

Borough of Palisades Park  
Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council  
June 15, 2023

**Mayor Chong Paul Kim opened the Special Meeting at 11:30 A.M.**

**STATEMENT:**

This is a Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council, and notice was given as follows:

1. Notice was filed June 12, 2023 with The Record & Newark Star Ledger, both official newspapers of the Borough.
2. Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board
3. Copy is preserved in the Clerk's Office.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

Mayor Kim stated his appreciation for the three Councilmembers who attended the Special Meeting despite being very busy. There was an issue concerning the Police Department and the decisions made by the Council. He wanted the issue to be resolved amicably so that the two Police Cadets could go to the Police Academy.

**ROLL CALL:**

Mayor	Kim	Present
Councilperson	Jang	Absent
"	Kim	Present
"	Min	Present
"	Park	Absent
"	Pirrera	Absent
"	Vietri	Present

Borough Attorney	Matthew Moench, Esq.	Present via Zoom
Borough Administrator	David Lorenzo	Present

The Borough Attorney read Resolution #2023-143 into the Record. Mr. Moench said that the Governing Body previously hired two officers. The original Resolution indicated that the hires were contingent upon certain things such as passing a background check, a physical, and completion of the Police Academy. The Bergen County Prosecutor's Office wanted to make sure that word "probationary hiring" was explicitly in the Resolution to make it clear that they were on probationary status. The Governing Body was meeting in order to clarify that the hiring of the two Police Officers was for a probationary status subject to the conditions that all officers need to meet. The goal was to get these Police Officers into the upcoming Police Academy, which would start in July.

Councilman Vietri asked if Mr. Moench could fax or email the Resolution so that there was something in writing. Mr. Moench confirmed that he would send it over immediately to the Clerk so that the written Resolution could be executed.

**OFF CONSENT AGENDA:**

**RESOLUTION 2023-143 Clarification of Provisions of Resolutions #2023-123 and #2023-124 Regarding Hiring of Police Officers**

Councilman Min made a motion to adopt Off Consent Agenda Resolution #2023-143. Councilman Vietri seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang:	Absent
Councilman Kim:	Yes
Councilman Min:	Yes
Councilman Park:	Absent
Councilwoman Pirrera:	Absent
Councilman Vietri:	Yes

Mayor Kim asked about a public event that was going to take place on Saturday. He asked if a Resolution needed to be passed for the event. Mr. Moench stated that if the Governing Body wanted to, they could make a motion directing the Police Chief to create a form for future events and get whatever information was needed for Saturday's event. The Mayor asked if a motion was made, the insurance would kick in if something happened. Mr. Moench agreed that making a motion for the event would provide extra coverage for the Borough. Mayor Kim asked if the organization could be denied for their event if they did not provide insurance. Mr. Moench stated yes, they could be denied.

Mr. Lorenzo clarified that the motion on the floor was for the event that was to take place on Saturday, subject to providing the adequate Certificate of Insurance to the Borough.

Councilman Vietri asked about the number of people who would be attending the event. Mr. Lorenzo stated that this could be asked to the Chief of Police.

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Councilman Min asked if he could email the Chief a reminder of the event since he was a part of the Police Committee.

Mayor Kim announced that the Certificate of Insurance was just received.

Councilman Vietri made a motion to approve the event for Saturday upon review of the insurance and authorization from the Chief of Police. Councilman Min seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang:	Absent
Councilman Kim:	Yes
Councilman Min:	Yes
Councilman Park:	Absent
Councilwoman Pirrera:	Absent
Councilman Vietri:	Yes

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

There were no reports.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Councilman Kim made a motion to open to the public. Councilman Vietri seconded. The motion carried. All present in favor by voice vote; none opposed.

Mr. Lorenzo congratulated the two Police cadets.

Julio Mancilla Jr. thanked the Governing Body.

Councilman Kim made a motion to close to the public. Councilman Vietri seconded. The motion carried. All present in favor by voice vote; none opposed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, Councilman Kim made a motion to close to the public and adjourn. Councilman Vietri seconded. All present in favor by voice vote; none opposed.

**Attest:**

  
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Gina S. Kim, RMC/CMC  
Borough Clerk

**RESOLUTION  
BOROUGH OF PALISADES PARK  
BERGEN COUNTY, NJ**

COUNCIL	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Jang						X
Kim			X			
Min	X		X			
Park						X
Pirrera						X
Vietri		X	X			

NO. 2023-143  
 DATE May 22, 2023  
 Carried  Defeated  Tabled   
 Approved on Consent Agenda

**RESOLUTION CLARIFYING PROBATIONARY STATUS OF RECENTLY HIRED POLICE OFFICERS**

**WHEREAS**, on May 22, 2023, the Borough of Palisades Park passed Resolutions 2023-123 and 2023-124, hiring Bob Sangwon Lee and Julio Roberto Mancilla, Jr. as police officers for the Borough of Palisades Park; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolutions 2023-123 and 2023-124 contained conditions of employment, including that the officers must complete a psychological evaluation, complete all prescribed pre-hiring reviews under the Borough's personnel procedures, including, but not limited to background checks, and

**WHEREAS**, both officers need to be enrolled and complete police training through the Police Academy, which begins in July, and


**WHEREAS**, while the term "probationary" does not expressly appear in Resolution 2023-123 or 2023-124, it was always intended that the employment status of Lee and Mancilla be probationary until the completion of all necessary training, background checks, and physical and psychological evaluations, and

**WHEREAS**, the Bergen County Prosecutor's office has requested that the Borough of Palisades Park pass a new resolution to specifically indicate that the police hires are probationary, as required by N.J.S.A. 52:17B-68 and N.J.S.A. 52:17B-69.2.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Borough Council of the Borough of Palisades Park hereby incorporates Resolutions 2023-123 and 2023-124 herein, and explicitly clarifies that the hiring of Bob Sangwon Lee and Julio Roberto Mancilla, Jr. are probationary until the completion of all prerequisites to unrestricted employment, including but not limited to completion of background checks, psychological evaluations, physical fitnesses assessment, and completion of required training at the police academy.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Police Chief is directed to immediately take all steps necessary to ensure that Officers Lee and Mancilla are enrolled in the upcoming July police academy class, including processing their background checks and all other administrative actions necessary to avoid any further delay in their hiring process.

Approved:   
 Chong, Mayor

Attest:   
 Gina S. Kim, Borough Clerk

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Palisades Park at a meeting held on the 15, 2023.

SEAL



