

Rochester Police Commission
Rochester, NH 03867

Derek J. Peters, Commissioner
David R. Stevens, Commissioner
Lisa M. Stanley, Commissioner

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

The Rochester Police Commission held their regular monthly meeting in City Hall Council Chambers on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. Present at this meeting was Comm. Stevens, Comm. Stanley, Chief Toussaint, Dep. Chief Boudreau, Capt. Thomas, Captain Pinkham, Chaplain Cilley and Secretary Warburton, invited guests and members of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

A. Pledge. All participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Prayer. Chaplain Cilley delivered the opening prayer.

C. Roll Call. The clerk called the roll marking Commissioner's Stevens and Stanley present.

Commissioner Peters was excused.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A. January 8, 2020 regular meeting.

Comm. Stanley MOVED to accept the minutes of the January 8, 2020 meeting as presented. Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion to accept the minutes, PASSED unanimously.

4. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no old or unfinished business to come before the Commission.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Oaths of Office – Promotions to Sergeant: Officer Benjamin and Officer Krochmal took their respective oaths for promotion to Sergeant, administered by Attorney Mitrushi.

Chief Toussaint said that a promotion to Sergeant is one of the more difficult transitions as you go from "buddy to boss" no longer just one of the guy's. The vetting process for promotion is extensive. Officers take a written exam, participate in oral boards with command staff and then with the Commission.

Chief Toussaint said that Sgt. Benjamin has been a member of our agency since April of 2014. He has received a lot of special training and is involved in many roles in the Department, including as a field-training officer, a member of the crisis intervention team, a member of our honor guard, a member of the motorcycle unit. He is a physical testing instructor, a defensive tactics instructor and a CRASE (citizen response to active shooter events) instructor. Sgt. Benjamin hold a BA in justice studies from Southern NH University.

Chief Toussaint advised that Sergeant Krochmal's promotion is temporary through the end of this fiscal year. We have had quite a transition the past couple of years that has resulted in a vacuum of experience on the 4-12 shift with younger, inexperienced officers. Having additional supervisory experience on this shift will benefit these young officers and the department.

Sgt. Krochmal has been with us since 2017, but has police experience with other agencies in Northwood, Gilmanton and Epsom. He held the role of Sergeant in Northwood from 2012 to 2017. Cory has extensive training including the FBI LEEDA supervisory training, forensic crime scene, and Taser and firearms instructor. He is also a field-training officer. With his knowledge and experience, he has become a valued member of our department.

B. Awards and Recognitions:

1. Commendation Bar for Lifesaving. Chief Toussaint noted that Department members, as well as a civilian nurse who was passing by the scene were to be recognized for their lifesaving efforts. Officer Johnson came upon a car off the roadway, running and in drive, with the driver non-responsive. She reached into the car to put it in park and turn off the engine. Other officers including Sgt. Marc Cilley, Off. James Murphy, Off. Timothy Costin as well as Civilian Erinn Lindsey all provided lifesaving measures, including CPR and administering Narcan. This individual was receiving lifesaving measures for 7 minutes, while EMS was enroute. We have a certificate for Erinn Lindsey.

2. Blair Memorial Award: Off. Jacob Garstin This is our 18th year presenting the Blair memorial award, which is considered the most prestigious award we issue, and it personifies what we expect a police officer to be. Chief Blair was the type of person that not only made you feel like he was a great leader but also made you feel like you were a good police officer. This award is given annually to that officer that most embodies the positive traits of integrity and character that former Chief Blair displayed on the job and throughout his life. Chief Blair passed away only six months into his role as Chief. He had a positive impact on everyone who worked with or knew him and his memory lives on through this award. He worked his entire career with the Rochester Police Department, rising to the rank of Chief. He served with pride, integrity and honor and he left his mark on the community and the culture and traditions of this police department.

Chief Toussaint said this award is given to that Officer who throughout the year consistently maintains an exceptional level of public service and exemplifies characteristics reminiscent of Chief Blair. This includes but is not necessarily limited to the following: compassion, commitment and dedication, patience, inspiring through mentoring, having honesty and integrity, being respectful of others, a good disposition, enthusiasm for the job and a sense of humor.

We are honored to present this award to Det. Jacob Garstin. Jacob possesses the traits and exhibits the characteristics commensurate with this most prestigious award. He was recently assigned to

the investigations bureau. Prior he served in patrol. He is a highly driven officer making an impact on crime in the city. He is compassionate, one example being giving courtesy rides during extremely cold weather in certain circumstances. He worked a very busy shift and was always patient while helping those in need. When faced with argumentative, violent or rude customers, he remain professional and gave these individuals the respect they are owed. He is always seeking to improve himself. He became a field-training officer mentoring new officers as they graduate from the academy. He attends our Ward meetings which is a testament to the community and the agency and that he is dedicated to his chosen profession. He is currently pursuing his masters in criminal justice. A plaque was presented, along with flowers to his wife.

