



POLICE COMMISSION

Manchester Police Department
405 Valley Street
Manchester, NH 03103

MINUTES OF MAY 4, 2016

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The Regular Monthly Meeting was held at Police Headquarters on May 4, 2016, at 09:00 hours.

Present: Comm. Mark Roy (Chairman), Comm. William Clifford, Eva Castillo-Turgeon, Comm. Steven Spain, Comm. Scott Spradling, Chief Nick Willard, Assistant Chief Carlo Capano, Capt. Jonathan Hopkins, Capt. Maureen Tessier, Capt. Mark Sanclemente, Capt. Mike Begley, Lt. Ryan Grant, Lt. Brian O'Keefe, and Kim Demers (Secretary).

1. 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 April 6, 2016, meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- There was no one present from the Public to offer comments.

3. DIVISIONAL REPORTS

Administrative Division – Capt. Hopkins:

- Communications will be hiring a new dispatcher by the end of the month, bringing dispatchers to full complement.
- Training is preparing for a new officer test in August.
- Building condition good. Looking into planting new trees around the building to replace originals that died.

Legal Division – Capt. Tessier:

- Records Unit: had a meeting with City Solicitor to discuss Right-to-Know requests, specifically with regard to releasing electronic files without charging a fee. Lt. Reardon will be amending the department's SOP reference electronic files.
- A new HTE system for taking payments has been implemented.
- Juvenile prosecutor Candice Thomas recently was able to have a minor certified as an adult on multiple sexual assault charges. When the offender recently turned 18, a \$50,000 cash surety bail was set and the subject taken to Hillsborough County House of Corrections.
- Officer Thomas is also wrapping up a case involving a gang of 10 kids. She was successful in having eight of nine kids detained and a hearing for the tenth kid is pending.
- Looking into implementing electronic monitors for juveniles, similar to the ankle bracelets worn by adult offenders.
- Adult arraignment officer Carrissa Pelletier was off last week. Lt. Reardon covered court with assistance from Officer Eric Desmarais.
- Lt. Reardon is working on a strategy to get more appropriate bails for drug arrests. Officer Pelletier has had some success with getting higher bails – going from \$2,000 cash/surety to \$25,000 cash only.
- Officer Desmarais continues to do his best single handedly to keep the city's 512 registered sex offenders in compliance. He is working with Capt. Hopkins to work out a plan of having part-time Reserve Officers assist with registration. Last month Officer Desmarais registered 177 sex offenders, conducted 42 compliance checks, and issued one warrant for non-compliance.
- OVB is finally caught up on entering the backlog of alarm permit data. An annual alarm renewal mailing is going out this week and once all information garnered from that has been entered, a new monthly system of alarm renewals will be considered, to make the renewal process more manageable.

Questions, Comments, Discussion:

- Comm. Spradling inquired why the bails for drug offenses have been so low. Capt. Tessier stated that judges have different philosophies, and reiterated that Officer Pelletier has had some success in obtaining higher, more appropriate bails,
- Comm. Spradling thanked and commended Capt. Tessier for recent assistance she provided in obtaining information reference Families in Transition sites within the city. Capt. Tessier is on the FIT BOD and was able to speedily gather the information needed for a presentation in Wolfeboro where a new FIT site is proposed.

Community Policing Division – Lt. O’Keefe:

- Spring session of Senior Walks started in mid-April.
- The seven-week Youth Leadership Academy concluded on April 19 with a presentation of certificates to 16 students.
- CP officers participated in a variety of events including a Touch a Truck at Fisher Cats stadium, Earth Day clean-ups, and Neighborhood Watch Group meetings.
- CP conducted numerous security surveys, personal safety presentations, and Active Shooter Response and lockdown training for a variety of locations.
- Capt. Boucher participated in a round-table discussion at SNHU with Senator Ayotte reference a Bill dealing with sexual assaults on campus.
- Addressing on-going complaints of heavy marijuana usage taking place in the Lake Shore Road area and held a meeting with the complainant.
- Addressing the increased number of homeless camps popping up around the city.
- Looking into complaints of drug and prostitution activity taking place at the dead end of Robinson Road.
- Focusing on increased activity in the downtown area with both plainclothes and uniform operations.
- Two CP officers were recently, temporarily over the summer months, reassigned to the Special Enforcement Division.
- A nine-week Citizens Police Academy is scheduled to begin May 4.
- Thanks to very generous monetary, services, and materials donations from 400 businesses, the MPAL Building on Hope continues to move forward. A building week is scheduled for May 13-22, with a “big reveal” set for May 22. Hoping to acquire the assistance of numerous volunteers during the building week to do minor construction, painting, setting up gym equipment, acting as gophers, etc. Any and all help welcome. Those wishing to be a part of this major event should contact Lt. O’Keefe.

