



# POLICE COMMISSION

Manchester Police Department  
405 Valley Street  
Manchester, NH 03103

## MINUTES OF AUGUST 7, 2019 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The Regular Monthly Meeting was held at Police Headquarters on August 7, 2019, at 10:00 hours, attended by: **Commissioners** Scott Spradling (Chairman), Steven Spain, and Mirfeta Ibišević **Absent:** Charlie Sherman  
**Police Department Staff** Assistant Chief Ryan Grant, Capt. Mark Sanclemente, Capt. Sean Leighton, Capt. Allen Aldenberg, Capt. Brian O'Keefe, Capt. Joe Mucci, PIO Heather Hamel, and Kim Demers (Secretary);

### 1. COMMISSION CHAIRMAN OPENING COMMENTS

- Comm. Chairman Scott Spradling opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m., welcoming all those present.

### 2. 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 social media.
- Commissioners approved the minutes for the meeting held June 5, 2019. [*There was no meeting in July.*]

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Comm. Chair Spradling explained that each Manchester resident wishing to speak shall state his/her name and address, each will have only one opportunity to speak, and will be limited to three minutes in which to address comments on a particular subject to the Chairman of the Commission.

- **Jeff Hastings**, owner of Frame of Mind photography, a freelance and contract photo journalist for New Hampshire and Boston, Mass., area media outlets, and maintains a public-forum blog: commented that it would be in the PD's best interest to publicly post PD events prior to their occurrence, rather than commenting on them after the event – he gave the examples of recent Coffee with a Cop and MPAL events. He further commented that the department should publicize press releases on another social media venue besides Twitter – not everyone subscribes to Twitter. He suggested that after an arrest is made based on information received from the public, the press release should state the arrest was made due to information the public provided.

Mr. Hastings also extended kudos to Capt. Maureen Tessier on the matter of an interaction she had with an irate person in the Police lobby. She dealt with the person in a caring and professional manner.

- **Mark Hayward**, reporter for the Union Leader newspaper: expressed his thanks for following through on his previous suggestion of attaching pictures to press releases rather than just imbedding in the release itself. He encouraged the department to put out some information relative to the recent homicides.

*There was no one else present wishing to speak; Comm. Spradling thanked the speakers for their input and advised all comments would be taken under advisement.*

### 4. DIVISIONAL REPORTS

#### Administrative Division – Capt. Mucci:

- Capt. Mucci advised he officially started as commander of the Administration Division on August 1 and working to learn the new responsibilities and acclimating to the new position.
- General maintenance painting was completed in the common areas of the second and third floors of the PD facility. The Training Room on the second floor is scheduled to be painted the week of August 12.
- The PD is purchasing new vehicles: 2 Expeditions, 2 Fusions, 1 van, and 3 Explorers, all to replace aging vehicles.
- Nine recruits hired July 22 are currently receiving training in the in-house academy. Four are pre-certified officers, 2 from N.H. (Bedford and Hooksett) and 2 from California will begin field training in early the September, while the remaining five are scheduled to attend the N.H. Police Academy.
- A police test is scheduled for August 24; there are currently 53 applicants, with the deadline of August 19 fast approaching.
- There are still two dispatcher and one front counter personnel vacancies.

- The process of acquiring a new Report Management System and Computer Aided Dispatch System is in motion. The system is currently being built and should be up and running by June of 2020, with a hard ending of July 2020.
- The department is in the process of choosing a body camera vendor, and currently weighing the different aspects and capabilities of the equipment tested from Body Worn (Utility) and Axon Body (Taser/Axon). The final selection should be made soon.

#### **Community Policing Division – Capt. O’Keefe:**

- The Downtown Summer Patrol has made a positive impact: the three officers have made over 40 arrests, mostly warrant related, and have earned the respect of not only the business owners, but those who also frequent the parks.
- The Mounted Unit is searching for a new horse and currently have one for a trial period from a Vermont farm. The new horse seems to be settling in with Valor and General, and will be examined by a veterinarian today to assure the horse is in good health.

The Mounted Unit has attended multiple events during the past two months to include visits to the Hanover Hill Nursing Home, St. Marie’s Child Care, Parker Varney School, Girls at Work, Little Frogs and Polliwogs, and Growing Years.

- MPAL Officer Levasseur spoke with approximately 30 youths at Hillside for the Power Scholars Program. MPAL hosted its annual volunteer dinner and a Building on Hope Dinner, which celebrate the tenth year of giving back to the local non-profits. Officer Levasseur also coordinated National Night Out and had over 80 PAL kids in attendance.
- Area officers continue to work on problem addresses, to include the area around Manchester and Pine Streets, the parks, and alley near Sheridan Emmett Park.
- Tuesday, August 20, from noon to 1:30 p.m., a safety seminar *Be Safe, Be Alert* will be hosted for hotel workers by Doubletree by Hilton. The seminar is open to any hotel staffer from any hotel.
- The Gang Prevention Unit has been busy attending Project Safe Neighborhood meetings, assisting at a CHaD baseball game event, and continue to work with city youth-serving agencies by visiting daily. Officer Hardy has organized a basketball game on August 16, 5 p.m., at the Boys and Girls Club.
- CP officers attended a Wellness Fair at Sweeney Park, several crime watch meetings, assisted with NET inspections at 178 Central Street and 118 Lincoln Street.

