

Police Officer Public Hearing Information

Candidates who are decertified as a result of the Chief's Selection Meeting will be sent a letter stating who they may contact at the City of Pittsburgh to be informed of the decertification reason(s). Decertified candidates may request an appeal through the Civil Service Commission. NOTE: Decertified means that a candidate is no longer eligible to be considered for employment as a Police Officer with the City of Pittsburgh from the current police officer eligibility list.

The following phases occur if a candidate who has been decertified appeals the determination and requests a public hearing.

1. Candidates who wish to appeal the determination and request a public hearing must do so in writing to the Civil Service Commission. Requests can be mailed, faxed or emailed. The letter which candidates receive notifying them that they are no longer eligible to be considered for employment as a Police Officer with the City of Pittsburgh will detail the necessary deadlines, phone numbers and addresses for the appeal.
2. Candidates who request an appeal and subsequently decide to withdraw their appeal should inform the Personnel Department's Secretary & Chief Examiner of their decision, in writing, as soon as possible.
3. The Civil Service Commission will conduct a public hearing for any decertified candidate who requested a public hearing. Candidates will receive a letter confirming the hearing date and time.
4. Candidates may attend the hearing alone or with a lawyer. Candidates who do not have a lawyer, or cannot afford one, may contact the Allegheny County Lawyer Referral Service at 412.261.0518.
5. The public hearing is a formal hearing: there are three civil service commissioners, a court reporter and legal representation for the City of Pittsburgh. The attorney for the City of Pittsburgh will present the city's case to the civil service commission. The case may include expert witnesses and any/all information which resulted in the decertification determination. The candidate (appellant) will proceed to present their case to the commission following the city resting its case. The burden of proof is on the candidate to show that the decertification determination was incorrect.

6. There will be one of two outcomes for each candidate based on the public hearing. The Civil Service Commission will either deny or grant the appeal. If the appeal is denied, the candidate has the lawful right to appeal the Commission's decision to the Court of Common Pleas within 30 days of the Commission's decision. If the appeal is granted, the candidate will be certified again and be eligible to be considered for employment as a Police Officer with the City of Pittsburgh.
 7. All public hearing documents (Public Hearing Minutes, official transcript, city and/or appellant exhibits, etc.) are considered business documents retained by the City of Pittsburgh and may be a matter of public record.
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