



POLICE COMMISSION

Manchester Police Department
405 Valley Street
Manchester, NH 03103

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2016 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The Regular Monthly Meeting was held at Police Headquarters on September 7, 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. Ryan Grant, Lt. Andrew Vincent, 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.
- Commissioners unanimously approved the minutes of the August 3, 2016, meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jeff Hastings, a freelance and contract photo journalist for New Hampshire and Boston, Mass., area media outlets, voiced his concerns reference the MPD's new radio system, specifically with regard to the transmissions being 100% coded. In addition to the coded transmissions, reporters have been asked not to call the OIC for information when police activity is detected. He provided the statistic that on average, 11,000 people are listening to police radio broadcasts.. With the new radio system, everyone's scanner will go silent and will begin a "dark phase" for the citizenry of Manchester. The "transparency" of MPD activity will go away and the public will begin to think events are being hidden from them. Mr. Hastings commented that the only police agency in New England that he is aware of tha is 100% coded on radio transmissions is Haverhill, Mass.

He requested that MPD reconsider the coding policy or consider utilizing social media to broadcast police-related activity. Without these two information outlets, the media and public have to rely on press releases issued by the department, which are not that frequent.

Comm. Spradling commented that he found it hard to believe that 11,000 Manchester residents listened to the police transmissions – essentially one out of ten residents. He asked for Mr. Hastings source for this statistic. Mr. Hastings stated he got the information from Broadcastify.com. Comm Spradling clarified with Mr. Hastings that the 11,000 figure did not necessarily mean all listeners were Manchester residents, but could encompass listeners from other communities.

Comm. Mark Roy stated he has mixed feelings about the new coding policy as it relates to police safety versus public information. He thanked Mr. Hastings for his comments and views, which will be given due consideration.

3. DIVISIONAL REPORTS

Administrative Division – Capt. Hopkins:

- MPD has partially transitioned to the new radio system. The portable radios are working fine under the new system and currently working on cruiser radio installations. Both radio systems are running concurrently until all cruisers are changed to the new system.
- Three officers started at the police academy on August 29, with a graduation date of December 16. Ten officers who graduated from the police academy on August 18 started their field training on September 6, to be completed by the end of November. Three certified officers began their FTO phase on August 29, and will be finished by mid-October.
- The hiring process for five officers has started utilizing candidates from the officer test given August 6.
- Fifteen new MPD vehicles have been ordered and the department will begin taking possession next week. The BMA approved an increase in the MPD fleet by 10 cars.

Questions, Comments, Discussion:

- Comm. Roy commented that in reviewing the MPD Safety Committee meeting minutes, he noticed a few minor fender-benders over the past couple of months. Capt. Hopkins stated he felt there had been a decrease in the number of minor accidents.

Community Policing Division – Capt. Boucher:

- Capt. Boucher provided copies of a public perception survey that was recently completed. The survey is mandated by CALEA as part of the three-year accreditation process. The information was compiled and organized by a professor of the New Hampshire University system, and incidentally, whose wife is a retired MPD officer.
- All CP officers have completed CPR Training.
- Activities CP officers were involved in: Community Health Fair event celebrating National Health Center Week; MCRC annual cookout; One Day of Community event held at Sheridan Emmett Park; and the We Are One event held at Veterans Park; attended an East Cobras football event in which the officers interacted with youth players.
- Officers participated in the Muscular Dystrophy fundraiser by “arresting” and transporting volunteers who had to raise money to be “bailed out of jail.”
- CP had an event at the Build A Bear store at the Mall of NH during which over 100 high quality stuffed animals were donated to the PD to be used as part of the (Adverse Childhood Experiences Response Team (ACERT) initiative.
- Additionally, CP officers attended watch group meetings, conducted NET inspections, conducted personal safety and active shooter presentations, made numerous Officer Friendly visits and conducted tours of the MPD facility to various groups and agencies.
- CP continues to take a proactive approach to homeless camps and continued focused patrols in the downtown area.

Questions, Comments, Discussion:

- Comm. Roy inquired if the survey is made available to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Capt. Boucher advised that copies are not generated for disbursement to the BMA. The survey is a public document, however it is very lengthy and would be cost prohibitive to have multiple copies prepared.

Investigative Division – Capt. Grant:

- City schools are back in session and SROs are in position. There is new SRO at Hillside: Officer Guy Kozowyk. During this first week of school, there are extra patrols at the start and end of school each day. SROs, CP and Patrol officers will also be monitoring Bronstein Park, near Central High School, for prohibited activity and will take necessary action against those in violation of city ordinances.
- Lt. Thompson, the former supervisor of the Domestic Violence Unit, will be inducted into the Hall of Fame of the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. The honor will be bestowed at a ticket-required luncheon to take place September 29.
- DVU has hired one new victim witness advocate who is scheduled to start work on September 19. Another new victim-witness advocate is in the works to replace Andrea Tousignant, who retired in July. There were 20 applicants for the position, narrowed down to eight for interview, and further narrowed to one currently in the background phase. DVU is also taking steps to find a replacement AmeriCorps volunteer advocate.
- Looking for grants to finance a new crime scene van. The current van is antiquated, too small and clearly ready to be replaced. Sgt. Loui is taking the lead on this project.
- The Investigative Division lost its two crime scene diagramming specialists in recent promotions and reassignments to Patrol. The problem has been rectified by having two detectives trained in the specialty, who in turn trained three more detectives, making a total of five specialists covering all shifts.
- Investigation of the recent homicide in Prout’s Park is being worked on daily and is moving forward.
- The division has a SPEAR team (Scene Processing Evidence Analysis and Recovery) headed by Sgt. Loui.
- Under the JAG funding, the department has acquired a new fingerprint fuming chamber, to replace the old fish tank equipment currently being used.

Questions, Comments, Discussion:

- Comm. Spain inquired if a date could be set up for him to shadow an SRO at work for a day. Capt. Grant advised he would take care of arranging a day with SRO Kim Barbee at Central High School. Capt. Grant predicted the experience would be quite an eye opener.
- Comm. Spradling inquired if there is a “shelf life” for a crime scene van as far as keeping up to date with technology advancements. Capt. Grant advised the current vehicle is nearly 20 years old and basically utilized as a truck to carry supplies. There was a recent need to install a new generator that cost more than the van is worth, it would be more cost effective to put funding toward a new updated van rather than make costly repairs to something with outdated equipment. Estimation of funding needs would be \$200,000.

Special Enforcement Division – Capt. Sanclemente:

- Capt. Sanclemente and Sgt. Brennan attended training in protection at public events.
- The SWAT and Sniper teams had monthly training. Some with State Police.
- SWAT team members assisted with two-day ALERRT training in August.
- SWAT assisted with two dignitary visits to Manchester: Presidential Candidate Donald Trump and a separate visit by his running mate Governor Mike Pence.

Questions, Comments, Discussion:

- Comm. Roy inquired if the SWAT team weaponry was good. Capt. Sanclemente advised the department was in the process of updating the rifles.

Legal Division – Capt. Tessier:

- Records had a difficult task covering workload in August due to one staff member being out for several weeks on medical issues and other staff vacations.
- Dealing with a NH Supreme Court decision reference the right-to-know law that annulled records can be released. Lt. Reardon is working with the City Solicitor on the new ruling.
- Lt. Reardon and Officer Pelletier continue to do an excellent job handling all the adult arraignments.
- Officer Candice Thomas does a great job prosecuting juveniles. She has a good relationship MPD's Juvenile juvenile detectives and juvenile probation officers. For the second time in two months, Officer Thomas obtained information reference a juvenile in possession of a firearm and took steps to have the juvenile detectives and probation officers conduct a search of the subject's residence where the gun was recovered. Officer Thomas, also through juvenile probation, currently has two offenders being monitored by electronic ankle bracelets.
- The Sex Offender Compliance Unit continues to be undermanned. Officer Desmarais does his best to handle the registry of 530 sex offenders residing in the city. There was some assistance from the US Marshalls Service via a grant that funded residence compliance checks. The funding runs out in mid September, but during the checks, only two offenders were found to be non-compliant.
- Ordinance Violations Bureau may be impacted to a minor degree with regard to renovations occurring at City Hall. OVB has caught up with the alarms registration process and has arranged to meet with Info Systems to discuss updating the OVB webpage as it pertains to the alarm registry application as well as monitoring false alarms.