Questions, Comments, Discussion:

- Comm. Spain commended the Youth Leadership Academy and the efforts of the academy directors Nabil Migalli and Eva Castillo. Comm. Spain expressed his opinion that the curriculum of the academy should be presented to all high school students.
- Comm. Castillo commended CP Officer Casey Seigle who provides instruction and facilitates the Youth Academy meetings.

Investigative Division – Lt. Grant:

- Preparing for the departure/retirement of Investigative Division Commander Capt. Jim Soucy; keeping up with the day-to-day activities, meetings, and general administrative tasks in his absence and until a new captain is assigned.
- Hoping to have two vacant detective positions filled in late fall when the newest recruits are at full street duty.
- The Detective Squad have worked on a variety of major cases over the past month, to include vicious assault in which the victim was pushed down and stomped on several times. The victim is in a vegetative state, but breathing on his own. If the victim succumbs to his injuries, the case will become a homicide and detectives are handling it as such.
- Working with ATF to get gun shell casing into a database so that casing identifiers can be linked to shootings in the city.
- The AFIS machine has been very successful: approximately 500 fingerprint cards per month are entered into the database. There were three or four hits during April.
- Domestic Violence Unit Sgt. Thompson put together a federal grant for Adverse Childhood Experience Response Teams. Logistics are in the works for forming teams of detectives, YWCA advocates, mental health counselors who will respond to calls in which children have been exposed to violence (i.e., ODs, DV cases).
- Juvenile Unit detectives were involved with a child sexual assault/pornography case that originated in Tennessee that involved a young girl and her mother. The mother was arrested in Manchester and extradited to Tennessee. Det. Attardo did great work on this case.
- The Mirror Project, a “reverse” disproportionate minority contact teaching program, has been well received at the middle schools. There has been some difficulty in scheduling at the schools, but all eighth graders will have seen it by the end of the school year.
- Lt. Ledoux spoke at a Manchester Kiwanis Club luncheon this week. Her presentation discussed the duties/responsibilities of the Juvenile Unit: what they do, how they do it, what agencies they work with on a consistent basis. The information was well received by all who attended.

Questions, Comments, Discussion:

- Comm. Roy stated he had seen postings about child abuse on Lt. Ledoux’s Facebook page and inquired if these were department affiliated. Capt. Tessier advised the postings were actually based on a national child abuse prevention ad campaign which the department supports.

Patrol Division – Capt. Begley:

- ALERRT (rapid response) training held April 25 & 26; 24 officers and 4 dispatchers attended. Additional training classes scheduled for June and August. Approximately 80 officers have completed the training.
- K9 Academy: attended by Officer Rick Valenti and Officer Tom McAuliffe, 12-week school began April 19. Sgt. Cunningham, a prior K9 officer, is also attending train-the-trainer classes.
- K9 Officer Megowen, whose partner Lynk is trained to sniff guns and explosives, assisted Boston PD at the marathon and was assigned to the finish line.
- Warrant Team: Lt. Mucci and 4-12 Shift sergeants selected a team of eight officers for assignment to the Warrant Team. Plans are being finalized and hope to go active the second week of May.
- Fifty-five vacation days have been granted thus far over Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays.
- Officers Jered Maguire, Dave Swinson, and Aaron Stone are on extended military duty.
- Officers Kelly McKenney and Victoria Catano are attending the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Academy to train to become substitute mounted patrol officers.
- In planning stages with State Police to initiate the NHSP and MPD joint patrol operation, Cyan II.
- Three officers hired March 7 have been assigned to field training officers. New Officer Jason Feliciano (formerly of Dover PD) has been assigned to Officer Ben Foster on days; new Officer Eric MacDuff (formerly of Lyndeborough PD) has been assigned to Officer Ryan Boyton on 4-12; and new Officer Ed Sepulveda (from Mass.) has been assigned to Officer Brian Gillotte on 4-12.
- Traffic Officer Warren Olson has been assigned to the downtown area Monday-Friday, assisting the Mounted Unit officers. Traffic Officer Paul Fraitzl has been temporarily assigned to the Special Enforcement Division for the summer months.
- Traffic Officer Dan Wood, one of the department's polygraph examiners, has been assisting Training as needed with background polygraphs of potential MPD employees.
- Traffic Officer Aquino returned to work after being injured March 9 in a motor vehicle accident.
- Investigating several serious crashes, one fatal.
- Completed five NH Highway Safety Agency grants for FY 2017.
- A sobriety checkpoint operation was conducted April 22; another is planned for June 10.

