



# POLICE COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2, 2016 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Manchester Police Department  
405 Valley Street  
Manchester, NH 03103

The Regular Monthly Meeting was held at Police Headquarters on November 2, 2016, at 09:00 hours. The meeting was attended by Comm. Mark Roy (Chairman), Eva Castillo-Turgeon (Clerk), Comm. Steven Spain, Comm. Scott Spradling, Capt. Jonathan Hopkins, Capt. Maureen Tessier, Capt. Todd Boucher, Capt. Mark Sanclemente, Capt. Mike Begley, Capt. Ryan Grant, and Kim Demers (Secretary).

Members of the public: Jeff Hastings and Carol Robidoux

### 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.
- On a motion made by Comm. Spradling, seconded by Comm. Spain, the Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2016, meeting.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jeff Hastings identified himself as owner of Frame of Mind photography, and a freelance and contract photo journalist for New Hampshire and Boston, Mass., area media outlets. He referred to his appearance at the October meeting, at which he requested crime statistic updates, and complained that Chief Willard has not followed through on a promise to provide updates on a quarterly basis. Mr. Hastings complained that Chief Willard had also offered to contact colleagues from other police departments who have encrypted radio transmissions, but the chief has yet to provide any information he received from making those contacts.

Mr. Hastings complained that there were several SWAT callouts during October for which he is unable to obtain information about. MPD's daily log just lists the activity as "Warrants" and he is told details cannot be released when he makes a request for information. He detailed one occurrence at 287 Lake Avenue which was near a school and just prior to school closing. Neighborhood residents were fearful of what was going on, but the department was not releasing any information to quell concerns. Information was not released until days after the fact. He acknowledged that the department had experienced a glitch in the posting of the daily dispatch log, he expressed his opinion of the importance of a flow of communication to the public; not providing information increases public suspicion of police activity and in turn creates a bad situation with the public. He referenced a situation in Candia that required the response of 32 members of the State Police and how informative a State Police Captain was in providing information to the media during and after the 3.5 hour situation, the public knew they were not in danger during the incident. He stated the Chief [Willard] repeatedly comments on his admiration of the state police and Mr. Hastings posed the question of why MPD can't be more like the state police.

Mr. Hastings would like to connect with other cities that have encrypted police transmissions and find out how those cities have dealt with the issue of communicating with the public. In a recent conversation, Chief Willard.

- Carol Robidoux, Publisher/Editor of the Manchester Ink Link newsletter, stated that she felt the need to echo Mr. Hastings complaints and back his general points about MPD providing information to the media. She stated that there has been a shift in media openness, there are few press releases, fewer details and less info given out. This causes a breakdown in communication with the community, something that needs to be resolved. Any major city needs to have info flow to the public; people's questions should be answered in a timely manner. There should be a meeting with Chief Willard so he can explain how the situation can be rectified.
- Commissioner Roy stated the concerns of Mr. Hastings and Ms. Robidoux would be taken under advisement.

### 3. DIVISIONAL REPORTS

#### Administrative Division – Capt. Hopkins:

- Preparing the building for the winter months.
- Training Unit – preparing for an awards ceremony on Monday, November 7, and a swearing-in ceremony of five new officers on Monday, November 14. The Unit is also looking at some certified officers to hire.

- Fleet – some cruisers out of service for repairs; 10 new vehicles being painted to MPD specifications. The new vehicles are slated to replace some older cruisers with high mileage, though some of the older models, 2010 and 2011 model years, will be retained as spare vehicles.

**Questions/Comments/Discussion:**

- Comm. Roy inquired if the “older” cars are Ford Explorer models. Capt. Hopkins advised the older vehicles are Ford Crown Victorias, which normally have a 10-year life span. There are currently 18 older Crown Vics in service, and probably won't totally be out of service until 2021.