Questions, Comments, Discussion:

- Comm. Spradling extended kudos to the OVB staff's professional and polite demeanor, which he personally experienced recently. He also complimented the OVB's use of photo technology to prove a violation. Capt. Tessier was pleased to accept the compliment for her staff, but had to defer the compliment ref the use of photo technology to the Director of Parking Denise Boutilier.

Patrol Division – Lt. Vincent:

- ALERRT training was held August 22 and 23. Almost every member of the Patrol Division has received the training. Future trainings scheduled for December and April in order to train new recruits, divisional members and joint training exercises with surrounding policy agencies.
- The Warrant Team has made 96 arrests over the course of 13 activations. There is approximately a third of the grant funds left.
- The Trouble Car was very beneficial over the summer months; having a extra officers/supervisors on the street was instrumental in providing proactive patrol activities during the busy summer months, and hopefully will continue in to September as funding allows.
- In Traffic, with the retirement of Officer Fraitzl in August, Officer McInerney has been assigned to investigate motor vehicle theft investigations.
- The Traffic Unit completed NH Highway Safety Agency grants for FY2017 and it appears we have been approved for all the grants.
- Traffic Officer Warren Olson was assigned to a Monday thru Friday schedule to assist with the Downtown Patrol initiative throughout the summer, which was a successful endeavor.
- There are five races/events of note in September: the Union Leader (motorcycle) Toy Run, the Half Way to St. Patrick's Day foot race, an Alzheimer's awareness walk, the Crusader Classic 5K, and the JDRF walk.
- There is a sobriety checkpoint scheduled for September 8, and a commercial vehicle enforcement day with the State Police on September 13.
- With regard to K9 handling, Officer Tyler will be attending K9 training with a new dog at the Boston academy starting September 26. Sgt. Knight will also be attending the academy to be certified as an instructor. Officer Donovan and his canine partner have been attending a five-week narcotic detection school and will graduate in two weeks, making this the sixth MPD K9 team certified for drug detection. The K9 Unit has ordered new uniforms which should be arriving soon. The K9 Unit is currently testing a dog-worn camera system.
- Officer Jered Maguire returned to full duty from months-long military deployment on August 8. Officer Stone will complete his one-year military activation in Spring 2017, and Officer Swinson will complete his 2-year military assignment in summer of 2017.
- Twelve new officers recently began their field training program with an estimated completion of late October for the two previously certified officers and the end of November for the 10 officers who graduated from the academy in August.

Questions, Comments, Discussion:

- For the benefit of newer commissioners, Comm. Roy requested an overview of the K9 handler training process from the time the handlers obtain their puppies through training. Lt. Vincent advised that the handlers acquire the dogs, which are one year old and partially trained, just prior to attending the academy. The short timeframe of acquisition is to prevent the dogs from developing bad habits prior to formal training. At the academy, there is a three-month period of learning basic patrol techniques, followed by specialized training (i.e., drug, gun or explosives detection). Comm. Roy pointed out that the dogs and handlers are more than just a team at work, the dogs are also a family pet.
- Comm. Clifford inquired as to the working lifespan of a canine. Lt. Vincent advised that, depending on the breed of dog, a canine could work for 9 to 10 years. There have been instances in which a K9 handler has been promoted and the dog is assigned to a new K9 handler. When a dog is retired, the handler generally will purchase the dog.

Assistant Chief Capano:

- Looking to hire five new officers from the test candidates of August 6. There were 191 applicants, 130 showed for the test, 68 passed the written and physical tests, and after oral boards there were 49 candidates left, some of which have already failed the polygraph test. The department also actively looks for previously certified officers to fill vacancies.
- Attended the Police Standards and Training Academy graduation on August 19, in which ten MPD officers graduated. The ceremony was held at UNH in Durham rather than the PSTC facility due to the high heat of summer.
- MPD is looking to change side arms, a process that occurs every 5-6 years so officers are equipped with up-to-date technology. A committee has been established to review various models and the consensus is the Sig 9mm model would be the best fit for the department. Finalizing numbers and getting quotes on trade-in values. Also looking to acquire lights on the guns.
- Involved in the MPPA and MAPS contract negotiations. The aldermen are expected to vote on the MPPA contract shortly.
- Once the newest officers complete their field training in mid November, hope to backfill divisional vacancies that have been pending for more than a year.
- As mention by Lt. Vincent, the Trouble Car was a great asset on the street over the summer months. The aldermen voted to provide \$100,000 to fund the initiative, which will end in late September. The initiative started with two two-person cars and has been scaled down to 2 one-person cars.

Questions, Comments, Discussion:

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Chief Willard:

- The political season is upon us; sadly candidates are providing misinformation to the public. During the recent gubernatorial debates certain statements implied that the National Guard is patrolling the streets of Manchester. The fact is that MPD does have a relationship with the National Guard in that the Guard provides three members who work as analysts of drug-related data, certainly not what was described during the debate. Other false statements indicated that crime is up 19 percent in the city, when in fact it is down 22 percent overall. An increase in violent crime is mostly due to domestic violence and child abuse offenses.
- Senator Shaheen has taken an interest in the ACERT (Adverse Child Experience Response Team) program which was unveiled in early July. MPD has partnered with Project LAUNCH at Manchester Community Health Center, and the YMCA. ACERT teams will be comprised of a police officer, a crisis services advocate, and a behavioral health professional that will connect children exposed to violence/ trauma with an advocate and provide ongoing support, referral and access to services to reduce negative aspects of trauma. This program is first in the nation, and Senator Shaheen would like to see it promoted nationally.
- Working on police contracts. The media has reported that passing of the proposed contracts will prompt police layoffs. Aldermen have assured Chief Willard that this is not the case.
- Working to acquire funding for the Granite Hammer initiative, but bureaucracy is hindering obtaining the funds.
- The MPD Honor Guard was specifically requested to present colors at opening ceremonies at Fenway Park for the Monday, Sept. 12, Red Sox game.
- Officers Ryan Hardy and Matthew O'Connor have returned to full duty from the injuries sustained in the May 13 shooting incident.
- Chief Willard commiserated with photo journalist Jeff Hasting's views ref the department's decision to have coded radio transmissions, but stated his uppermost concern is the safety of his officers. There are groups of anti-law-enforcement citizens who, via police radio transmissions, follow officers to crime scenes. These individuals are often belligerent, often in the way while taking photos or videos of what is going on, or otherwise hinder or cause distraction while the officers do their jobs. The officers themselves have requested coded

transmissions. Also in defense of coded transmissions, Chief Willard noted that a lot of misinformation is given out over the radios during the initial broadcast, as well as a lot of personal information reference the victims or suspects is often broadcast that shouldn't be available to the public.

Questions, Comments, Discussion:

- Mr. Hastings suggested to Chief Willard that he consider putting more information out reference the ACERT program. During the time of its initial press release in early July, there was something else going on media-wise and the program received very little media attention.

4. RETIREMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

- There were no retirements or resignations during the month of August.

5. SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES REVIEW

- The minutes of the Safety Committee meeting of August 26, 2015 were reviewed. No special issues of note.

6. END OF TERM FOR COMMISSION CLIFFORD

- Comm. Clifford has completed the second of two three-year terms serving as Police Commissioner. This being his last meeting in the capacity of commissioner, he was presented a plaque by Chief Willard recognizing his six years of dedicated service. Chief Willard expressed his gratitude for Comm. Clifford's commitment shown to the department and appreciation of his guidance and counsel over the past six years.

Comm. Roy stated that it has been a pleasure to serve on the Commission with Comm. Clifford and that he has always seen Comm. Clifford as a very fair, common-sense gentleman and has been immensely impressed with Comm. Clifford's commitment to the city and MPD.

Comm. Clifford stated that it has been a great honor to serve as a Police Commissioner and he is proud to be associated with the great men and women of MPD. He felt that all the aldermen should spend time with an officer to gain a better understanding/appreciation of the work the officers do.

7. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING / MOTION TO ADJOURN

The date of the next commission meeting was set for:

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2016, AT 09:50 HOURS

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 09:50 hours.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission entered Executive Session at 950 hours, the content of which shall remain confidential

Respectfully submitted by:
Kim Demers, Secretary

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