



POLICE COMMISSION

Manchester Police Department
405 Valley Street
Manchester, NH 03103

MINUTES OF JANUARY 6, 2016 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The Regular Monthly Meeting was held at Police Headquarters on January 6, 2016, at 09:00 hours.

Present: Comm. Mark Roy (Chairman), Comm. William Clifford, Eva Castillo-Turgeon, Comm. Steven Spain, Chief Nick Willard, Assistant Chief Carlo Capano, Capt. Jonathan Hopkins, Capt. Maureen Tessier, Capt. Jim Soucy, Capt. Todd Boucher, Capt. Mark Sanclemente, Capt. Mike Begley, and Kim Demers (Secretary).

Absent: Comm. Scott Spradling.

1. Selection of Commission Chairman, Clerk, and Representative for MPD Committees

- The Commission unanimously approved Comm. Roy's nomination that Comm. Clifford continue to serve as Clerk until his term expires in September.
- The Commission unanimously approved Comm. Clifford's nomination that Comm. Roy continue to serve as Chairman, for the 2016 calendar year.
- Comm. Clifford and Comm. Castillo will continue their representative roles on the MPD Sick Leave Bank Committee and MPD Safety Committee, respectively.
- Due to a request for information from the City Clerk's office, Secretary Kim Demers inquired as to which of the commissioners was a representative of organized labor, as per a City Charter stipulation. Comm. Roy advised that currently there was no labor representative. He stated he would address the issue with Mayor Gatsas so that a labor representative could be nominated for the next Commission vacancy, which would be in September of 2016.

2. NOTICES POSTED / APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- The Commission was advised that the notices had been posted at City Hall, the City Library, as well as on the MPD's website homepage, event calendar, and blog.
- Commissioners unanimously approved the minutes of the December 2, 2015, meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Carol Robidoux, Publisher/Editor of the Manchester Ink Link newsletter. Ms. Robidoux spoke about a heroin addiction forum she attended on January 5, 2016, held at Southern New Hampshire University. Chief Willard stated that he had received a request to serve on the forum panel but had a schedule conflict.

She commented that Manchester will be the model to which others will look when formulating plans to reduce drug-related deaths and reducing demand for drugs. She also commented that, because most crime is motivated by drug addiction, more rehab services should be offered to prison inmates. And, rather than building more prisons, use the money to fund drug rehab facilities for offenders.

Comm. Clifford advised he had recently seen a documentary in which the lives of a group of heroin addicts were followed. Each addict admitted his drug dependency, each had repeatedly sought rehab services, and yet, after completing rehab, each had once again reverted to his addiction. The show left Comm. Clifford with the thought, "What can you really do to prevent drug addiction?"

Comm. Roy stated that it all revolves around monetary resources.

4. DIVISIONAL REPORTS

Special Enforcement Division – Capt. Sanclemente:

- SWAT Team. Team members handled two incidents in December of barricaded subjects: One in Manchester in which the subject, wanted on domestic violence related charges, threatened to commit suicide. The other involved a request from Hooksett PD ref a subject wanted on domestic charges and who may be armed. Both instances successfully concluded without further incident.
- SWAT Team Training. Monthly training consisted of full team tactics training and K9 apprehensions. Snipers conducted training at the range in Auburn.
- ALERRT (Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training). This is active shooter training designed to prepare the first responder to isolate and neutralize an active shooter. Six SWAT officers are certified instructors

in this program that is part of a statewide effort to have every N.H. police officer trained in the same active shooter tactics. Twenty-five MPD officers attended a two-day training session utilizing McLaughlin Middle School over the Christmas vacation week. MPD now has fifty officers trained in the tactics, and a goal of all officers being trained by September 2016.

- Dignitary Protection. SWAT officers assisted with the visit of Hillary and Bill Clinton on December 19. The Clinton campaign utilized the Radisson as a “down” location while Hillary prepared for the Democratic debate held at St. Anselm College. Capt. Sanclemente has also met with representatives from St. Anselm College to discuss MPD’s potential assistance with the upcoming Republican debate scheduled for February 6, just a few days prior to the February 9 primary.
- Verizon Wireless Arena / active shooter exercise. Capt. Sanclemente attended planning meetings to develop training for all first responders to an active shooter event at the Verizon.
- SIU Search Warrant. SIU executed a search warrant at 63 Dartmouth Street, a nuisance address of ongoing problems.
- There are several ongoing SIU investigations and joint investigations with both the FBI and DEA.