**Community Policing Division – Capt. Boucher:**

- We completed our Fall Cops and Kids events for the fall season; seven schools will be completed in the spring.
- We continued with our Fall series Senior Walks.
- The annual MPAL- Foot Race for the Fallen was held October 2, the actual anniversary date of fallen MPD Officer Ralph Miller. There were approximately 650 runners.
- Community Events: CP officers attended the Police and Fire safety event held at Home Depot; were on hand at the Elliot Pediatrics Flu Shot Clinic; held a Coffee with a Cop meet and greet event at the McDonald's on Second Street; assisted with evacuation drills at Green Acres School; participated in Family Night events held at Gossler and Beech Street elementary schools; and attended watch group meetings.
- CP officers also participated in NET inspections, conducted Personal Safety and Active Shooter presentations, had numerous Officer Friendly visits and conducted tours of the PD for various groups and agencies.
- Assisted the Special Enforcement Division and the DEA in a Drug Take Back event held on October 27.
- Assisted with a number of VIP visits to the city.
- Assisted with the latest Granite Hammer 9 operation.
- CP officers continue to take a proactive approach to quality of life issues as they arise.
- Capt. Boucher attempted to respond to Jeff Hastings' complaints with regard to the PD now providing information to the media. The department's PIO has been out injured since late August, and has gradually been building up the hours he can work on light duty. CP Sgt. Mike Biron has been doing his best to fulfill the PIO responsibilities, as well as keep up with his own duties. The PIO position requires full-time coverage, and Sgt. Biron has been doing his best as PIO, though press releases may not be going out as frequently as Mr. Hastings would like to see. As far as providing information relative to SWAT call outs, he assured Mr. Hastings that those are search warrant occurrences and MPD does not give out prior information to the public or media reference these incidents. The safety of the residents near any call out location is always seen to. Any danger to the public would be made known. Capt. Boucher advised Mr. Hastings that there have been no other media complaints other than his own, which appear to coincide with the advent the department going to encrypted transmissions.

**Questions/Comments/Discussion:**

- Comm. Spradling inquired when Lt. O'Keefe would be returning to full duty. Capt. Boucher could not provide an answer. Comm. Spradling said Sgt. Biron does a great job substituting as PIO as well as covering his own duties.
- Mr. Hastings advised that when Lt. O'Keefe is out, getting information out to the public can't stop. The department needs to look at the situation and rectify it. Comm. Roy interrupted Mr. Hastings as he had had his opportunity to speak during the Public Comments segment. With regard to Mr. Hastings' previous comments reference the ability of the State Police to keep the public informed, Comm. Roy stated that the PD has a different situation and budget in place. He expressed his hope to Mr. Hastings that he would take his complaints to the mayor and aldermen, who may see fit to increase the MPD budget.

**Investigative Division – Capt. Grant:**

- Updating the PD's website with regard to information on cold-case murders.
- Detectives continue to work
- Drew Morris, arrested for the 2015 homicide of Robert Drake will be pleading to charges today. Capt. Grant advised that he would be leaving for the plea hearing after concluding his report to the commissioners.
- William Maldonado, who the department has been looking for as the suspect in the September shooting death of Jonathan Vasquez-Ojeda, was arrested on October 15 in Bristol, Connecticut by the U.S. Marshals Service. Mr. Maldonado was returned to Manchester and arraigned at District Court on October 27 and is starting through the trial process. The U.S. Marshals Service is a great asset to the department.
- The two new victim-witness advocates in the Domestic Violence Unit are working out well.
- The Adverse Childhood Experiences Response Team (ACERT) program is going well and very well received by families and officers alike.
- Sgt. Peter Marr, who took over the DV Unit following Lt. Thompson's promotion, has acclimated very well. He recently presented a speech on the magnitude of the DV problem in our society at the YWCA Night of

Remembrance event, which was very well done and well received. A rock garden of victims' names was created.

- The Juvenile Unit was preparing to launch a child abuse investigation, however learned that the actual abuse occurred in Lowell, Mass., but the child was brought to Manchester for medical treatment. Juvenile detectives will assist Lowell as needed.
- The media has made inquiries about doing a story on the Mirror Project; Sgt. Larochelle will be working on that.
- The Beards for Bucks campaign raised more than \$30,000 for the Child Advocacy Center of Hillsborough. Lt. Ledoux originated the campaign last year and has taken the lead on the campaign both years. MPD was the lead agency, and others in N.H. have joined in. Retired MPD Capt. James Soucy, now chief of police in Kittery, Maine, also started this campaign at his new department as he is hoping to raise funds to start a Child Advocacy Center in his community.
- SROs are all doing well at their respective schools.

