



POLICE COMMISSION

Manchester Police Department

405 Valley Street

Manchester, NH 03103

MINUTES OF APRIL 2, 2014

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The Regular Monthly Meeting was held at Police Headquarters on April 2, 2014 at 09:00 hours. **Present** were Comm. Richard Bunker (Chairman), William Clifford, Comm. Eva Castillo-Turgeon, Comm. Mark Roy, Assistant Chief Nick Willard, Capt. Richard Reilly, Capt. Jonathan Hopkins, Capt. Shawn Fournier, Capt. James Flanagan, Capt. Carlo Capano, Lt. Ron Mello, and Kim Demers (Secretary). **Absent** were Comm. Woullard Lett and Chief David Mara.

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 March 5, 2014, meeting with the following amendment to the Investigative Division report: *The Domestic Violence Unit investigated and arrested several subjects during February. One involved a rash of assaults against prostitutes. Information was developed that the arrested suspect was in the hiring process to become a NH [NY] City police officer.*

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Albert Perrault was present but did not speak.

3. DIVISIONAL REPORTS

Special Enforcement Division – Capt. Fournier:

- Special Investigations detectives had training at the Youth Services Center on North River Road and also had firearms qualifications. SWAT team members had less-lethal training.
- Lt. Sanclemente, the MPD representative on a team that included school administrators and representatives from Facilities and Fire, attended training offered by FEMA that discussed ideas and philosophies to aid in keeping children safe while at school.
- Sgt. Sanders and two SIU detectives presented information on the heroin addiction problem to medical personnel at CMC. CMC's vice president of operations sent a letter thanking the three for their presentation and expressed an interest in having the presentation offered on a future date.
- SIU participated in joint operations at 841 Union Street and 219 Laurel Street during which subjects were arrested and drugs seized.
- The SWAT Team assisted with security of VP Biden during his visit to Manchester on March 25.
- March 21 was the second anniversary of Det. Dan Doherty being shot. In 2012, no one anticipated that Det. Doherty would fully recover from his gunshot wounds. His determination to overcome potential disability stands as a model for others.

Legal Division – Lt. Ron Mello:

- Currently, there are 501 registered sex offenders who work or live in Manchester. Earlier in the year there were 516. In March, 141 offenders were required to register, all but one were in compliance. A warrant has been issued for the offender and the SOCU compliance officer is working with the U.S. Marshals Service to locate the individual.
- Effective April 1, some legislative changes went into effect: 1) the department must provide a form to Class A Misdemeanor and Felony offenders informing them of their right to apply for an attorney, 2) With the exception of domestic violence and DWI arrests, court dates can be set at no less than 35 days after arrest; 3) complaints must be filed with the court no more than 14 days after the offense, which is not an issue for the MPD records staff as all paperwork is presented to court in a timely manner.

Patrol Division – Capt. Hopkins:

- Three officers are attending K-9 training, which is going well. All the canines are being cross trained for drug detection. The officers should be back by June.
- Traffic Unit is busy with city events. Officers assisted with the Vice President Biden visit to the city on March 25 and the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 30. Both events went off without problem. The Traffic Unit is involved in approximately 70 events per year.

- Patrol is short a few officers; there are a couple out injured.

Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- Comm. Roy inquired when the five certified officers being sworn in on April 7 would be assigned to Patrol. Capt. Hopkins advised that those officers would have 10 or so weeks of training before being assigned to street patrol on their own.

Administrative Division – Capt. Capano:

- Three new officers will graduate from the PSTC academy on April 11. They will return to MPD for additional in-house and field training. The five N.H.-certified officers being sworn in on April 7 will undergo five weeks of in-house training and five weeks of field training. All eight officers should be out on the street by mid June or early July.
- MPD held a police officer test on March 22. There were 260 applicants, of which 215 showed to take the test. After eliminations due to failing the PD's tattoo policy, failing the written or physical agility test, or oral interviews, there are 98 candidates to look at for potential hire.
- Working on various building issues and have begun using Aramark for custodial services.

Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- Comm. Roy advised he had attended the police officer test on March 22 and was very impressed with the how well timed and well run the test was. He expressed accolades to the Training staff and other officers who were on hand to see that everything ran smoothly.
- Comm. Roy inquired if the Aramark custodians had delineated areas they were banned from entering. Capt. Capano advised that the custodians were allowed access to certain areas only during operating hours or when asked to enter to perform cleaning duties. Assist. Chief Willard advised that the Aramark employees had not only undergone background investigations through Aramark, but also through MPD. Aramark has also authorized MPD to conduct polygraph examinations if needed.
- Comm. Clifford inquired as to the current complement of the part-time Reserve Officers. Capt. Capano advised there were currently 17 Reserves. Assist. Chief Willard further advised that the MPD policy allows a maximum of 20 Reserves, however the mayor has authorized a maximum of 30.

Investigative Division – Capt. Flanagan:

- Investigators have been busy with the double homicide that occurred at 210 Moorseville Road on March 24. Investigators from all subdivisions were involved. There was an extensive arson scene to process and have been working with the Attorney General's office, and investigators from the Fire Marshals and ATF.
- Det. Ken Loui oversaw the purchase and installation of new automated fingerprint identification system (AFIS) equipment. Latent prints lifted at a crime scene can be run through the equipment to compare with on-file prints.
- The Juvenile Unit arrested a woman for second-degree assault after her 5-year-old daughter went to school with a black eye.
- The temporary school resource officer Scott Riley is working out well.
- Evidence has been very involved in processing items from the homicide.

Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- Comm. Clifford inquired if homicide charges were forthcoming ref the February 3 stabbing death that occurred during an altercation in the Black Acres area. Capt. Flanagan advised that the AG's office had brought some charges, but not murder charges as yet.
- Comm. Bunker inquired if the new AFIS equipment had the capability of comparing fingerprints with a national database or just with those on file with MPD. Capt. Flanagan advised that right now it is just an in-house comparison, but hopes to connect nationally in the future.

Community Policing Division – Capt. Reilly:

- There is a Women's Safety Clinic scheduled for April 22, and it is filling up fast.
- The Citizens Police Academy scheduled to begin April 16 is also filling up; there are over 20 applicants so far.
- The Youth Leadership Academy scheduled to begin April 15 is experiencing some difficulty in finding participants. It would be good to have 12 students, but so far there are only two applicants.
- Officer Rondeau continues to promote the downtown safety program, which has gained popularity in neighboring parts of the city. His largest client was the NH Institute of Art, which hosted two presentations for students and staff.
- The Spring schedule of Senior Walks has been set. They begin on April 21 at the Hilton Garden for a walk along the River Walk.
- Continuing to work with Parks & Rec to get the River Walk cleaned up, especially the overgrowth near the baseball park. The once-talked-about kayak-rental operation at the boat ramp fell through.

- The benches at the entrance to Veterans Park have been removed and LED lighting installation is to be installed in the park.
- Conducted a presentation at the Chamber of Commerce on March 25 to bring the board of directors up to date re: the downtown community improvement plan.
- Lt. Tessier graduated from the FBI National Academy on March 28 and has returned to her duties as the MPD Public Information Officer.
- With the retirement of Officer Steve Maloney, CP has one vacancy, which hopefully will be filled in the near future.
- Officer Ed Devereaux has been out for some time due to an on-duty injury, but may return next week.
- Mounted Unit Officer Fred Gillis is attending a two-week training program with the Royal Canadian Mounted Patrol in Ottawa.
- Crimeline is meeting this morning. No cases are being presented today, but Crime line did make payouts on several cases last month.

