

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, October 2, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. Present at this meeting was Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens, Comm. Stanley, Chief Toussaint, Dep. Chief Boudreau, Capt. Thomas, Chaplain Cilley and Secretary Warburton. Also present were invited guests and members of the public.

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. September 4, 2019 regular meeting.

**Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the minutes of the September 4, 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. Recognition: Sgt. Emerson – 20 Years' Service. Chief Toussaint noted that Sgt. Patrick Emerson is recognized for twenty years of service with the City. He was hired as a police officer in 1999, and was promoted to Sergeant in 2012. In 2014 was assigned to oversee the Investigations Bureau. Sgt. Emerson has been a field training officer, a certified breath operator, and on our motorcycle unit. He has received extensive training in accident reconstruction, with an emphasis on motorcycle crashes. He has numerous letters of appreciation. Many hold a common theme of how professional and compassionate Sgt. Emerson is. Sgt. Emerson has received awards for Honorable Service, Distinguished Unit Action, and Lifesaving. He further has been nominated for awards within the Department, including for Officer of the Year, the Blair Memorial Award and the Red Hayes Award. A plaque was presented.

B. Community Outreach – Prevention Services Update. Chief Toussaint introduced Nicole Rodler the Juvenile Division Coordinator. Chief Toussaint said everyone knows that we have an opioid issue within the City, within the State and within the Country. In our police department, we have a three-prong approach that includes enforcement, we support recovery, one of the big things is the future, which diversion, and juveniles are a part of. Nicole is here to talk a bit about what she does.

Nicole Rodler said that she has been with the City for ten years, starting first as the Juvenile Diversion Coordinator within the City, which has grown to be the Rochester Police Department Juvenile Division Coordinator. This program oversees our prevention efforts, juvenile court diversion and intervention and prevention programs.

Our prevention programs help our youth to make better choices and change risky behavior. As the grant funding for Bridging the Gaps ended, Nicole's position has taken on those pieces of the coalition.

Teen Night is our greatest prevention tool. This is our tenth year. When first launched it was held every Saturday night. Now it is the first Saturday of every month. We engage youth in positive, pro-social activities with adults and develop personal and professional relationships. We work in partnership with the Recreation Department. We also have a licensed drug and alcohol coordinator at every event to address substance misuse.

Teen Travel Camp became a summer extension of Teen night. We expanded this year to 30 youth that travel Wednesday's to opportunities outside the community doing positive, pro social activities. Our school resource officers attend this when possible. We partner with the Recreation Department in this as well.

National Night Out is another successful prevention tool that we have. This year we had over 3,000 attendees. This continues to grow every year.

Nicole stated that she teaches the LEAD (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) program in the high school with Officer Jackson. She can also substitute for Sgt. Deluca in the middle school. This is an evidence based model "too good for drugs," that is taught by law enforcement on a personal level where students get factual information not myths.

We will be hosting Kevin Bartolo in the City on October 21, 2019 to kick off Red Ribbon Week. He tells his story of how he became addicted to opiates following an athletic injury and how he has overcome this.

Nicole is the Chair for the State Diversion network. She stated that our Diversion program, which started in 1980, is the oldest in the State. There has been a lot of experience and knowledge invested into this program. Our Diversion program achieved accreditation in 2011. Diversion looks to help youth in a first time offender status to turn things around. We have a pre-court diversion program and we can look to see if there are substance abuse issues or mental health issues so when we make a referral we can get the youth to a good spot to move forward in a positive way by getting them resources and support to help them thrive.

We formerly had the Teen Drug Court, but amendments to statutes put time limitations on our cases and therefore all of those now go through District Court.

We work with the Fire Department on the fire-setter arson prevention program.

How successful is diversion? Post closure one year we have an 84% success rate of not reoffending in that year. Post closure three years is a 62% success rate. We are also able to work with the Administrative Office of the Courts to track these numbers as the youth age up to see if they are reoffending in the adult system. Nationally the one-year recidivism success rate for juveniles is 45%. So our rates are exceeding that, and that is due to the community understands us and supports the program, so we are catching these kids early and making referrals.

Comm. Stanley asked if the 45% is no intervention, or strictly court intervention.

Nicole stated that NH is the only state that does a pre-court referral for diversion. Other states do it backwards. After court is done then they are referred to diversion. In NH when they close a diversion referral there is no court.

Comm. Peters asked how many staff are dedicated to this and what is the greatest need?

Nicole offered that she is a staff of one. So staffing is a need for Teen night and Teen Travel camp. All the money in the world; would not replace having positive youth intervention.

Comm. Stevens said with Teen Travel limited to 30, those slots filled up quickly. What about expanding. Thirty is not a lot.

Nicole responded that she has to be careful for what she wishes. However, growing the program slowly would be beneficial. Right now, with the smaller number you have personal connections with the kids. The more kids you have you lose some of that, and need more staff.

Comm. Stevens asked could it expand to two days a week, two different groups.

