

RESOLUTION NO. 16, 2024

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO, INDIANA, OPTING OUT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MERIT SYSTEM FOR THE VALPARAISO POLICE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO INDIANA CODE SECTION 36-8-3.5-5.5

WHEREAS, pursuant to Indiana Code 36-8-3.5-5.5, an eligible police department will establish a merit system for its members unless, not later than December 31, 2024, the legislative body of the governmental unit adopts a resolution opting out of the establishment of a merit system which is also approved by a majority of the active full-time, paid members of the police department.

WHEREAS, the Valparaiso Police Department (“VPD”) is an eligible police department as defined by Indiana Code 36-8-3.5-5.5(b). VPD has more than twelve (12) active full-time, paid members providing law enforcement services to a geographic area that has a resident population of at least twenty thousand (20,000) people.

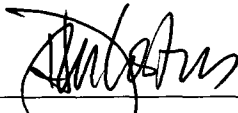
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana, that the Council opts out of the establishment of a merit system as allowed by Indiana Code 36-8-3.5-5.5(e).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to Indiana Code 36-8-3.5-5.5(e), the active full-time, paid members of VPD shall now conduct a vote upon whether to opt out of the establishment of a merit system as follows:

1. The vote shall take place within sixty (60) days after the adoption of this Resolution.
2. The VPD Chief shall give all active members of VPD no less than three (3) weeks’ advance notice as to the date, time and process to vote to approve or opt out of the merit system.
Notice sent by way of the VPD email system is acceptable.
3. The VPD Chief shall ensure that notice is posted in prominent places in all VPD stations.
The notice must designate the time, place and purpose of the vote. Any issues relating to the voting process shall be addressed and resolved by the VPD Chief and FOP President.
The City Attorney may assist, as needed.
4. A copy of this Resolution shall be distributed to each VPD member.

5. Only active members of VPD may vote.
6. If a majority of the active members of VPD vote to accept a merit system, the merit system will be established on January 1, 2025. If a majority of the active members of VPD vote to opt out of the merit system, a merit system will not be established.
7. Nothing in this Resolution shall affect the provisions of any VPD General Order and/or the terms of VPD's Collective Bargaining Agreement.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Porter County, Indiana, by a 7-0 vote, this 24th day of June, 2024.



Jon Costas, Mayor

ATTEST:



Holly Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer