



POLICE COMMISSION

Manchester Police Department

405 Valley Street

Manchester, NH 03103

MINUTES OF MAY 7, 2014

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The Regular Monthly Meeting was held at Police Headquarters on May 7, 2014 at 09:00 hours. Present were Comm. Richard Bunker (Chairman), Comm. Woullard Lett, Comm. William Clifford, Comm. Eva Castillo-Turgeon, Comm. Mark Roy, Chief David Mara, Assistant Chief Nick Willard, Capt. Richard Reilly, Capt. Jonathan Hopkins, Capt. Shawn Fournier, Capt. James Flanagan, Lt. Ron Mello, Sgt. Steve Mangone, 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 2, 2014, meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

3. DIVISIONAL REPORTS

Legal Division – Lt. Mello:

- Sex Offender Compliance Unit: There were 141 sex offenders required to register in April; one was non-compliant and an arrest warrant has been issued. An additional fifty registered offenders also met with SOCU officers to update personal information (i.e., address, vehicle). The number of sex offenders who live or work in Manchester remains at 501. There are currently nine arrest warrants for noncompliant offenders and the U.S. Marshals are assisting the SOCU officers with locating the wanted subjects.
- The monthly pretrial conference process in dealing with motor vehicle offenses continues to be advantages for the department with regard to savings in court costs. Year to date, 323 have been summonsed to court for trial for not-guilty pleas to citations. Of that number, 208 showed for the pretrial conference and 173 cases were resolved, saving on court time and officer overtime costs. Each morning, prosecutors meet with defendants to discuss changes of plea prior to arraignment. Success with this process has been diminished due to recently a implemented law that mandates defendants in misdemeanor cases are to be afforded the opportunity to have council for arraignment. The number of resolved cases per month has gone down by 20 to 25.
- Legal and Records will be facing a challenge over the next three weeks. Sgt. Reardon and Records Specialist Brian Blais will be helping out in Evidence due to the resignation of one Evidence Specialist and another out on FMLA.

Administrative Division – Sgt. Mangone:

- In the absence of Administrative Division commander Capt. Capano, Sgt. Mangone provided updates reference the status of the department's sworn complement.
- The Department is approved for a sworn complement of 227, but currently stands at 214.
- Five NH certified officers were sworn in on April 7. They are completing their 5-week in-house academy and will begin a 5-week FTO period on May 12.
- Of the four officers hired in November 2013, one certified officer has been on the street since February. The three noncertified officers graduated from the PSTC Academy in April, completed a 2-week in-house refresher, and then began a 6-week FTO period on April 27. The FTO period is one week longer than that for certified officers.
- The department is hoping to hire 16 new officers on July 7. The department held a police test on March 22, and out of the 250 applicants, 98 remained on the viable list following the oral board phase. Ten candidates have made it through the polygraph phase, with six others scheduled for polygraphs over the next two weeks. After the polygraph, the candidate enters the background phase. With the July hire date, all background investigations must be completed by mid to late June. Following the background, candidates must then pass psychological and medical exams. After swearing-in, recruits will then go through a 10-week in-house academy in preparation of attending the September session of the 14-week NH PSTC Academy.

Questions, Comments, Discussion:

- Comm. Castillo requested clarification of the hiring process and Sgt. Mangone reiterated the steps as follows: application, written test, physical agility test, oral board, one-to-one interview, polygraph exam, background,

psychological and medical exams. Sgt. Mangone advised that the highest number of applicants are eliminated through the written, physical agility, and oral board steps, and then a number of viable applicants are often eliminated during the one-to-one interview and polygraph phases. Drug usage and credit histories are factors for which a number of candidates are eliminated.

- Chief Mara provided handouts showing pass/fail statistical data reference the applicants of the March 22 police officer exam. Of the 183 applicants who took the test, there were 163 males (26 minorities) and 20 females (2 minorities).
- Comm. Roy noted that the training process to get an officer on the street, from date of hire to solo street duty, takes over 30 weeks. This does not include the time involved in the hiring process.

Special Enforcement Division – Capt. Fournier:

- April 6-11, Sgt. LeVeille attended the International Association of Undercover Officials conference, and detectives Sullivan and Cunningham attended training on Extremists Groups and Drug Trafficking Organizations.
- SWAT had monthly training.
- Participated in two roundtable discussions hosted at the MPD by Senators Shaheen and Ayotte, on April 15 and April 30, respectively. Senator Shaheen's roundtable consisted of a debriefing of the events immediately following and days after the Boston Marathon bombing of 2013. Senator Ayotte's roundtable provided a venue to discuss heroin abuse issues.
- On April 23, met with agents from the FBI to discuss the details of proposed active-shooter scenario training.
- On April 26, participated in the semi-annual DEA sponsored Take Back the Drugs event, held at the National Guard Armory on Canal Street. As in the past, the event was very successful.
- The Street Crime Unit has begun an auto theft initiative and will sporadically park a bait car at the Mall.
- Based on intel received ref a subject being in Manchester to sell a gun, the suspect was located and arrested for possession of the illegal firearm, as well as charges of possession of drugs.
- On May 6, Chief Mara and Capt. Fournier attended a DEA seminar in Boston that focused on the rise of heroin/fentanyl use and related overdoses in New England communities. The seminar was attended by a number of New England agencies. Chief Mara advised that Manchester PD was selected to represent New Hampshire's point of view and he spoke to the issues the city has been facing.

Questions, Comments, Discussion:

- Chief Mara advised that during Senator Ayotte's heroin-issues roundtable discussion, he made known that federal funding was needed to combat/control the heroin problem on three levels: education, treatment and enforcement. Currently, the only control over the problem is through a little bit of education and enforcement. The PD offers some education through Officer Friendly visits and a gun safety program presented at the elementary schools. A separate, more intense, drug education program is needed.
- Comm. Castillo inquired if it was possible to develop a program where organizations could partner with the MPD to provide a school drug education program. Chief Mara advised he is constantly on the lookout for grants and stated the Health Department would be a better option for providing the drug education in the schools as they currently have the Community Schools program..
- Comm. Lett recalled the former D.A.R.E. school program of years past and the federally funded Weed and Seed initiative of a few years ago. He inquired if either of the two programs had been evaluated for their effectiveness. Chief Mara stated that D.A.R.E. was not effective and as for the Weed and Seed initiative, it, like many other federally funded programs, lost momentum when there was no longer funding available to maintain it. Capt. Reilly stated that though funding has ceased, the Weed and Seed principles are still being effected, as evidenced by the Health Department's Community Schools program.
- Comm. Bunker stated that drug education definitely needs to start at the elementary school level. He then inquired as to the source of most heroin. Capt. Fournier stated Manchester is being supplied out of Lawrence, MA, or New York. Chief Mara stated that at the DEA heroin seminar on May 6, Lawrence PD reps blamed NH for their drug problem because NH residents visit the city to buy drugs. Manchester blames Lawrence for our city's drug problem because Lawrence has the dealers supplying the drug.

Patrol Division – Capt. Hopkins:

- Three new K9 handlers are scheduled to graduate from the K9 Academy on June 14.
- As mentioned by Sgt. Mangone, three new officers have been assigned to veteran officers for field training. All appears to be going well.
- Shift change was effective May 6. There are a few officer out injured or out FMLA, a couple more out on military duty.
- Officers monitoring activity in downtown area, both in walking and cruiser patrol.
- Officers are doing a great job initiating Hot Spot patrols.

Investigative Division – Capt. Flanagan:

- Facing a challenge in staffing Evidence due to the resignation of one Evidence Specialist and the other being out on FMLA for several weeks. Staff from Legal/Records is assisting with coverage and one investigator has been assigned to Evidence while on light-duty status, due to an injury. The open position created by the resignation has been posted internally and awaiting applications to be forwarded from HR.
- Juvenile detectives provided an internet and body safety presentation to students at McLaughlin middle school.
- Juvenile Detective Solari is in the second week of a five-week computer forensics school in Alabama. Detective Solari is the one of two detectives trained in cyber crime investigations.
- Juvenile detectives are involved in several cases, one involves a 16-year-old who stabbed the mother's boyfriend and another is a child prostitution case, in which both parents were arrested.
- Detectives continue with the Dion double-homicide investigation. Still trying to locate the person of interest/suspect Matthew Dion. The U.S. Marshals Service has posted a \$5,000 reward for information. Detective Kucharski, who is the lead in the Dion homicide investigation, is attending Fraud school. In his absence other detectives have been working on the investigation.
- Detective Dan Whelan joined the Detective Unit on May 5. He has been assigned as a Fraud investigator, filling the vacancy created by the February retirement of Marty Swirko.

Community Policing Division – Capt. Reilly:

- Officers Rondeau and Ampuja are currently facilitating a Citizens Police Academy consisting of 22 participants.
- The spring session of the Cops 'n' Kids elementary school visits is underway. As of May 8, the department will have completed four of eight scheduled events.
- The department recently provided a presentation to the Chamber of Commerce board of directors relative to the PD's initiative toward providing safety measures in the downtown area. This same presentation will be provided to leaders of the business community on May 15.
- CP officers have been aggressive in seeing that vagrant camps along the river and in other areas of the city are closed down and removed. The camps cause health and environmental issues. As further enforcement, will be bringing misdemeanor charges against vagrants for unlawful trash disposal.
- Officer Rondeau conducted a Women's Safety Clinic at MPD in April, and Auburn PD has requested a clinic at their agency. Officer Rondeau is arranging another MPD clinic in August that will incorporate Campus Safety, as there has been interest from parents to have their daughters attend prior to going off to college.
- The April segment of the MPDtv show is currently being aired. Taping of the May show will begin soon. Lt. Tessier recently provided access to the taped shows via a link on the homepage of the MPD website.
- Capt. Reilly announced that he will officially retire on June 30, 2014, however, as he will be taking some vacation time prior to the actual retirement date, his last at-work day will be June 13. Capt. Reilly has served with the PD for nearly 28 years.

Questions, Comments, Discussion:

- Comm. Roy expressed accolades for CP officers who attended the Stark Park annual Easter Egg Hunt. The Mounted Unit and Bike Patrol officers were on hand and had a great impact on the kids. The officers provided a safe environment for the event. Thank you to the Traffic Unit for the street closures around the Park.
- To Comm. Bunker's inquiry, Capt. Reilly advised that Mounted Unit Officer Gillis had successfully completed training with the Royal Mounted Canadian Police.
- Comm. Bunker inquired how the I-293 construction affected the vagrant camps along the river. Capt. Reilly advised that the State Police had been clearing out the camps in that area.

Assistant Chief Willard:

- The MPD sworn complement is at 214, with the recent resignations of Officers William Soucy and Travis Mannon. The department will be looking to hire 16 officers in July.
- The bill to repeal the death penalty was tabled.
- Chief Mara and Capt. Capano presented to the Human Resources Committee the proposal to eliminate two custodial positions from the PD complement and outsource the duties to Aramark. The proposal will be forwarded to the full Board of Mayor and Aldermen for their approval.

Chief Mara:

- Chief Mara advised provided handouts of comparative statistical information for Part I Crimes for the first quarters of 2014 and 2013, as well as information pertaining to Hot Spot Initiative results.
- Chief Mara advised he had no comments as all pertinent matters had been addressed during the Divisional Reports.

Questions, Comments, Discussion:

- Comm. Clifford inquired as to the Chief's thoughts on the AG's policy ref early release for drug offenders. Chief Mara stated that the offenders will go into jail as addicts and come out as addicts.

4. RETIREMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

- Officer William Soucy resigned from his position effective April 23, 2014, after 10 years of service with MPD.
- Officer Travis Mannon resigned from his position effective April 29, 2014, after 9 months with MPD.
- Evidence Specialist Robert Freitas resigned his position effective May 2, 2014, after 9 months with MPD.

5. SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES REVIEW

- The minutes of the Safety Committee meeting of April 16, 2014, were reviewed. There were no special issues of note.

5. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING / MOTION TO

The date of the next commission meeting was set for:

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2014, AT 09:00 HOURS

Comm. Bunker broached the subject of following the past practice of not having a July meeting. The Commissioners unanimously voted to not hold a meeting in July.

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

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

There was no Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted by:
Kim Demers, Secretary

PC050714