Nicole replied that could be something to look into. We do have a wait list. Next year we would like to reach out to those on the wait list if we have empty seats on a trip day.

Chief Toussaint said a lot of this hinges on the Recreation Department. They are a great partner but they do a lot of the planning and staffing. It is not as simple as putting extra police staff to this.

Comm. Peters asked if people could volunteer, or be certified to be able to help.

Nicole said Teen Night we have the SRO's, the CEO, command staff and uniformed officers. If we could have backgrounds done and people certified that could be viable.

Nicole added that the big wish is a family resource center. I know it has been talked about, but that is a price ticket beyond our grasp at this point. But does this come from a state level or community level. The community needs it. It would be fantastic to have another place for kids and parents to access more resources.

C. Policy Update: 26.1.1.2 Uniform Appearance: First Reading. Dep. Chief Boudreau noted the changes to this are the outer load-carrying vest (page 4) and we cleaned up language on page 2 that officers don't need to purchase the mock turtleneck.

The purpose of the change is to remove the weight from the hips and back of all the gear on the duty belt. We are planning to purchase the Safariland model. Officers can choose which gear to put on the carrier. The duty weapon will remain on the duty belt, and one less lethal weapon will remain on the duty belt.

Comm. Stanley said the language needs to be cleaned up to be consistent. We are calling it different things in each of the sections.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said we will clean up the language and bring it back next month.

D. Monthly Reports: Captain Thomas reported that Wards 1, 2, 4 and 5 met this period. Police issues brought up included parking concerns, speeding, fireworks complaints, sidewalk issues, staffing of the Police Department, panhandlers, suspicious activity. The Police Department discussed crime trends, reviewed the comp stat report, and encouraged people to inventory valuables, lock homes and cars and to report suspicious activity.

The investigations bureau had 30 cases sent up from patrol for review or investigation. There are currently 42 cases assigned. There were 15 cases presented to the Grand Jury all with true bills. There were three detective call outs (an overdose death, an assault on a child and an assist other department). There were two polygraphs and two backgrounds. There were 279 pieces of evidence logged in, 38 items returned to owners and an additional 462 pieces destroyed.

CEO/ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER: Off. Danie had evidence team training, assisted with Civilian Response to Active Shooter training at the high school and at SAFRAN, and assisted Economic Development with some designs in the downtown that had been attracting crime. He assisted at the Senior Breakfast, attended a safety day at Kohl's, and spent time at events leading up to Thank a Police Officer Day.

COMP STAT: We anticipate field activities to improve as staffing improves. Traffic stops were up by 100 stops since the previous report. There were 31 accidents in parking lots most attributed to poor maneuvering in parking lots. There were also 15 accidents on Farmington Road and 8 on Washington Street.

There was a reduction in property crime; however, we are up 140% year to date. Thefts *from* motor vehicles there was a two-night spree where several vehicles were gone through. All but two vehicles were unlocked. Thefts from motor vehicles is a crime of opportunity. We can't stress enough, no matter where you are, lock your vehicles and your homes. There were six firearms stolen this period from various locations. Only one has been recovered.

There were 52 drug related calls, 14 possessions. There were 16 overdoses; one was fatal. We are seeing increases in the use of meth. While those users do not overdose it is still a high-risk situation because of how they behave when impaired, including dancing in the street and stripping naked.

Violent crime is down 20% year to date.

Comm. Peters noted a typo on the DV page of the report. The year is listed as 2018 when it should be 2019.

COMMUNICATIONS: The two new communications specialists are off to a good start in training. We will be putting together another hiring process to prepare for anticipated vacancies.

DIVERSION: Teen night in October begins the 10th year. We have a full staff of Rec and PD lined up as well as community partners bringing in youth resources every month. Nicole will be working with the schools to bring in a guest speaker who talks about addiction stemming from sports injuries, to kick off Red Ribbon Week. Nicole is working with the Strafford County Public Health Network on the Addiction Task Force Summit and is preparing to discuss juvenile court diversions best practice in screening juvenile offenders for mental health and substance use. She is attending a presentation at Police Standards on ACERT (Adverse Childhood Experience Response Team) which connects youth who may have been at a trauma call with services. Manchester PD and Laconia PD have working models of this.

HONOR GUARD: The Honor Guard participated in the September 11 memorial at the central fire station. The Honor Guard will also participate in a retirement ceremony for Director Donald Vittum from Police Standards and Training.

PROSECUTION - ADULT: There were 451 new cases with 627 charges. There were 168 guilty pleas, 98 not guilty, 67 cases nol prossed and 23 cases continued. There were 203 who failed to appear, 39 found guilty by the court, 25 cases dismissed by the court and 4 cases placed on file.

PROSECUTION - JUVENILE: Juvenile prosecution had six petitions and one CHINS. There were ten arraignments (8 set for trial, 1 resolved by plea, 1 rescheduled). There were six review hearings, five violation hearings, one dispositional hearing and one sentencing hearing. Thirteen trials resolved by plea. Additionally Lt. Gould completed seventeen investigations (complaint and warrant) for bail jumping. She also completed eight motions to impose suspended sentences.