The officers participated in Coffee with a Cop events, one in June at the Hilton Garden and one at Chez Vachon on August 6. There was also an Easter Seals family event at Veterans Park and a Bike Rode at St. Pius. CP participated in the N.H. Law Enforcement Day at the SNHU arena, along with N.H. Liquor Enforcement. Multiple CP officers took part in an Animal Shelter fundraiser photo shoot, and assisted with prostitution enforcement operation, and attended a police appreciation cookout hosted by Outdoor Pride Landscaping. On August 5, CP officers assisted with the appearance of the Stanley Cup at Green Acres School.

Homeless camps were cleared out of 324 Taylor Street and the area of the West Side arena. .

Met with N.H. Liquor Enforcement to discuss the over-serving of patrons at bars and convenience stores; two enforcement operations were completed in recent weeks.

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

- Comm. Spain expressed his kudos to the Summer Downtown Patrol officers. He has heard no
- Comm. Spradling conveyed the same message, stating he has had great feedback from the merchants. Capt. O’Keefe stated he and Capt. Mucci both work the night downtown walking patrol once a week and they only hear great stuff from the merchants.

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

- SWAT conducted search warrants at 135 English Village Way, 272 Grove Street, and 33 Andrew Street. Their monthly training focused on low-light shooting. Sgt. Houghton, supervisor of the Negotiators unit, coordinated an FBI Basic Negotiator course held at a SNHU lecture hall the week of July 13. Several members of the SWAT Team attended various trainings throughout the month.
- The Street Crime Unit continues to focus efforts on problem locations.

- The Special Investigations Unit continues efforts to disrupt drug sales in the city and actively working multiple on-going investigations with state and federal partners to stop illegal drugs from being brought into Manchester and the state.
- SED is preparing for the President Trump visit to the SNHU Arena next week.

**Questions/Comments/Discussion:**

- Comm. Spradling offered best of luck to SED reference the visit by President Trump.

**Investigative Division – Capt. Leighton:**

- Officers Alex April and Garrett Bombard were selected to fill vacancies in the Detective Squad when manpower allows for the change. Newly promoted Lt. Loui will remain assigned to the Detectives. Sgt. Fred Gillis was reassigned from Patrol to the Detective Squad, filling the vacancy by Lt. Loui's promotion. Sgt. Gillis started in his position on August 1 and is off to a good start.
- Detective Brian Fleming was selected to fill the investigator position in Juvenile, created by Detective Fernald's reassignment to SED. Officer Jason Feliciano will be taking over Detective Fleming's SRO position at Parkside. SROs assigned to Patrol over the summer months will return to their assignments in the Juvenile Unit on August 30, in preparation for the start of school on Sept. 4.
- Detective Shaun McKennedy and Officer Bill Dann will be attending polygraph examiner school, beginning next week and running to mid-November.
- On August 5, the leader of the "Squad" gang, Brandon Griffin, was sentenced to 48 years in prison. This was the culmination of a very extensive criminal investigation. Griffin has a few pending charges, but this was a good resolution to a very violent period within the city.
- MPD will be hosting video surveillance analysis training for an investigator class next week. This training will be taught by Grant Fredericks who is a nationally renowned expert in video analysis.

**Questions/Comments/Discussion:**

- Comm. Spradling commented that he had participated in ride-alongs with both Officers April and Bombard and based on his experience with each agreed that the two would be excellent additions to the Detective Squad.

**Patrol Division – Capt. Aldenberg:**

- In September, Officer Foster will begin K9 Patrol School in Boston. This is Officer Foster's second canine, his first partner, Moose, has been retired.
- Officer Joe Esposito and Officer Caitlin Murphy have completed their field training and are now solo on the street. Officer Chris George and Officer Brittany Battye will complete their field training within the next week.
- Still continually balancing manning requirements with those out injured and on military duty. Divisional support has helped to reduce the number of officers being forced to take on extra shifts.
- Four certified officers hired July 22 will begin their field training on August 26 and will be required to complete 32 shifts of training before being assigned by themselves to a patrol shift.
- Officer Bill Dann will be attending a 12-week polygraph examiner school, beginning the week of August 12.
- In the last month, the traffic unit has investigated 8 serious motor vehicle/motorcycle crashes, with two of the motorcycle crashes having fatalities.
- During the month of August, Traffic will handle the Cigna 5K road race, President Trump's visit to Manchester, and the annual Cruisin' Downtown event.

