



City of Hartford * County of Van Buren * State of Michigan

TO: Mayor Hall and the Hartford Commission

FROM: Nicol Brown, City Manager *NB*

DATE: February 6, 2025

RE: APPROVE PROPOSED EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR POLICE CHIEF

ITEM BEFORE THE COMMISSION:

The item before the Commission is to approve the proposed part-time employment agreement to hire Brian Matthew's as the City's Police Chief.

DISCUSSION:

The City Manager has been meeting with police agencies chiefs, county sheriffs, and the State of Michigan police captain and retired lieutenant to assist me with the search of a part-time police chief. I have interviewed several candidates for the position, unfortunately the candidates have withdrawn their application. I have been in search of a candidate that is able to rebuild the police department's ethics, perception, integrity, and honesty.

Brian Matthews is currently a Sergeant at the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Tribal Police. He has been a police officer since for 24 years. His career started at the Bangor police department for a few years, then hired by Van Buren County Sheriff for fifteen years. Brian has a Bachelor of Science degree from Grand Valley State University. Brian has paved a path for himself with continuing education and certifications for police leadership/supervision, expert witness and status certifications. He has numerous awards, a member of numerous committees and organizations, presented at several conferences and trainings.

Brian would work part-time at a minimum of fifty hours a month for 6 months. The City Manager will evaluate Brian's job performance and the status of priority departmental goals by 6 months. I will give my recommendation to the commission of how we should move forward after reviewing the status of the police department. Some of the primary priorities will be the evidence room and current evidence, updating department policies, training and certifications, and duty equipment for officers.

RECOMMENDATION:

The City of Hartford City Commission approve the proposed part-time employment agreement to hire Brian Matthew's as the City's Police Chief contingent upon completing MCOLES background check.