Comm. Stanley asked how many staff are in the legal bureau?

Lt. Gould handles our juvenile prosecution. She also assists the main prosecutor, Attorney Mitrush, during time off, or heavy arraignments. There are also two legal assistants and one victim advocate. They are paid from the legal budget and work in this building.

2. Administrative. Dep. Chief Boudreau noted that our backline vehicle is being assembled, and our front line vehicles have been ordered. We do not have delivery dates confirmed. We have been able to purchase some of the equipment needed for the cars that will streamline outfitting them when they arrive.

The radio project is moving forward. We saved approximately \$59,000 in discounts due to quarter end purchasing incentives. We have additional savings by purchasing some equipment from our current radio vendor and avoiding intermediary price mark ups. We are still short funding on the overall project goal. We will have to go back to finance. We had a number we started with for replacing the system, but we will need to add another tower, planned for the new DPW site, which is a key location to that side of the City. That is the biggest single factor that will push the project over by an estimate of \$200,000.00. for a project total of about 1.5 million dollars.

We are looking to have what we need in place by the end of calendar year for a late spring construction start.

The on-line crime-reporting project is moving along. Once the City Manager signs the contract, we can begin the implementation phase and developing the platform for what crimes can be reported this way. All will be past tense. We won't use it for crimes in progress.

Comm. Stanley asked what the period for implementation is.

Dep Chief Boudreau said about four months. We are looking at the first of the year.

Comm. Peters said that the budget is 25% expended, year to date. This is right where we should be for the year.

HIRING: Officer Root tested out of the law package. He has entered into field training and is progressing well. Two candidates were extended conditional offers following the most recent interviews with the Police Commission. Backgrounds will commence soon.

TRAINING: Officers Coffey, Crawford and Riddle are progressing well in field training. We anticipate them being released to solo patrol by the end of November. Lt. Bossi attended a weeklong FBI LEEDA command Leadership Institute training in Hampton. Our annual use of force training is under way. Dep. Chief Boudreau taught two classes for supervisory staff for Civilian Response to Active Shooter at SAFRAN.

OTHER. We had an uneventful relatively incident free Fair over 8 days. There were 375 man-hours detailed. Nancy Gilbert from the board praised the officers' professionalism.

E. Other.

(1) Thank a Police Officer Day. Comm. Stanley said that the committee had planned to come before the Commission in November, but the Council is meeting the same night due to the election schedule, so we will not be televised in November.

Comm. Stanley said she wished to recognize some of the sponsors that made this event possible. It was outstanding. The following organizations and businesses are recognized: Co-Organizers: Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, Holy Rosary Credit Union, Rochester Main Street, Rotary Club of Rochester, Rochester Elks, Decorating Contest: Hervey's Tire. Flag Sponsors: Atlantic Broadband, Eastern Propane and Oil, Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, Granite Steak and Grill, Rochester Rotary Charities, Blue Bird Self Storage, Service Credit Union, Wit-Way Supply, Inc. Laars Heating Systems Co., Kittery Point Construction, Ed and Lisa Casaccio, Rochester Toyota. For a full list of supports, please see attached.

Comm. Peters thanked the community publicly for all of their support. People went beyond and the officers noticed and appreciated it.

Chief Toussaint added that officers deal with a lot of negative activity and it is nice to be reminded that the community stands behind them.

Comm. Stevens asked for an update on the Explorer Program. We should have them come to the next meeting. There is an Explorer Open House at the Police Department on Monday, October 21, 2019.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence for the month included: Det. Moore and Off. Lambert will receive a NH Congressional Law Enforcement Award of Above and Beyond the Call of Duty related to an incident in August of 2018. Off. Garneau is thanked for providing information and spending time speaking with a person about resources for mental health. Capt. Pinkham is thanked by a citizen for exceptional service provided to a disabled citizen.

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 7:57 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 8:26 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:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to award a merit increases on the respective anniversary dates to Off. Elizabeth Turner (4%), Off. Hattie Johnson (3.2%), Off. Kendall DeCost (3.1%), Off. Jonathan Labosier (3.1%), Off. Keith MacKenzie (3.7%), Off. Jacob Garstin (4%), Off. Spencer Williams-Hurley (3.9%), Sgt. Thomas Powers (3.7%), SECOND by Comm. Stanley. The motion PASSED unanimously.

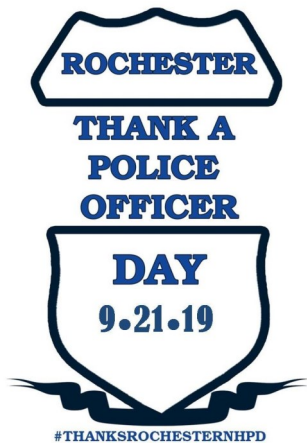
10. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton
Secretary

APPROVED BY COMMISSION: 11/06/19



Co-Organizers



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