

Rochester Police Commission
Rochester, NH 03867

Derek J. Peters, Commissioner
David R. Stevens, Commissioner
Lisa M. Stanley, Commissioner

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

The Rochester Police Commission held their regular monthly meeting at City Hall, Council Chambers on Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. Present at this meeting was Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens, Comm. Stanley, Chief Toussaint, Dep. Chief Boudreau, Capt. Pinkham, Chaplain Cilley and Secretary Warburton.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

A. Pledge. All participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Prayer. Chaplain Cilley delivered the opening prayer.

B. Roll Call. The clerk called the roll marking Commissioner's Peters, Stevens and Stanley present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A. August 7, 2019 regular meeting.

Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the minutes of the August 7, 2019 meeting. Comm. Stanley SECONDED the motion. The motion to accept the minutes, PASSED unanimously.

4. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No Discussion.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Monthly Reports

1. Operations. Captain Pinkham provided updates noting that Ward 1 was the only Ward that met this period. Police issues brought up included concerns for how people park while stopping for yard sales. They were advised to call police if a hazard existed. There was a review of thefts from motor vehicles, burglaries and bicycle thefts and a discussion of ways to prevent becoming victims of those crime types. The current staffing, new officers and the training involved before an officer is “boots on the ground” was also discussed.

At the August 1, 2019 rental property owners association meeting, Lt. Bossi discussed the recent increase in bicycle thefts and what the Department has been doing to investigate these. Lt. Bossi provided a staffing update and discussed recent activity in the City. Lt. Bossi answered additional questions about where cameras can be placed in rental properties.

The Honor Guard will participate in the upcoming September 11 memorial at the central fire station.

The K9 had 5 calls this period. Four tracks and one drug search, all in Rochester.

In comp stat traffic stops dipped this period, attributed to staffing levels and an increase in calls for service. Proactive activity was completed on bicycle stops to verify serial numbers to ensure bikes were not stolen. Thefts *from* motor vehicles were up again this period, many still from unlocked cars. We have completed public service announcements on social media and talked about this in Ward meetings trying to get the word out to reach more people to protect themselves and better secure property. There was an increase in burglaries. Two subjects were arrested in one case. Latent prints recovered at other scenes have been sent to the State Lab for comparison. Officers continue to monitor drug activity and provide information about rehabilitation programs to assist with substance abuse disorder.

Community Engagement Officer Danie and Sgt. Babine have been doing research for the development of the new POP (Problem Oriented Policing) unit, and have met with other agencies. A proactive enforcement for the first day of school was organized to include motor vehicle enforcement and speaking with students and parents at bus stops. Officer Danie attended the Rochester Rise Up meeting.

The Communications Supervisor position has been filled. She has been covering open shifts during the hiring process for two open positions. Once the positions are filled, and they begin field training, we will be fully staffed in the center.

The investigations bureau had 40 cases sent up from patrol for review or investigation. There are currently 70 cases assigned. There were 17 cases presented to the Grand Jury all with true bills.

There were six detective call outs (an aggravated sexual assault, reckless conduct, a wanted fugitive which resulted in SWAT activation, an overdose death, an officer involved shooting and an assist regarding bicycle thefts.) There were also one polygraph and two backgrounds for dispatch underway. There were 403 pieces of evidence logged in, 85 items returned to owners and an additional 113 pieces destroyed.

The school resource officers returned to school duties as of August 22, 2019.

We still have one detective on light duty and expect him to be released to full duty soon. Sgt. Emerson and Det. Rousseau have been doing the evidence function while we work on filling that vacancy.

Comm. Peters asked how many Detectives we have currently.

Capt. Pinkham said we have three open positions; one is waiting to move into the bureau when staffing improves.

Chief Toussaint said we have six detectives right now. We are turning a corner, but we are not out of the woods yet. To update where we are with staffing - we have four about to start field training-three academy graduates and one new hire waiting to test out of the law package. We have three officers that started the academy on September 3, 2019. We still have one officer deployed with the military who is expected to return in February. Lastly, we have four openings still to fill. We are making headway.

The Officer hired last month has years of experience from out of State. We expect he will test out of the law package and will have an abbreviated field training. He needs to know the city and our policies. This should be a quick process for him. Once released on his own to solo, we will move one from patrol to detectives to supplement them.

In Diversion, it was a successful summer of Teen travel camp with 30 teens engaged with staff and developing friendships and mentorships. National Night Out on August 6 had an estimated 3000 in attendance during the evening. Nicole is working with the school district to implement the Youth 2 Youth model following the completion of the Bridging the Gaps grant funding. Nicole was requested to sit on a Statewide Juvenile Justice Reform Group selected by Georgetown University as one of seven national groups to work on a Capstone project to improve our juvenile justice system and probation reform. Staff continues to work with the County's 3-year strategic plans for the continuum of care to ensure law enforcement representation and connections to the Governor's task forces. Teen night returns for the school year beginning October 5, 2019.

2. Administrative. Dep. Chief Boudreau noted that the bid for the front line cruisers would go to the low bidder, Irwin Ford in Laconia. We have been told there is a delay from Ford in fulfilling the orders. The 2020 Interceptors have been completely redesigned, and none of the equipment will be transferrable. We may not see the cruisers until January or February. The backline cruiser was ordered

and expected for delivery in late September.

We continue to work on the on line crime reporting software project.

