

July 9, 2026

William D. Franklin, Mayor and Eddie L. Colbert, Director of Public Service and Safety:

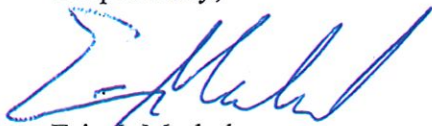
Please accept this letter as my resignation from the position of Chief of Police for the City of Warren, effective close of business on August 24, 2026. I am requesting to use my lawfully accumulated vacation from July 9, 2026, through August 24, 2026, with the understanding that the hours used will be reduced from any separation pay.

After careful consideration, I have concluded that stepping aside is in the best interests of the Department, its officers, and the community we serve. This decision is made solely to allow the Department to move forward without ongoing controversy.

I will cooperate fully in ensuring a smooth and orderly transition of leadership.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric J. Merkel", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eric J. Merkel