3. Employees of the Year:

A. Support of the Year: Stephen Kerlee. Chief Toussaint advised that there are people who are not sworn officers that contribute directly to our success. Our crime analyst Stephen Kerlee was selected from peer nomination as our Support Person of the year. Steve was originally hired in August of 2014 as our first civilian evidence technician. This was a position traditionally held by a police officer. In August of 2019, Steve was hired as our crime analyst. He comes to us with a law enforcement background, having served 20 years with the Dover Police Department. He retired at the rank of Lieutenant in 2009. His knowledge of police work and investigations has contributed to his new role as crime analyst. He routinely shares valuable information during briefings, on new trends and resources that create leads. This is the second time Steve has received this honor. He was previously selected in 2015.

B. Officer of the Year: Sgt. Corey Krochmal. Chief Toussaint requested that Sgt. Krochmal come up for recognition as Police Officer of the year. His nomination letter notes that he consistently puts forth a superior effort. His prior experience shows. He is eager to help in training, he is quick to banter with coworkers, which has a positive effect on morale, he sought out actual events to assist his trainee during field training that will benefit this officer, and he maintains an excellent attitude and puts forth a positive image of himself and the agency. He actively recruits certified officers to join our agency. His high professional standards motivates others.

A brief recess was called. Back in session at 7:39 P.M.

D. Monthly Reports

OPERATIONS: Captain Thomas noted that all of the wards met this period. Most of what was discussed was the comp stat report and crime data for each ward. There was a discussion on theft versus burglary versus shoplifting. There were questions about the Ring type camera video and the quality of the videos along with the department's ability to view such video. There were additional issues raised regarding suspicious persons walking in neighborhoods, noise complaints, speeding complaints and increased traffic in certain areas, as well as the on line crime reporting and development at the Ridge.

The investigations bureau had 57 cases submitted for review. There are currently 74 cases assigned. There were 10 cases presented to the Grand Jury all with true bills. There were three detective call outs, (2 death investigations and one theft from a storage unit.) There were two polygraphs and three backgrounds completed. There were six compliance checks for sex offenders. There were 424 pieces of evidence logged in, and 39 items returned to owners. We have filled the vacant evidence technician position and that person is currently in training.

CEO/ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER: Officer Danie continues to do a very good job. He, along with Sgt. Babine and Det. Moore worked to address a troubled residence in the city that was suspected of drug activity. Charges were lodged for the tenant for common nuisance related to consistent calls for drug activity. This tenant has since been evicted.

Officer Danie has been balancing his work with the POP unit and community events planning. Officer Danie also organized our third annual Skate with a Cop, at the ice arena on February 1, 2020, followed by the charity hockey game with the Granite State Cannons supporting skateforthe22.org

Officer Danie is working on the RAD women's self-defense course being held over three days (March 7, 8 and 14). There are still openings for this course. Information on sign up can be found on our Face Book page, or by contacting Officer Danie directly. We do hope to offer the course quarterly.

Comm. Stanley commented that the last class that was held there was a lot of interest and it filled up fast, but the day of, there were several no shows. Are we doing anything different to prevent that? Could we do a refundable deposit? When they show, they get their money back.

Chief Toussaint said we don't charge for the course and we don't have a mechanism for holding the money. We don't want to scare people off. We could do a check in period the day before, and if you don't confirm, your spot can be reallocated.

COMP STAT: Traffic stops were consistent with our last reporting period. As officers are moved from field training to solo patrol we expect to see those numbers increase. The vast majority of the stops are focused in the downtown and on major travel routes in the city. Traffic crashes increased significantly largely attributed to weather-related events. All of the DWI arrests were from alcohol. Those related to people coming from licensed establishments have been forward to liquor enforcement.

In property crimes, a trend was uncovered in recent months of items of lesser dollar value, but of more use to transient individuals being stolen from motor vehicles. That trend did not continue into this reporting period. We did see some thefts of packages and mail this reporting period. Overall property crime is down 1% from last year. No trends or concerns were identified with respect to violent crimes for the month—which ended the year at a 14% decrease from 2018.

Drug incidents continue to involve a variety of different drugs, including heroin/fentanyl, methamphetamine, marijuana, cocaine, and prescription drugs. All of the drug arrests made were from search incident to arrest for a separate crime.

Comm. Stanley commented that of the drug incidents over doses were down, but fatal overdoses were up substantially.

Capt. Thomas said this could be attributed things like a bad batch/mix of drugs. This trend was noted statewide. Like Rochester, both Manchester and Nashua reported fewer overdoses but increases in deaths.

COMMUNICATIONS: The background for the candidate for our vacant position is nearly complete. If all goes well, we hope to have this person on board by months end. We will be installing SPOTS at all of the workstations.