Assistant Chief Willard:

- Assist. Chief Willard expressed his thanks to Mr. Perrault for attending today's Commission Meeting.
- The Hot Spot policing initiative has been very productive. The stats show that the targeted-area approach is certainly working. The enthusiasm shown by staff for this initiative, especially Capt. Hopkins, the three Patrol Lieutenants and Patrol officers, has been exceptional and their efforts are much appreciated. Since implementing the Hot Spots initiative in February, on the 4-12 shift there has been a 36.73% decrease in Part 1 crimes and a 7.92% decrease in the 911 Calls for Service; on the day shift a 44.74% decrease in Part 1 crimes and 7.56% decrease in 911 calls for service; and on the midnight shift a 65.22% decrease in Part 1 crimes and 28.95% decrease in 911 calls for service. Citywide, there has been a 19.02% decrease in Part 1 crimes, an 8.70% decrease in violent crime, and a 25.23% decrease in property crime.
- Assist. Chief advised the burglary number for this past March was 30 compared to 70 last year and 61 in 2012, stating that our approach, although working, needs to be sustained through our efforts.
- Thursday, April 3, Assist. Chief Willard will testify before a Senate committee in opposition of the proposed bill to abolish the death penalty (HB1170).
- MPD will be facing a challenge working with the Mayor's proposed budget, and will have to be creative in cutting costs. The BMA has authorized increasing the sworn complement to 227 but the budget to fill that complement is short considerably. Overtime expenses are of real concern due to the unpredictability of incidents, court costs, etc. Homicide investigations can run into overtime costs of between \$6,000 and \$20,000, depending on the complexity of the investigation and scope of the crime scene. The recent double homicide has generated overtime costs thus far of \$14,300.
- The department currently has a sworn complement of 210 and will increase to 215 with the swearing in of five certified officers on April 7. An additional 11-14 non-certified officers are expected to be hired in July.
- Two sentencing hearings were held this week re: officer-involved shooting cases that occurred in 2013. On Monday, March 31, Garret Gauthier was sentenced to 20-80 years in prison for the attempted murder of Officer Aaron Brown on April 12, 2013. Gauthier fled from a motor vehicle stop, and fired a gun at Officer Brown during a foot pursuit. On Tuesday, April 1, Christopher Varagianis was sentenced to 10 years in prison on felony reckless conduct charges. On June 3, 2013, Varagianis had attempted to hit a police detective and an EMT with his truck and rammed a police cruiser. Three officers fired their guns at Varagianis in an attempt to stop him.
- Lt. Maureen Tessier and Lt. James Soucy graduated from the FBI National Academy on Friday, March 28. Lt. Soucy had the honor of being selected as a section leader.
- The department has notified the Police Department Support Services union that MPD is seeking to eliminate two custodial positions. Contracting with Aramark for custodial services has a cost savings of \$69,000 per year: \$28,000 to MPD for salary and \$41,000 to the City for medical benefits. With the Aramark contract, MPD also gets 40 extra hours per week of custodial services.

Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- Mr. Perrault inquired why MPD is opposed to abolishing the death penalty. Assistant Chief Willard stated that someone who kills a police officer and is sentenced to life without parole is idolized and lauded by fellow prison inmates. That demeans the life given by someone who swore to uphold the laws and protect the public. A death penalty sentence sends the message that we, as a society, appreciate and care that an officer served in the role of a law enforcer and that he was willing to give his life in that endeavor. If the death penalty is abolished, then there is little doubt that the death sentence for Michael Addison for the murder of Officer Michael Briggs will be commuted, given the appeal currently pending pertaining to disproportionality.
- Comm. Roy invited everyone to attend the Friends of Stark Park Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on April 19. The event is usually attended by 7,000-8,000 children and parents. To make it safer for attendees,

Comm. Roy would like to close the road in the area of Stark Park and inquired to whom he might speak regarding this. Assist. Chief Willard referred him to Lt. Mike Hurley and or Sgt. Vincent in the Traffic Unit.

4. RETIREMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

- SIU Det. Marc Bilodeau retired effective March 27, 2014, after serving 16 years with MPD.
- Building Maintenance Supervisor Robert "Ace" Wilson retired effective March 31, 2014, after serving MPD for 20 years and the City for 23 years.
- Patrol Officer Timothy Feliciano will retire effective May 20, 2014, after serving with MPD for 19.5 years.
- Reserve Officer Ken Picuch resigned from his position effective March 23, 2014, after serving as a part-time officer for 6 years.

5. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING / MOTION TO

The date of the next commission meeting was set for:

WEDNESDAY, May 7, 2014, AT 09:00 HOURS

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 09:30 hours.

6. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING / MOTION TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted by:
Kim Demers, Secretary

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