



# POLICE COMMISSION

Manchester Police Department  
405 Valley Street  
Manchester, NH 03103

## MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 2015 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The Regular Monthly Meeting was held at Police Headquarters on December 2 2015, at 09:00 hours. **Present** were Comm. Mark Roy (Chairman), Comm. William Clifford, Comm. Eva Castillo-Turgeon, Comm. Steve Spain, Comm. Scott Spradling, Chief Nick Willard, Assistant Chief Carlo Capano, Capt. Jonathan Hopkins, Capt. Maureen Tessier, Capt. Jim Soucy, Capt. Todd Boucher, Capt. Mark Sanclemente, Capt. Michael Begley, and Kim Demers (Secretary). **Absent** was.

### 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 November 4, 2015, meeting.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- No one from the Public was present.

### 3. DIVISIONAL REPORTS

#### Administrative Division – Capt. Hopkins:

- Communications: a new dispatcher was hired on November 23. Oral boards to fill a Communications Supervisor position will be held next week. Communications will be up to full complement, an achievement that hasn't been realized for several years.
- Progress for the new radio system is on track for April.
- Looking at a new Records Management System.
- Grant approved to improve video monitoring around the building.
- Training: held a entry-level police officer written/physical agility test on November 21. Out of 375 applicants, 288 showed to take the test, 20 of whom failed the written test and another 110 failed various parts of the physical agility test. Oral boards for the remaining 158 candidates were held November 30, December 1 and December 2. Five candidates did not show for their appointments, 40 did not pass, leaving a pool of 113 to move on to the background phase.
- Fleet: had some issues to debug in some new vehicles and a delay in delivery of others, but all should be out on the road over next few weeks.
- Building: minor issues to take care of.
- Verizon looking at MPD as a site for installing a cell tower on the roof. Will decide between MPD and Highway facilities for best location.

#### Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- Comm. Roy inquired if Verizon would be required to pay a "space rental fee." Capt. Hopkins advised Verizon would be required however fees would go to the general fund, not to MPD.

#### Community Policing Division – Capt. Boucher:

- CP officers conducted 24 presentations during November, to include Officer Friendly, Active Shooter Response, Internet Safety, Gangs and Street Drugs, as well as safety clinics, and workplace violence.
- Attended 12 meetings ranging from Crimeline, neighborhood watch groups, and planning for the 2016 Law Enforcement Appreciation Night at Fisher Cats Stadium.
- Conducted one tour of the building for a Girl Scout troop.
- There were 5 public events ranging from block parties, community events, K9 demonstrations and senior walks.
- Completed the city engineer's proposed Bike Path review.
- Proactive Crime Prevention and Safety Initiatives:
  - *Panhandling*: Officers have been and will continue to conduct plainclothes operations to address the issue.
  - *Holiday Season Retail Crime Prevention Initiative*: will conduct high visibility and plainclothes operations to curb retail theft and theft from vehicles. Officers will be distributing holiday cards with safety tips to shoppers at various retail stores, concentrating on the Mall of NH and south end locations.
  - *Mounted Patrol*: Continues to be a presence in the downtown area where they have been targeting the parks, parking lots and hot spot areas. The MP officers have made several arrest, issued summonses and conducted field contacts.

- *Drugs/Prostitution*: Officers Karoul and Battistelli have been assigned to investigate a complaint generating from 75 Log Street.
- Closed investigations:
  - *491 Kennard Road*, address of numerous calls for service reference to drug overdose, burglaries and thefts. The victim, Ruth Ahern, allowed her drug-addicted, prostitute daughter to stay at the residence, the circumstance of which was the major factor for the calls. The daughter has since moved out and calls ceased.
  - *83 O'Malley Street*: numerous calls ref noise, check condition and verbal arguments. This is a MHA property and at the end of September the occupants were evicted and the calls ceased.
  - *363 Silver Street*: tenant, Melissa Cash, generated nightly calls for service against her second and third floor neighbors ref noise. CP Officer Seigle learned that Ms. Cash is the former girlfriend to the landlord and it appeared she was fabricating or embellishing the complaints. She has since been evicted and the calls ceased.

**Questions/Comments/Discussion:**

- Comm. Castillo referenced the holiday cards the CP officers will be handing out and remarked that it was a sad situation the people had to be reminded to lock their residence and car doors.
- Comm. Roy inquired if the PD still provides security at the Mall. Capt. Boucher advised that the Mall of NH used to hire extra detail officers for traffic and security during the holiday season, but since its procurement by Simon Malls, that practice has ceased, the bottom line being the more important. MPD, as part of its holiday season proactive measures will focus resources as indicated by a daily calls-for-service report.
- Comm. Roy inquired if the date for the Fisher Cats Law Enforcement Appreciation Night had been set. Capt. Boucher did not have the date and will advise commissioners when it has been determined.

**Patrol Division – Capt. Begley:**

- AC Capano introduced Capt. Begley as newly promoted and assigned to Patrol, replacing Capt. Soucy, who has been assigned to the Investigative position.
- Capt. Begley advised that MPD had just completed the initial 12-week collaboration initiative with NH State Police referred to as Operation Cyan. The initiative saw a 34% reduction in Part I crimes, compared to the timeframe just prior to the start of the program. The State Police will be funding another six weeks, to begin this week and will run through New Year's Eve. Operation Cyan will assist Patrol and Traffic officers on South Willow Street during the holiday season.
- Patrol officers will participate in Active Shooter training to be held December 28 at McLaughlin school.
- DWI patrols will begin December 9 and run through New Year's Eve.
- Five officers completed Field Training Thanksgiving week. Four have been assigned to the midnight shift and one to the 4-12 shift.
- Effective December 7, newly promoted Lt. Mangone will begin his assignment as Midnight Shift Commander and new Sgt. Caldwell will begin as Street Supervisor on the Day Shift.
- Traffic officers have been investigating several serious accidents.

**Questions/Comments/Discussion:**

- Comm. Castillo inquired if officers are assigned to Operation Cyan. AC Capano advised the operation is run on a voluntary overtime basis. Officers are given the opportunity to sign up for overtime positions, but if need be, some officers may be forced to take the positions.
- Comm. Spradling commented that the downturn in crime statistics due to Operation Cyan was very impressive and should be made known to the public.

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

- Search warrants were conducted on November 12 at 331 and 336 Lake Avenue, which was a nuisance address generating many drug-related complaints. Drug operations were shut down at the address.
- The fifth Granite Hammer operation was conducted on November 19. The operation focused on 63 Goffe Street, 12 L English Village Road, #301, and 249 E. High Street. There were 7 arrests and seizure of 249 grams of heroin, 8 grams of marijuana, and \$8,115 cash.
- Totals for all five Granite Hammer operations: 54 arrests, seizure of 6049 grams of heroin, 14.1 grams of cocaine, 118 grams of crystal meth, and 695 grams of marijuana, and varying amounts of other controlled substances. Also seized: \$26,842 in cash, 1 rifle, 1 pistol and 2 vehicles.
- The SWAT team had full-team rifle training at Sig Academy, and the Snipers had qualifications at an Epping outdoor range.
- The SWAT team assisted Secret Service with Hilary Clinton's visit to Manchester on November 29.
- Assistant SWAT Team Leader Sgt. Brennan oversaw a training with Mall personnel, MFD, and NH State Police Explosives Unit to prepare for the holiday shopping season.

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

- Comm. Clifford inquired if MPD is reimbursed for providing coverage for a political candidate. Capt. Sanclemente stated the PD is not reimbursed for assistance requested by the Secret Service. The assistance is provided as a law enforcement courtesy and it is good for the PD to have officers in on the event to protect the city, while Secret Service concentrates their efforts on their VIP. Non-Secret Service protected candidates may hire extra-detail officers.
- Comm. Spain referred to the November 4 meeting minutes and comment reference Lt. Leighton serving on a Statewide Drug Symposium committee. Capt. Sanclemente advised the symposium was still in the planning stage and no date had been set.
- Comm. Spradling inquired if the first week in February, just prior to the NH primary would be very hectic for the SWAT team. Capt. Sanclemente confirmed the time prior to the primary would offer challenges. A lot of MPD resources, not just SWAT members, would be called on to assist with VIP visits. Traffic Unit officers will handle motorcade events, with other sworn members, including SWAT team, assisting.
- Comm. Clifford commented that he read in the newspaper that forfeiture funds may be going to the State. AC Capano advised that he did not believe the legislation would pass. Police agencies have demonstrated that forfeiture monies are essential for funding drug investigations. If legislation does pass, it will adversely affect local PDs.

#### **Legal Division – Capt. Tessier:**

- The promotion of Sgt. Brian Caldwell leaves a vacancy in the Sexual Offender Compliance Unit. The one remaining officer in the two-man unit will now have to solely cover both offender registry and compliance of 527 registered offenders living in the city. Officer Eric Desmarais is a great asset to the Legal Division as he at times also covers court. It will be some time before a second SOCU officer is assigned; hopefully Officer Desmarais is up to his multiple duties.
- Officer Thomas
- The Records Unit staff continues to do their best handling paperwork for court, especially in light of one staff member out on lengthy medical leave. The Juvenile Unit admin assistant was recently assigned to the Records Unit, which has been a great benefit.
- The Ordinance Violations Bureau is waiting on the hiring of a clerk to handle the alarms permits duties. The duties were transferred from the City Clerk's office to OVB in April and the current OVB staff are slowly data entering a backlog of permits. A candidate for the position is in the background stage of hiring, which hopefully will be completed soon. AC Capano advised that a prior candidate, who was just a few days away from completing a months-long background, withdrew from the process. Another candidate had to be identified, which set the hiring process back a few months.

#### **Investigative Division – Capt. Soucy:**

- Capt. Soucy advised he is still getting a handle on some of the high profile cases, but there is a great team of investigators within the division. Lt. Grant, who has overseen the Detective Squad since Capt. Flanagan's retirement has done a great job and has been a great asset in acclimating Capt. Soucy to his assignment as Investigative Division Commander.
- The Juvenile Unit is working with the Attorney General's office re two recent infant deaths. And their work on a juvenile human trafficking case led to the arrest of Donald Kaplan on November 19.
- Sgt. Loui is reviewing the case files of the unsolved homicide of Walter Page which occurred 20 years ago. There is a meeting with family members planned.
- The sentencing hearing for Thomas Landry, who was convicted of shooting at two females in a passing vehicle, wounding one (in July 2013), was held Dec. 1. MPD Admin was at the hearing in support of the victims. Landry, a military veteran, received only suspended sentences.
- The Investigative division has assisted SED and task force with overdose cases and with Granite Hammer.
- Following up on the Pittman homicide, the suspect was arrested November 20. Great job by all PD personnel.
- Have had some success with AFIS fingerprint matching. Prints lifted at two different burglaries entered into AFIS came back as a match to one suspect. Sgt. Loui is working on having MPD's AFIS system linked to the FBI, which will greatly increase the available prints on file to be able have a hit on a match.
- There has been some consideration of identifying a third person for evidence handling.
- The Domestic Violence Unit has been investigating 12 rapes that occurred in November. Investigators have been facing difficulties with witnesses and uncooperative victims.
- Sgt. Thompson of the DV Unit submitted a grant to acquire funding to continue two positions assigned to the DV Unit at District Court.
- Two detectives are attending training AG's protocol on sexual assault.
- Planning on conducting K9 drug searches at the city schools.
- Reserve Officer Richard Ell has been assigned as a School Resource Officer at MST.

#### Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- Comm. Clifford requested updates on the Denise Robert homicide. Capt. Soucy advised he was unable to provide information other than it remains a very active investigation.
- Comm. Roy requested clarification of his understanding of the SRO assignments – that they are in essence patrol officers assigned to the Investigative Unit. Capt. Soucy advised that the title School Resource *Officer* is actually a misnomer. The SRO's investigate crimes at the schools and as such are referred to as detectives, and as such, are assigned to the Investigative Division. Central High School generates some pretty complex cases to be investigated, and it was a smart move to assign two SROs to the school. The activity was too much for one SRO to handle.
- AC Capano advised that Chief Willard and he were meeting with Dr. Livingston and the principal of MST next week to iron issues reference the SRO debacle. The issue of reassigning the MST SRO to Central HS was discussed with the Assist. Supt. David Ryan from the outset. The School Dept wasn't blindsided by this change, as the media would have everyone believe. Reserve Officer works 30 hours a week as SRO for MST. He is doing a good job. He is the former coordinator for MPAL and many students remember him and have reached out to him.
- AC Capano commented that there had been some negativity from aldermen reference the purchase of the AFIS system, that the cost wasn't worth the results. Since activating the system there have been 18 hits, and recently getting more and more hits. It is exciting that the PD will be connected to the FBI database.

#### Assistant Chief Capano:

- Will be attending a Building on Hope event at the MPAL Center tonight.
- At the December 1 meeting of the BMA, \$52,000 was approved for MPD to purchase three drug ID systems. SED tested two systems and decided that the Tactical ID system best fit the PD's needs. The electronic system allows for identification of a drug without the officer having to take it out of its packaging and thus be exposed to potentially dangerous substances, such as fentanyl.
- As advised by Capt. Hopkins, Communications is looking to hire a supervisor. A dispatcher who was promoted to a supervisor position in June has decided to return to his dispatching position.
- Out of the 113 officer candidates who passed the oral boards, the department is hoping to hire 19 officers. There are also a few certified officers already in the background process.

#### Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- Comm. Roy inquired if the relaxing the tattoo policy was key in seeing a large number of applicants for the PO test. AC Capano stated it may have had some impact.
- Comm. Roy requested that kudos be extended to all those involved with recruitment.
- Comm. Clifford inquired if the substations were still be utilized. AC Capano advised that the Walker Street, Kelly Street and Lake Avenue stations were in use. The stations are used by officers to type reports and take lunch breaks, not open to the public, though on occasion someone will knock on the door to ask a question.
- Comm. Clifford commented on the new winter parking ban. AC Capano advised this was a proposal of Ald. Ludwig and based on a study done by a college student. Comm. Clifford expressed his concern that the streets will not be cleared properly with cars parking on the same side of the street every night for a month. AC Capano commiserated with the commissioner's point of view but the street clearing is Highway's responsibility and the PD's responsibility is to enforce the aldermanic decision.

#### 4. RETIREMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

- Officer Eythan Caputo, hired March 16, 2015, resigned his position effective November 11, 2015.

#### 5. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING / MOTION TO ADJOURN

The date of the next commission meeting was set for:

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2015, AT 09:00 HOURS**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 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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