#### **Questions/Comments/Discussion:**

- Comm. Spain requested updates on the establishment of the Family Justice Center, for which the department had been granted funding, and inquired as to the purpose of the Center. Capt. Grant stated the grant proposal had been written by Lt. Thompson while he was serving as the DV supervisor, and he would have more information, though Capt. Grant did advise that an Executive Director had not yet been chosen, though interviews were scheduled. Capt. Grant's offer to have Lt. Thompson attend the next commission meeting to discuss the Family Justice Center initiative was met with approval from the commissioners.

#### **Legal Division – Capt. Tessier:**

- Capt. Tessier offered congratulations to Lt. Nicole Ledoux, who was the recent recipient of the YWCA Susan B. Anthony Award, acknowledging her work in ensuring the rights of women. Lt. Ledoux presented a nice speech.
- Capt. Tessier commended and thanked Capt. Hopkins for organizing a reception honor the lives and commemorate the anniversaries of the line-of-duty deaths of Officer Ralph Miller (40 years) and Officer Michael Briggs (10 years). The families of the officers were very appreciative of the remembrance.
- OVB Coordinator Dale Robinson has updated the MPD's OVB website to provide automated access to forms that will greatly aid the alarm and winter parking permitting functions.
- Records staff is finishing up on 91-A requests – one from CNN ref the department's procedures with regard to rape kits and another from Southern N.H. Planning reference the number of accidents at Manchester intersections.
- 500 sexual offenders are currently registered as living in the city and being monitored by the Sexual Offender Compliance Unit. The two-man unit has had one officer vacancy for a year. Chief Willard recently approved the filling of the vacancy, and notes of interest from officers are currently being accepted. Hopefully, an officer will be assigned soon to alleviate some of the duties from Officer Desmarais, who has been doing his best with keeping up.
- Officer Thomas continues to do a great job as the Juvenile Court prosecutor. This past Monday, on top of her regular docket of cases, she had additional duties of completing B-14 hearings for five juvenile offenders who had been detained over the weekend, three of them involved in a robbery with a gun. The B-14 hearings essentially request that a juvenile who has been detained should remain detained. Officer Thomas successfully argued the cases for continued detention.
- Lt. Reardon and Officer Pelletier continue to be effective at Adult Court. Lt. Reardon recently completed updates for the department's SOP pertaining to procedures of preventative detention to be compliant with state mandates.
- The Felony First initiative is set to begin in 2017. The initiative is designed to have those arrested on felony charges to be arraigned at Superior Court, rather than District Court.
- Special Enforcement Division Lt. Sean Leighton is the department's liaison to the newly established Drug Court, and has been undergoing training for that duty.

#### **Patrol Division – Capt. Begley:**

- **Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT)** session has been approved for December through grant funding provided by Homeland Security, Customs, and Immigration (HCI). Two other training sessions are pending for February and April 2017, depending on HCI grant funding approval. The December and 2017 training sessions will be for new recruits and to conduct joint training exercises with surrounding police agencies.
- The warrant team has made 117 arrests to date on 17 activations. The 2016 grant funding has been exhausted, however the initiative will continue under a 2017 grant. Various quantities of fentanyl, heroin, marijuana, cocaine and prescription pills have been seized during the arrests.

- Funding for the Trouble Car has been depleted and is no longer in operation. The Bar Car is still an initiative, and the joint night-time patrol effort of pairing an MPD officer with a NH State Trooper (previously known as operation Cyan) will be starting up again in December.
- The Traffic Unit has been very busy assisting with VIP visits. A very hectic time form Traffic Unit officers.
- New radars have been ordered under the N.H. Highway Safety Grant and should be delivered in the next few weeks. Will work with Capt. Hopkins on assigning equipment to cruisers.
- Working with Capt. Tessier in the Legal Division reference obtaining blood-draw information, relating to drunk driving/administrative license suspensions, from area hospitals due to law changes.
- Liaising with organizers of the Manchester City Marathon, scheduled for Sunday, November 6. There will be some major road closures, but there has also been a change in the route which hopefully will appease some residents.
- Sobriety Checkpoint grants will be sought for 2017.
- Recently conducted motor vehicle enforcement with the N.H. State Police motorcycle unit.
- K-9 Unit Officer Tyler and Sgt. Knight are attending the Boston K-9 Academy, graduating in December. Once the basic K-9 training Officer Tyler and another K-9 officer and their canine partners will attend training for gun and bomb detection, which will bring the number of gun/bomb detections dogs to four. The K-9 Unit officers are in the process of changing over to newly acquired uniforms.
- Two officers remain on extended Military Leave, with anticipated returns in 2017.
- Two officers are out injured, though one is working light duty.
- Eight new officers are currently in the FTO program with an estimated completion of mid November. Two certified officers just completed the program.
- Will be collaborating with Manchester Mental Health who will provide funding to train 25 additional officers for the Critical Incident Team and the formation of a mobile response unit that will consist of MPD CIT officers and MMH councilors, who will respond to situations in which a subject is experiencing some type of mental health issue. It is anticipated the Unit will operate/be manned 24/7 starting in early 2017. The Unit will be a great asset to the Patrol officers. Right now, a mental health issue call for service is very time consuming for an officer as he must wait for response from an ambulance to transport a person to a hospital. With the initiation of the mobile response unit, the officer can turn situation over to the unit and get back on the street to answer other calls for service.
- The Critical Incident Management Team (CIMT) and Peer-to-Peer Counseling will be training nine new officers to be added to the team. The team is now under the directorship of Detective Justin Breton.