Questions, Comments, Discussion:

- Comm. Clifford inquired if the shooting incident that occurred on January 4 was a matter of self-defense. Capt. Soucy advised the incident was still under investigation, but the shooting victim had been charged with robbery.
- Comm. Roy inquired if SIU would be conducting another Granite Hammer operation. Capt. Sanclemente advised that the sixth operation was being planned for this month.

Administrative Division – Capt. Hopkins:

- Communications. The new radio system in dispatch still has a few bugs to work out. The Communications Unit should be at full complement by the end of January.
- Looking at a new records management system.
- Training Unit is busy with mandatory low-light shooting qualifications and skill builder shooting techniques.
- Training is also busy with processing applicants from the November police officer test, with an eye to eventual hire of 19 officers in March.
- Need to replace a few cruisers. Two cruisers were total losses in December: one due to an accident and another that was engulfed in a sinkhole.
- Building maintenance: a few minor repairs, nothing major.

Questions, Comments, Discussion:

- Comm. Roy inquired if the city self-insures for vehicles. Capt. Hopkins confirmed. Comm. Roy also stated that the officer who used his cruiser to block a sinkhole to prevent others from driving into it did an excellent job. He could not have known the sinkhole would expand and break away under his cruiser.

Community Policing Division – Capt. Boucher:

- CP officers have been assisting the Training Unit staff with oral boards and background investigations of police officer candidates.
- Monitored panhandling activity and took enforcement action when the panhandling stopped traffic during a green light while accepting donations from motorists. The panhandlers quickly learned to adjust their activity, often turning their backs to a line of traffic during a green light to deter motorists from stopping. The ACLU claimed officers were targeting homeless individuals. However, it was proven that only one of six individuals given a summons was actually homeless. Capt. Boucher stated that most people think they are helping these “poor” individuals when actually it is a chosen lifestyle for many panhandlers, many of who are drug addicts. Capt. Boucher related a story of his CP officers following a panhandler who had just received some cash from a motorist. The individual went to a known drug house and upon exiting, the officers again followed and subsequently located the man preparing to inject himself with heroin. The subject was arrested on drug charges.
- Numerous presentations were conducted during December, to include Officer Friendly visits at schools, active shooter response and lockdown training for a variety of businesses, internet safety presentations at some city schools, and gangs and street drug presentation for the visiting nurses association.
- Conducted NET inspections at multiple locations.
- Attended two watch group meetings.
- Hosted the annual Christmas light tour and party for seniors.
- Completed the holiday retail crime prevention initiative.
- Attended the Elmwood Gardens holiday celebration.
- MPAL’s Building on Hope project continues to move forward with the securing of a \$500,000 bond.

Questions, Comments, Discussion:

- Comm. Roy commented on the need for the public to be educated reference panhandlers. The average person thinks that they are helping a “poor” person by giving the individual money, when in fact, the money is enabling the individual to buy drugs.
- Comm. Roy inquired about the holiday retail crime prevention initiative. Capt. Boucher explained about “beefed-up” patrols at the Mall parking lot to deter thefts, which also included handing out cards that advised of safety tips.

Patrol Division – Capt. Begley:

- Eight new officers are currently assigned to field training. The three certified officers hired in Nov. 2015 will complete field training on or about Feb. 12, 2016, and the five officers who were hired in June 2015 and who just graduated from the PSTC academy in December, will complete field training on or about Mar. 8, 2016.
- As previously mentioned by Capt. Sanclemente, 25 officers attended ALERRT training on Dec. 28 and 29. Overtime costs associated with officers’ attendance was covered with Homeland Security funds. A second round of training is scheduled for April.
- CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) training is scheduled for the end of February. Capt. Begley will be meeting with the director of the Manchester Mental Health Center to discuss potential funding from the MMHC.
- Operation Cyan ran Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights during December, except Christmas week, and only two nights during the New Year weekend. Cyan nights generated 25 arrests, conducted 307 motor vehicle stops, issued 99 summonses, conducted 46 field contacts, and towed one vehicle. The two-day operation over New Year’s weekend resulted in 17 stops and two arrests for OUIL. Cyan dayshift operations made 18 stops, issued 12 summonses and made 3 arrests.
- Midnight shift officers are assigned to conduct increased patrols at businesses and hot spot areas in an attempt to curtail robberies.
- A new vacation-day plan, created by AC Capano, was implemented in December. The plan allows two officers at a time to get time off, which will alleviate stress.
- In 2015, there were 3,685 vehicle accidents in Manchester, 4 of them with fatalities. This is compared to 2014, which had 3,478 total accidents, with 6 fatalities.
- The first snowstorm of the winter season on Dec. 29 resulted in 192 towed vehicles and 27 tickets issued.

Questions, Comments, Discussion:

- Chief Willard stated that he attended roll calls over the Christmas holiday and was very impressed with the officers’ dedication. Officers came in early for their shifts to relieve officers on prior shifts so they could get home to share the day with family.
- Comm. Spain asked for an explanation of Operation Cyan as he was unfamiliar with the initiative. Capt. Begley stated the initiative, which began in September 2015, ran on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, with a cruiser manned by both a MPD officer and a State trooper. The initiative was originally formed to address motor vehicle enforcement on South Willow Street, but the teams also provided assistance during nightclub closing time. The name for the initiative was Capt. Soucy’s idea, as cyan is a combination of blue and green colors, which reflected the combination of the MPD blue uniform and State Police green uniform.
- Comm. Roy inquired if MPD tracked the number of accidents caused by distracted drivers. AC Capano advised that MPD does not have the capability to track accident incidents that way, but the State Police may be able to do so.
- Comm. Clifford inquired of the effect the “No hands” law has had on the number of summonses issued. Capt. Begley advised that when the law was first implemented in July, there was an issue, but as time has progressed, there have been much less summonses issued.
- Comm. Castillo stated she had heard that driving without a license is now a misdemeanor offense rather than a violation. Capt. Tessier clarified that the first offense is still a violation, but a second offense is and has been a misdemeanor, though it has changed from a class A to class B.
- Comm. Roy inquired from which NH towns were the three certified officers hired in November. AC Capano advised Concord, Chesterfield and Laconia.

Legal Division – Capt. Tessier:

- Ordinance Violations has a new customer service representative whose main duty will be deal with the alarm permits. There is quite a backlog of data entry, which may require some overtime to catch up.
- The Sexual Offender Compliance Unit still has a vacancy due to the promotion to sergeant of one of its two members. Current SOCU officer Eric Desmarais is responsible for registering offenders and conducting compliance checks. Officer Desmarais is also often called upon to assist at court.
- Officer Candice Thomas, the Juvenile prosecutor, saw her busiest month in court during December. Capt. Tessier advised that the age change of juvenile offenders from 17 to 18, which went into effect in July, is having an impact on Juvenile Court proceedings. With the age change, there is a trend for some of the offenders to be facing some serious crimes. One young lady, who had a 180 gang association, physically fought with Officer Thomas in court when Officer Thomas requested detention at a state facility for the young lady.

- Adult arraignments also busy, but getting some good bails.
- Records Unit staff is very busy. There were 300 more felonies at Superior Court than in 2014, all of which Records staff had to prepare paperwork. Some of the extra workload can be attributed to the many arrests made during the Granite Hammer operations, as well as the increase in summonses to be processed from the Operation Cyan initiative.
- The department is looking at acquiring a new record management system, which hopefully will streamline some of the data entry.

