



POLICE COMMISSION

Manchester Police Department
405 Valley Street
Manchester, NH 03103

MINUTES OF JUNE 1, 2016 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The Regular Monthly Meeting was held at Police Headquarters on June 1, 2016, at 09:00 hours. The meeting was attended by Comm. Mark Roy (Chairman), Comm. Bill Clifford, Eva Castillo-Turgeon, Comm. Steven Spain, Comm. Scott Spradling, Chief Nick Willard, Assistant Chief Carlo Capano, Capt. Jonathan Hopkins, Capt. Maureen Tessier, Capt. Todd Boucher, Capt. Mark Sanclemente, Capt. Mike Begley, Capt. Ryan Grant, 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 and blog.
- Commissioners unanimously approved the minutes of the May 4, 2016, meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- No one from the Public was present.

3. DIVISIONAL REPORTS

Administrative Division – Capt. Hopkins:

- Training Unit: everything going well – conducting backgrounds on five police candidates.
- Communications Unit: Three dispatcher vacancies, hoping to have filled within a few weeks. A Records Management System is being demonstrated by Tri-Tech this week.
- Fleet: working on replacing two SUV-cruisers that were totaled in recent accidents. Also looking to replace other fleet vehicles in 2017, some SUV and some cars, as needs dictate.
- Building: no building issues of note.

Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- Comm. Roy inquired if the City is still self-insured. Capt. Hopkins confirmed that is the case.
- Comm. Roy inquired if it is hard to keep dispatchers due to the stress level and if the department could use more dispatchers. Capt. Hopkins advised two recent vacancies were due to the individuals failing the training period. Staying at full complement reduces the need to force a dispatcher to take an additional shift. With so much activity out on the streets, he has some ideas for increasing the dispatch complement when the budget allows.

Legal Division – Capt. Tessier:

- Pretty much business as usual during May. Lt. Reardon and Officer Pelletier continue to conduct arraignments at court. Lt. Reardon is also one of three lieutenants tasked with preparing the sergeant's test to be given in November. He is also working on wording for an SOP reference electronic documents and developing a mechanism on the website by which someone can request a report.
- Patrol, Detectives and the Attorney General's office did a great job with the MacPherson arraignment.
- Juvenile Arraignment Officer Thompson has been working with the Juvenile Probation/Parole officer to develop a pilot electronic monitoring device, similar to the ankle bracelets worn by adult offenders. Judges are reluctant to detain juveniles and the electronic devices would be a way of keeping track of juvenile offenders.
- Working with School District with regard discrepancies in petitioning a juvenile to court for an in-school crime.
- The SOCU continues to monitor 500-plus sex offenders in the city. Still just one officer doing the registration and compliance checks. Hoping the U.S. Marshals Service will come through with some grant funding to assist with compliance checks.
- OVB recently sent out 3,700 letters to city alarm holders. Responses are enabling staff to reconcile accurate information with what is currently in the system. Will be looking to send out monthly letters in the near future.
- The Attorney General's office is hosting its annual training conference June 8-9. A few Legal staff members are attending.

Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- Comm. Roy inquired if filling the SOCU Compliance Officer vacancy would occur any time soon or if it was possible to utilize reserve officers to conduct offender registrations. Capt. Tessier felt that once the 11 officers

currently at the state academy completed their training, it was highly likely that a replacement could be identified. Utilizing reserve officers for offender registration has been discussed.

Community Policing Division – Capt. Boucher:

- Continued with weekly senior walks, conducting 5 during the month of May.
- Participated in Touch a Truck event at Fisher Cats Stadium.
- Completed Cops n Kids Events at 7 elementary schools; 8 more will be conducted in the autumn.
- Hosted Portsmouth PD personnel, showcasing our Community Policing Division.
- The Mounted Unit participated in Merrimack PD's open house event.
- Assisted in an EMS benefit ride providing escort and traffic control.
- Participated in the Beech Street and Gossler Park Schools family block party events.
- Sgt. Biron and Officer Ampuja attended a two-day Public Information Officer school in Concord.
- Continue to address complaints of marijuana use and speeding taking place on Lakeshore Road and installed speed counters.
- Addressing the increased number of camps popping up around the city.
- To focus on increased activity in the downtown area, the Mounted Unit has been reassigned Monday-Friday in the area.
- Addressing complaints of needles found on the ball fields in the North End behind Dunkin Donuts on Webster Street.
- MPAL Building on Hope was completed.
- Participated in North End and Rimmon Heights watch group meetings, and conducted numerous presentations to include security surveys, personal safety presentations, Active Shooter Response training, and NET inspections.