Questions, Comments, Discussion:

- Comm. Spradling inquired if the Warrant Team operation was a media opportunity via a ride-along. Chief Willard stated the department doesn't want to advertise to wanted individuals that officers are out there looking for them. Once arrests have been made, will certainly let the media know.
- Comm. Roy inquired if Warrant Team members were sufficiently trained for the operation, much like SWAT Team members. Assist. Chief Capano advised that the Warrant Team will basically conduct Knock-and-Talks at wanted subjects' addresses, not a dynamic SWAT operation, so no need for SWAT involvement.
- Comm. Roy stated his knowledge that the department had just completed a shift change and inquired if the numbers were still low. Capt. Begley advised more manpower assigned to busiest shift and two other shifts managing. Comm. Roy inquired if officers were being forced to work extra shifts to cover for those being allowed to take vacation days. Capt. Begley advised this was a non-issue.

Special Enforcement Division – Capt. Sanclemente:

- Sgts. Sanders and Murphy attended Undercover and Confidential Informant training.
- Drug search warrants in April were conducted at 323 Wilson Street (heroin found), 47 Linden Street (meth location), 210 Main Street, and 3 Wheelright Circle in Londonderry.
- Lt. Leighton continues planning meetings for the NH Governor Summit on substance abuse.
- Portsmouth, NH, Street Crime Unit did ride-alongs with MPD Street Crime detectives.
- MPD conducted a two-week in-house training for SWAT 1 and 2; five newly appointed MPD SWAT members attended.
- SWAT snipers trained in Auburn.
- In conjunction with DEA, conducted a drug take back day on April 30.
- Special Investigations Unit continues efforts to target drug trafficking organizations and actively working cases with both the DEA and the FBI.

Assistant Chief Capano:

- With so much drug activity, the department felt the need to temporarily assign two officers from Community Policing and one Traffic officer to the Special Enforcement Division for the summer months. These officers will form a secondary Street Crime Unit, allowing the department to more aggressively address drug-related complaints. Additionally, as of May shift change, DV Unit Detective Patrick Maguire has been permanently reassigned to SED. Officer Peter Flanagan has been reassigned to serve as detective in the DVU.

Chief Willard:

- The budget was discussed at the BMA meeting on May 3. MPD has a budget shortfall of \$300,000 that will have to be worked around. The Board of Aldermen is aware.
- The sworn complement will be down five officers with the retirement of Captain Soucy on May 31. Five candidates are in the background phase.
- The practice of prior chiefs has been to leave positions vacant during times of budget constraints, however, Chief Willard feels it is necessary to hire and promote in real time, and the Board of Aldermen is in support of this ideal. There will be some budget challenges, but should be able to work through them.

Questions, Comments, Discussion:

- On behalf of the Commission, Mark Roy expressed condolences to Chief Willard on the death of his father. Chief Willard thanked the commissioners, stating that the text messages received were much appreciated.

4. RETIREMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

- Investigative Division Capt. James Soucy will retire May 31, 2016, after serving MPD for 24 years. Capt. Soucy has been appointed the Chief of Police of Kittery, ME. He will be sworn in to his new position on May 16, at 4:00 p.m., in Kittery.

5. SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES REVIEW

- The minutes of the Safety Committee meeting of April 27, 2016, were reviewed. No special issues of note.

6. COMMISSION DISCUSSION / VOTE

- Comm. Roy inquired of the wishes of the commissioners to continue the past practice of not meeting in July. The commissioners unanimously voted to not hold a meeting in July.

7. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING / MOTION TO ADJOURN

The date of the next commission meeting was set for:

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2016, AT 09:00 HOURS

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 09:35 hours.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Respectfully submitted by:
Kim Demers, Secretary

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