We are also continuing to wear-test models of outer load bearing vest carrier. The current model is from Safari. The officer likes it and it fits well. This has Velcro sides for fitting, but then zippers in the front. This takes the weight well off the shoulders and back. All officers' duty weapons will remain on the duty belt.

Are you going to use JAG Money for these?

Yes, that is our intent. Before we were going to have to phase these in, through the clothing line, but these funds will allow us to complete this project in full.

There was further discussion on embroidered names, or badges and collar brass, as well as accessing the gear on the vest during the winter or weather event. There are options we will have to look at and officers may have to overcome some challenges.

Comm. Stanley said I hear you say, "If we go." Am I correct in stating we are purchasing these? We have to vote on it.

Chief Toussaint said it is a policy change to the uniform, so you do have to vote on it.

We were notified that we have been awarded slightly more than \$27,000.00 in Justice Assistance Grant funds. We have begun the process to apply for those funds. Chief Toussaint added the JAG office always gives incredibly short notice. By the end of this week, we need to have the application and budget narrative submitted. We plan to say this is what we are buying with the money.

The Commission asked if there would be additional money left over.

We will have to wait to see. Then we would have to submit a change of purchase with the JAG office for approval.

Comm. Stanley asked if we could have the policy amendment by the October meeting.

B. Other.

(1) Hands-Free Law. Comm. Stevens said he still sees many people driving and using cell phones. Can you provide information to the public on the fines for this?

A first offense is \$100.00, plus penalty assessment. A second offense is \$250.00 plus penalty assessment. A subsequent offense within 24 months is \$500.00 plus penalty assessment.

During the targeted patrols the previous evening, this was something officers were looking for and attentive to. When we get closer to full staff, we can focus on things like that. Right now with what we have answering calls we are doing this as we can.

(2) National Thank a Law Enforcement Officer Day – Paint the City Blue. Comm. Peters said this event is September 21, 2019. The Commission needs to discuss and approve a couple of things.

One of those things is the donation of food. We have a gifts and gratuities policy. We have a business planning an event where free food was going to be available to officers. We have other businesses donating food throughout the day. We need to make an exception for the day or the month; however, we wish to do it.

Comm. Stanley noted there are no monetary gifts. This is food and businesses have stepped forward.

Comm. Peters said this particular business is making a publicity event for this, and its occurring the day before. They want to recognize the men and women of the department for their service. He continued noting that he spoke with the marketing person about this today and let her know he would bring this to the Commission.

Comm. Stevens said I think it's a special day. This is the 2nd year. We are talking about food. I can't see anyone having an issue. I've been in the military my whole life and we have similar rules. However, there are functions where we get a dinner. It is not money. I don't have an issue with this.

Comm. Stanley said I think it's fantastic.

Chief Toussaint said going by the letter of the policy, we want to ensure that officers are not going to fast food locations and getting free meals or discounts and things of that nature. In my tenure as a Rochester officer, we have taken it to the extreme turning citizen's away citizens bringing cookies when they are just trying to be nice.

As a city, places are providing food for the men and women on the street on a nationally recognized day. This is general appreciation.

(3) Contract Negotiations. Comm. Stanley publicly thanked the city council for the unanimous vote in favor of the new contract for the sworn officers. It is impressive.

Comm. Stevens added it is a good example of elected officers working together to fix a problem. We are all appreciative of the Council, Mayor and staff working together to get things done.

Chief Toussaint echoed those sentiments. The Council has been incredibly supportive of the Department. This is what we needed. Our employees are our biggest asset.

Comm. Peters said we thanked the Council personally at the close of the meeting. As budget season comes up, we should have a sit down to discuss goals, needs, and objectives moving forward. This is an opportunity to work together in partnership.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence for the month included: Specialist Sarah Bailey is commended for initiative creating a bike theft guide for patrol and dispatch to easily recognize and track the recent bicycle thefts in the Community. Sgt. Emerson is recognized for his efforts regarding issues with criminal mischief at the Hillsdale boat launch, and organizing a community meeting to address those issues and plans for moving forward with the boat launch.

Comm. Stevens noted that is good work by both. When we work together, we get some good solutions.

Comm. Peters also thanked Alex Freeman, our former crime analyst for her time with the Department, noting she relocated out of state. He also acknowledged the good work done by Steve Kerlee as our evidence technician. Lexis Nexis hired Steve for the embedded crime analyst position.

7. INFORMATION:

There was no discussion.

8. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: (Pursuant to: RSA 91-A:3)

Commissioner Stanley MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 7:37 P.M. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, paragraph II, section A (personnel) and section E (legal.) Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote 3 - 0 with Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens and Comm. Stanley voting in the affirmative.

The non-public session closed at 9:18 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. Stanley. SECOND by Comm. Stevens. The motion PASSED by roll call vote 3 - 0 with Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens and Comm. Stanley voting in the affirmative.

Comm. Stanley MOVED to seal the minutes indefinitely. SECOND by Comm. Stevens. The motion PASSED by roll call vote 3 - 0 with Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens and Comm. Stanley voting in the affirmative.

9. MISCELLANEOUS:

The Commission set two special meetings for personnel matters. One for September 11, 2019 at 3:00 P.M. and the other for September 20, 2019 at 9:00 A.M.

Comm. Peters MOVED to award a merit increase on the respective anniversary date to Off. Frank Porfido (3.5%) SECOND by Comm. Stevens. The motion PASSED unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Stanley 8:26 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton
Secretary

APPROVED BY COMMISSION:
10/02/19