Patrol Division – Capt. Begley:

- Officers Hardy and O'Connor's recoveries from gunshot wounds are going well.
- ALERRT (active shooter training) will be held on June 27 and 28, with another session scheduled for August. By September, all but six officers will have attended the training. Other sessions are planned for December 2016 and April 2017 to accommodate training of the last six officers and any new hires.
- Officers Rick Valenti and Tom McAuliffe are attending the Boston K-9 Academy and are doing well. Sgt. John Cunningham is also progressing in the train-the-trainer course. K-9 trials are scheduled for June 11 and 12, to be held in Manchester at the Piscataquog Park located off of Varney Street on the West Side.
- Officer Fierimonte just attended K-9 trials in Portsmouth where he did exceptionally well and successfully passed his certification.
- Officer Megowen and his bomb sniffing dog assisted Boston PD at the finish line at the annual marathon.
- Trouble Cars officially started on May 22. Days, one 2-man car operates Monday-Friday; Jeep Shift (6:00P-2:00A), one 2-man car operates Sunday-Tuesday and two 2-man cars, and one supervisor are assigned Wednesday-Saturday. The extra teams have been very productive and provided much needed assistance.
- The Warrant Team had its first activation night May 26, making ten arrests. The team seeks assistance from other agencies if the wanted individual's location is determined to be outside of Manchester. The team will be conducting one or two activations per week.
- 61 vacation days have been granted so far, days off that would have otherwise been denied without the initiative implemented by Chief Willard.
- The Traffic Unit investigated multiple serious accidents that included a fatal accident on Brown Avenue. The Unit also assisted with multiple events and escorts.
- The Traffic Unit completed five NH Highway Safety Agency grants for FY2017.
- Traffic continues to address the School Crossing Guard shortage by working with Human Resources in placing multiple job vacancy ads.
- Traffic Officer Aquino returned to work after being injured in a motor vehicle accident.
- A Sobriety Checkpoint was conducted on April 22. The next checkpoint is scheduled for June 10.
- Traffic Officer Wood has assisted the Training Unit by conducting pre-employment polygraph exams on potential police officer and dispatcher candidates.
- Traffic Officer Olson has been assigned to the Downtown initiative, Monday-Friday. And Officer Fratzi has been temporarily assigned to SED for the summer.

Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- Comm. Spain inquired about ALERRT. Capt. Begley advised that N.H. has thankfully not experienced an in-school shooting incident, but as more incidents occur it is imperative to have the training to react such a situation. Having every officer in the department trained in the same format results in everyone knowing what to do should an event occur. Some of the MPD dispatchers have attended the training as well as a few State Police personnel.

- Comm. Spradling inquired if the Trouble Cars are a response to the uptick in shootings in the city. Capt. Begley advised the Trouble Cars would hopefully help deter all crime, not just the shootings. Chief Willard stated that investigation so far has been based on intel provided to drug unit detectives, there have been no eye witnesses to any of the incidents.
- Comm. Clifford inquired if guns had been confiscated and where the guns originated from. Chief Willard affirmed that guns had been recovered and ATF is assisting with tracking possession. ATF is also assisting with linking guns and shell casings to other shootings. K-9 Officer Megowen and his canine partner respond to every shooting scene to sniff out bullet casings that may go undetected by the human eye.

Investigative Division – Capt. Grant:

- Capt. Grant stated he is getting acclimated to his new responsibilities, but recently submitted goals and objectives for the Investigative Division for FY2017.
- Sgts. Loui and Patterson were assigned the officer involved shootings investigation and did a great job.
- A victim of a severe assault remains in hospital in a vegetative state. The case may turn into a homicide investigation.
- The shooting incidents are being investigated, but due to the 2 a.m. to 3 a.m. timeframe, there have been no witnesses. Dets. Breton and Krawczyk develop crime scene diagrams of each shooting and then Det. Krawczyk will determine locations that may have video surveillance footage of what occurred.
- Newly promoted Lt. Thompson has been assigned to Detectives, and Sgt. Peter Marr has been assigned from Patrol to supervise the Domestic Violence Unit.
- A few SROs will remain as investigators in the Juvenile Unit over the summer rather than be assigned to Patrol. Det. Kim Barbee, SRO at Central, does a phenomenal job dealing with the students and is a great resource for identifying city youth.
- A two-year-old toddler fell out of a second-floor apartment window so the department will be doing a public service notice reminding parents/child care givers to be extra cautious now that warm weather is here and windows are apt to be open.
- McLaughlin School recently experienced a bomb threat, something just about every school in the nation has experience lately. Though the FBI is contacted in each instance, there is little that can be done as the threats are generated through “robo” calls and impossible to trace. The FBI advises not to overreact because the individuals causing the scare are just looking for media attention.

Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- Comm. Spain inquired about the duties of the SRO. Capt. Grant responded that the SROs investigate delinquency, school crime, and victim abuse, including what goes on outside the school. Comm. Spain stated he would be interested in shadow/walk-along with SRO Barbee during a school day, at some point.
- Comm. Roy inquired about the investigations of older cases. He was assured that investigations remain ongoing into as-yet unsolved murders.

