III that there were two active scores left, and it was not 18 months since the last exam. She acknowledged previously not posting the exam notices, but did so for the recently called exam. Ms. Gerald did not know why Ms. Broussard believed she had cancelled an exam that was never called for. Further discussion was held to recall when the removal of the agenda item to post for exam initially occurred

Ms. Broussard clarified to the board that she never said Ms. Gerald could physically cancel the exam, but that she had a role in its cancellation.

Mr. Terry Castile requested clarification from the board regarding the time frame for when exams posting notices are approved by the board. The board confirmed that exams can be called anytime there is a need and no later than 18 months. Ms. Hattan noted that part of the confusion comes from the examiner not agreeing on the exams taking place before the 18 months. Chairman Clark assured that to correct the issue, exams will now be called for every 12 months, but will exclude exams such as Police and Fire Chief.

6. DISCUSSION: Board to consider the adoption of a new Chief Information Technology Officer Class plan for Lafayette Fire Department

Fire Investigator Alton Trahan provided insight on the request for the new class plan to help integrate new technology into the department

7. General Board business, if any – None

8. Report of Counsel or legal updates, if any –


Ms. Hattan provided a brief update on the La Bamba case, noting that a motion will be filed in August for the court to consider dismissal.

9. Public comment –

Fire Training Officer Cristen Johnston requested an opportunity to take the Fire Training Officer II exam due to the hardship of current work conditions. He noted that these conditions made it challenging to apply for the exam and acknowledged that he has a current passing score that is valid till November 2027.

Chairman Clark informed Mr. Johnston that hardships are typically granted to those wounded in the line of duty or deployed with the military. He noted that we can ask, but cannot guarantee approval. Chairman Clark also assured Mr. Johnston that he will have the ability to apply for the exam next year due to the board now calling for exams every 12 months.

Motion to adjourn by L. Wayne Prejean  
Motion seconded by Dwight Prudhomme  
Public comment: None  
Motion carried unanimously  
Meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.



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Ron R. Clark  
Chairman