**Questions/Comments/Discussion:**

- Comm. Spradling inquired if the field training phase for a pre-certified officer new-hire was shorter than that of a non-certified recruit. Capt. Aldenberg advised that a non-certified officer must complete 48-shifts of field training as opposed to the 32-shifts required by pre-certified officers. Those hired from out of state must also complete the N.H. law course provided by the N.H. Police Academy before they receive N.H. certification.

**Legal Division – Capt. Mangone:**

- Capt. Mangone explained that he began his assignment as commander of the Legal Division on July 1 and is acclimating to his position. As an officer, he spent several years as the arraignment officer so has some previous knowledge of the responsibilities associated with the division.

- Juvenile prosecution is running smoothly under Assistant City Solicitor Steve Ranfos. He and his legal assistant have each been provided with a desk and phone at MPD. The City Solicitor's office taking over the juvenile prosecutorial duties has certainly been appreciated.
- Both Sexual Offender Compliance Unit officers have trained to handle court arraignments to cover those duties when someone is out sick or on vacation. They've had some basic training and each time they are required to go to court they learn a bit more.
- On July 22, the department hired a Records Specialist to fill one of the two vacancies. A second candidate is nearing the end of the pre-employment background phase and if all goes well, should be starting at MPD in less than a month. This will bring the Records Unit to full complement, something that hasn't been seen in quite a while. In the meantime, a Customer Service Representative from Ordinance Violations and a part-time Reserve Officer continue to help with the workload.
- The Ordinance Violations Bureau is going well under the supervision of Donna Demanche. OVB is now set up to take credit card payments for fines.

## **5. COMMENTS FROM ASSISTANT CHIEF GRANT**

- Chief Capano is unavailable to attend today as he is attending training in Virginia. He will be back August 12.
- A big thank you is extended to Mayor Craig for working with us to hire over our current complement of 237 sworn members. At the BMA meeting on August 6, the aldermen approved the department to now hire five over complement to 242. The department averages 7 retirements a year and it takes 9 months from point of hire to get a new officer out on the street. Chief Capano has made known to the aldermen the need to increase the sworn complement.
- An entry-level police officer test will be administered on August 24, with an application deadline of August 19. To date there are 53 applicants; the number generally doubles as the deadline approaches. Anyone that has an interest in a law enforcement career is encouraged to apply and be at the test on August 24.
- The aldermen ratified the contracts of MPD's three bargaining units at the BMA meeting on August 6.
- The sentencing of crime gang leader Brandon Griffin this week to 48 years in jail is a testament to the great work by everyone on the case. Kudos to all for getting a very dangerous person off the street.
- The department is in the final stages of contracting service for body cameras. Hopefully things will be wrapped up in a month or so.
- Mayor Craig's nomination of Manny Content for Police Commissioner was confirmed by the Board of Alderman on August 6. The department welcomes him; he has always been a supporter of the department, but will also let the department know when something can be improved.
- The Cigna foot race is schedule for Thursday night. Public notifications have been made via every media/social media venue, yet it always seems that someone misses the notices and complains to the department.

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

- Comm. Spradling expressed his congratulations on Manny Content appointment as Police Commissioner. He has known Manny for a number of years, who will provide feedback from Manchester's ethnic communities.
- Comm. Spradling stated that he seemed to recall the five officers over complement request being made during past years. Assistant Chief Grant stated that the plus-five over complement has been a topic of discussion for years but has recently become politicized. The idea was broached by former Chief Willard and again by Chief Capano when he applied for the position of Chief. He has also discussed a long-term plan of increasing the complement by 30 or so officers. For several years the department's complement has at times been 7 officers below the authorized number, due to retirements, medical leave and military leave. For several years the department has had a budget surplus of \$300,000 which has been given back to the city. The surplus, due to not having to pay salaries for vacant positions, could be utilized to fund additional officers. Should the PD run into the situation
- Comm. Spradling inquired what the aldermen's response was to the plus-five proposal made by Mayor Craig. Assistant Chief Grant stated that the idea passed unanimously by the HR Committee and by the vast majority of the full board.

## **6. RETIREMENTS / RESIGNATIONS**

Comm. Spradling made note of the resignation and retirement since the last meeting:

- Erik Burke, Officer, resigned effective July 27, 2019, after serving 9 months with the department.
- John McInerney, Officer, will retire August 30, 2019, after serving with MPD for 22 years.

#### **8. COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

Comm. Spradling advised there was no Commission business to be discussed.

#### **9. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING / MEETING ADJOURNED**

The date of the next commission meeting was set for Wednesday, September 4, 2019, at 09:00 hours.

There being no further business to discuss, on motion by Comm. Spain, seconded by Comm. Ibišević, it was voted unanimously to adjourned the Public Session of the meeting at 10:30 hours and to enter into Nonpublic Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c).

#### **10. NONPUBLIC SESSION**

The Commission entered Non-Public Session at 10:33 hours for purpose of discussing personnel matters, which shall remain confidential. No matters were discussed that required a vote by the commissioners.

*The nonpublic session was adjourned at 10:40 hours.*

Respectfully submitted by:  
Kim Demers, Secretary

PC080719