Investigative Division – Capt. Soucy:

- Busy December and beginning of January for investigators. They continue to follow up on the October and November homicides, as well as investigate recent robberies, assaults and shootings, including the most recent involving a 65-year-old woman who apparently shot a subject as he attempted to rob her. The suspect in that case was quickly arrested
- An arrest was made in the Belmont Street shooting, but arrests have yet to be made in the Lowell Street shootings, which may have 180 / OTL gang connection. The suspect in two credit union robberies was arrested, as was the female suspect of a 7-Eleven store robbery and who also attempted a robbery of an elderly woman. Arrests were also made of two suspects in robberies of 7-Eleven stores in Manchester and Goffstown.
- Det. Sgt. Loui completed the review of the Walter Page homicide. He is still working the Attorney General's office ref the cold case.
- Juvenile investigators continue to follow up on two infant deaths.
- Four investigators have been assisting Training with employment backgrounds and polygraphs, along with their regular duties.
- Investigators will be receiving training in tire casting evidence, which Sgt. Loui has been instrumental in obtaining.
- Juvenile detectives investigated a case of two youths taken into custody for their involvement in an armed robbery in which the youth victim was pistol whipped. Juvenile is working with DCYF and the parents as the two suspects claim 180 gang affiliation. Both youths have been charged and are pending adjudication.
- Juvenile and Domestic Violence investigators have been doing a fantastic job working on human trafficking cases. DV Sgt. Paul Thompson recently sat on a human trafficking panel discussion hosted by presidential candidate John Kasich, a human trafficking presentation was also made to Elliot hospital staff.
- On January 23, Lt. Nicole Ledoux will be meeting with Elliot hospital staff with regard to dealing with child fatalities.

Questions, Comments, Discussion:

- Comm. Spain inquired as to the outcome of locker drug inspections that were conducted at Central High School. Capt. Soucy replied that there were some findings that were brought to the attention of school administrators.

Assistant Chief Capano:

- Training is in the middle of pre-employment background investigations with the hopes of hiring 19 new officers by the end of February or early March.
- Operation Cyan has been very effective and hopes to continue it as long as possible. The program has been funded for six more weeks, but will have to continually monitor the budget to see how long it can be maintained.
- Also being continually monitored is the overtime associated with officers taking vacation time.
- The department took possession of drug ID kits, training for which will take place in the near future.

Chief Willard:

- Looking forward to working with the new BMA.
- Tuesday, January 12, at 5:00 p.m., former MPD Chief David Mara will be sworn in as the City of Portsmouth's new chief of police.
- Every division is short staffed yet doing phenomenal work. The department has above national average statistics in solving crime.
- Planning to debrief the Nashua Police Department ref the recent school shutdown, then organize a tabletop exercise with Manchester school administrators so that a plan is in place should the city face a similar incident.

Questions, Comments, Discussion:

- Comm. Roy inquired when the new radio system would be operable. Capt. Hopkins it should be operable citywide sometime in April. Officers will be issued new portable radios that will offer two attachable antenna options, one of them a longer antenna that will allow better service in the more remote areas of the city. All departments will use the same radio trunking, but different radio channels.
- Comm. Roy requested that Chief Willard assign someone to sit on the Making It Happen board of directors. The PD was previously represented by the Community Policing captain, but there has not been PD representation since the 2014 retirement of Capt. Reilly. Comm. Roy advised that involvement consists of attending four one-hour meetings per year. Chief Willard stated he would give consideration to assigning someone.

5. RETIREMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

- Police Support Staff Specialist Linette Rodriguez resigned her position effective December 30, 2015, after serving MPD since December 15, 2014. Ms. Rodriguez took a job with Lawrence, Mass. Child and family services.

6. SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES REVIEW

- The minutes of the Safety Committee meeting of December 16, 2015 were reviewed.

Comm. Roy commented on two instances where an officer training at a K-9 academy had been bitten by his assigned canine. Capt. Hopkins advised the dog's temperament did not work out well during the training process and was returned to the vendor. The officer will attend a spring K-9 academy with a new dog. Currently the K-9 Unit is down one K-9 team. All dogs are now cross-trained to detect drugs; one dog can also detect guns.

7. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING / MOTION TO ADJOURN

The date of the next commission meeting was set for:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016, AT 09:00 HOURS

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 hours.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission entered Executive Session, the content of which shall remain confidential

Respectfully submitted by:
Kim Demers, Secretary

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