#### **Questions/Comments/Discussion:**

- To Comm. Spradling's inquiry, Capt. Begley responded that a high volume of calls have some sort of mental health related issued involved. Comm. Spradling commented that he had participated in a ride-along in which the officer had responded to a mental health related issue, and he could attest to the very long time it took for the officer to complete the call. Capt. Begley advised that three officers within the department are certified CIT trainers, and it is the ultimate goal to have every MPD officer CIT trained.

#### **Special Enforcement Division – Capt. Sanclemente:**

- SED staff have been busy with dignitary protection due to recent visits by Mrs. Obama, presidential candidate Donald Trump and Vice President Joe Biden.
- SIU have conducted several search warrant
- In October, SWAT had firearms qualifications in-house and then simunitions training at the Sig Academy in.
- SWAT was involved in a statewide active shooter scenario training put on by Simon Malls. Great training to prepare, especially in the fast-approaching busy holiday shopping time.
- SWAT tryouts were conducted and Ken Brunini, a ten-year officer, was chosen to fill the vacancy on the team.
- October 22 – assisted DEA with the Drug Take Back event.
- October 24 – conducted operation Granite Hammer 9, which netted 10 arrests.
- Chief Willard approved filling a vacancy in the Street Crime Unit; received 22 notes of interest in response. After reviewing all the potential candidates, Officer Angeline Alexakos was chosen to fill the position, and will start her assignment on November 21.
- Worked multiple investigations and operations with the DEA and ATF.

#### **4. COMMENTS FROM ASSIST. CHIEF CAPANO**

- Assistant Chief Capano was not able to attend the meeting as he is still attending training at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

## 5. COMMENTS FROM CHIEF WILLARD

- Chief Willard was not able to attend the meeting as he was attending a National League of Cities / National Association of Counties opioid task force meeting in Washington, D.C.

## 6. RETIREMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

- There were no retirements or resignations in October.

## 7. COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

- Comm. Roy advised of his intent to step down from his position of Chairman of the Commission and would be resigning from the Police Commission, as he no longer resides in the city. A letter to the Mayor and Aldermen to be delivered November 2, 2016, would state his resignation would be effective at noon (12:00 p.m.) on November 2, 2016.
- One of his last acts as Chairman, Comm. Roy made a motion to nominate Comm. Scott Spradling for the position of chairman of the commission, the motion was seconded by Comm. Spain and unanimously approved by vote of the commissioners.
- Comm. Roy stated that it has been an absolute honor to serve on the Police Commission for the past four years. He has always been enthralled with the law enforcement profession and has admired the way the department has overcome adversities. He stated the leadership of the department has been exceptional and he has been impressed with the department's ability to hire new officers and with the training the department has been able to provide to the officers. He expressed his wish that the department could hire 70 more officers. He extended gratitude to his fellow commissioners for their friendship and input over the years, and wished Comm. Spradling well in his position as chairman.
- Comm. Spradling thanked Comm. Roy for his kind comments and thanked him for his service as a loyal and passionate Police Commissioner and Chairman and for his willingness to serve as a liaison between the police department and the public.

## 8. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

There was no Non-Public Session.

## 9. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING / MOTION TO ADJOURN

The date of the next commission meeting was set for:

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2016, AT 09:00 HOURS**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 hours.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Kim Demers, Secretary

PC110216