Special Enforcement Division – Capt. Sanclemente:

- Chief Willard and Lt. Leighton attended the NH Governor’s Summit on Substance Misuse at the Radisson. Chief Willard was one of the presenters.
- Several SED / SWAT members attended an active shooter workshop that was held at MPD in conjunction with Fire and EMS.
- SWAT trained at the Sig Sauer Academy, with a focus on drills. Snipers trained at the Auburn range. Two of the newest snipers attended basic sniper school.
- Several SIU staff attended the New England Narcotics Conference and Training in Newport, RI.
- Several SWAT officers attended a course designed to enhance the use and effectiveness of the BEARCAT.
- Due to N.H. being in international news re the heroin epidemic, French Police Nationale arranged through U.S. DEA to have SED Capt. Sanclemente and SED-DEA Task Force Detective Chris Day travel to Paris to present information on U.S. law enforcement and criminal justice system at a week-long (May 23-27) Police Nationale training course attended by the equivalent of police officers to police chiefs from the Central Offices of the French Central Directorate of the Judicial Police. Capt. Sanclemente stated he learned that gun violence isn’t as prevalent in France due to stringent gun laws, nor is the drug situation as severe, due in part to the country’s physicians not prescribing pain killers for everything.
- Search warrants conducted in May: 366 Massabesic St, 215 Wilson St., Spring Hill Suits.
- SIU has several ongoing investigations.
- Putting together a Street Crime initiative to attack the city in drug areas by issuing warrants and making arrests.

Assistant Chief Capano:

- Aldermen passed an ordinance reference Uber and meeting planned with all drivers. There is a bill before the State that, if passed, will regulate the Uber industry.
- Contract negotiations for MPD's three unions are underway, generally two meetings a week.

Chief Willard:

- Officers Hardy and O'Connor are recovering well from their gunshot wounds. The response by MPD staff was phenomenal. The Critical Incident Management / Peer to Peer Team, headed by Officer Paul Fraitzl, coordinated with the injured officers' families and reached out to all staff, demonstrating concern for the wellness of the whole department. The response of the Midnight Shift officers and dispatchers was great, as was Sgt. Caldwell who supervised the initial street activity. AC Capano and Capt. Sanclemente coordinated all resources, Capt. Grant coordinated the investigation, and Capt. Tessier and Lt. O'Keefe were on hand to liaise with the media.
- Promotions were made effective June 1: Capt. Grant will be assigned as Investigative Division Commander (replacing Capt. Soucy, who recently retired); Lt. Thompson will be assigned to the Detective Unit, and Sgt. Sullivan will be assigned to Patrol as a Street Supervisor. Sgt. Marr will be reassigned from Patrol to supervise the Domestic Violence Unit (replacing Lt. Thompson) and Officer Darren Murphy will be reassigned as a detective in the Special Investigations Unit (replacing Sgt. Sullivan).
- The BMA authorized \$280,000 to MPD: \$100,000 for Trouble Car overtime and \$180,000 for SWAT equipment.
- The MPAL Center had it's grand reopening event May 22; the renovations are outstanding. Kudos to Lt. O'Keefe and Officer Levasseur who were MPAL liaisons for the project.
- Chief Willard and AC Capano and other N.H. law-enforcement leaders will be traveling to El Paso, TX in July to view the DEA's El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC), where all drug trafficking is monitored. The visit will provide insight as to how the currently underutilized resources at EPIC can aid local drug activity investigations. This is an example of how the DEA is partnering with local law enforcement in the fight against drugs.
- Cancelled the COP Show filming in Manchester in response to concerns that filming crime within the city would generate a bad image of the city.

Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- Comm. Roy stated that the city's leaders should participate in a police ride-along to see first hand what is going on in the city, and then they'd have more appreciation what the officers go through on a daily basis. AC Capano stated that Manchester officers are the sixth on the list of the highest paid officers in the state, they should be the top paid. Comm. Roy recalled a police per capita manpower assessment from four years ago that indicated the department should have approximately 265 sworn members. Having that many officers would change the face of Manchester, property values would go up.
- Comm. Clifford commented that MPD was not represented in the Memorial Day parade. Chief Willard responded that MPD wasn't invited to participate; it is a military venue, not a police venue. Comm. Clifford further commented that there were only two aldermen who walked in the parade.
- Comm. Roy inquired if there was any trickledown effect from medical marijuana and was advised there was not.

4. RETIREMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

- Police Officer Brandon Burroughs, hired March 7, 2016, resigned May 12, 2016.
- Emergency Services Dispatcher Frank Russo, hired April 4, 2016, resigned May 27, 2016.

5. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING / MOTION TO ADJOURN

The Commissioners, having voted on May 4, 2016, to not hold a July meeting, set the date of the next commission meeting to be:

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

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

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission entered Executive Session at 10:10 hours. The content of the session shall remain confidential.

Respectfully submitted by:
Kim Demers, Secretary

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