DIVERSION: Teen night had 215 youth in January. Our partner service agencies were Seacoast Outright and the American Foundation for Suicide prevention. We have begun posting flyers and information on the documentary and panel titled Tre Mason Daison, about the impact on youth having incarcerated parents to be shown February 21 at the Community Center.

Nicole started working with the Diversion Network on the Annual Summit in May, which will introduce the Juvenile Justice Transformation plan to the entire juvenile justice system.

Nicole worked with the POP Unit planning and preparing for the Skate with a Cop event held February 1.

EMD USE: Display and Deploy: None Display Only: Three

FINANCIAL/PURCHASING: Dep. Chief Boudreau noted that overall we are in good shape at this halfway point of our FY20 budget. We are projecting our heating fuel to be over due to a change in the supplier. We are projecting a \$300,000 surplus overall, largely driven by salary and benefit savings due to open positions we have had through the majority of the year.

Our FY21 budget has been submitted to the City Manager. We met with him and finance on February 3 to review our needs and requests. We did request two new officers through the issues and options process. No date has been set for budget presentations to council. There had been some discussion of an all-day retreat, but it looks like it will be in conjunction with Council meetings as it has been traditionally.

The online crime reporting software project remains on schedule and on track for a go-live date in March. As we get to the end of February, we will have more movement on the outward facing pages and testing of the software.

On January 28 all stakeholders from the City, and the team from 2-way met for the radio project kickoff meeting. This outlined the project overview, timetables for starting and completion. We anticipate the initial work on site to start in April with it being substantially complete by September. The tower will not have power to be brought on line until final construction of the DPW facility. We will also bring a new site on line later for the water tower being designed at Highfield Commons.

The dispatch center wiring work will also be on going. The consoles will be a bit crowded as both the current and new equipment will be in place.

Comm. Stanley asked if any of the dispatch equipment would be in use.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said some of it, yes.

Comm. Stevens asked if there is a project manager for this.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said there is. It is 2-Way's service manager. They will be providing a weekly update to all key personnel. Once the system is on line with final sign offs anticipated in October and November and then any remaining punch list items, pulling power and data from the DPW building to bring that one on line. Waiting for that tower won't affect the operation of the system.

Our award notice for the JAG Grant was received. It was delayed due to a clerical error. We have submitted to Council to have the award accepted. We have one quick change to make for the Council acceptance that it is a multi-year fund. We have five years to expend JAG awards. Once the funds are received, we will move forward with the purchase of the load bearing carriers and gear pouches.

We are looking at a build date for the new cruisers of March 9. It is likely we won't receive them until sometime in April.

HIRING: We still have one full time police position remaining to be filled.

FORFEITURE SPENDING: None

HONOR GUARD: The Honor Guard will participate in the Battle of the Badges, C.H.a.D. game on March 15, 2020.

HOUSING: We had 37 Police related calls for service this month. This is a slight uptick in the activity. The calls for service don't have any patterns or areas of concern. There were background checks for new applicants.

K-9: This month the Rochester K-9 unit responded to seven calls—six were tracks; 4 in Rochester and two out of town. There was one drug search out of town.

PROSECUTION - ADULT: There were 349 new cases with 470 charges. There were 149 guilty pleas, 101 not guilty, 44 cases nol prossed. There were 108 who failed to appear, 22 found guilty by the court, 14 cases dismissed by the court and 4 cases placed on file, and 28 cases were continued.

PROSECUTION - JUVENILE: Juvenile prosecution had 30 petitions. One was referred to diversion. There were 10 arraignments. There were three trials (2 pleas, 1 continued). There were fifteen hearings, (8 review, 4 violation, 1 show cause, 1 emergency, 1 dispositional). One charge nol prossed for juvenile aging out. There were 4 investigations or complaints /warrant for theft from District Court, and 5 motions to impose suspended sentences or motions to bring case forward for trial.

Lt. Gould also met with SAU 54 Assistant Superintendent regarding the school needing to perform manifestation reviews on all cases going to court when a juvenile has an IEP. She met with Seacoast Learning Collaborative to prepare investigations for court.

RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION: The Association meeting on January 9, 2020. Lt. Bossi reviewed information regarding the House bill at the state for disorderly houses. He discussed ways that property owners can work with their police departments when they have problem tenants. He fielded questions on restraining orders, disorderly conduct and amplified sound. He discussed the process for obtaining reports from Rochester Police Department. Lt. Bossi provided tips when property owners are reporting crimes and when to report them. It was explained how we track crimes and use the information to analyze and help our patrols and case solvability.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS: The LEAD program is continuing in the schools.

High School Highlights: Officer Jackson demonstrated new police equipment and fingerprinting for Criminal Justice students. He counseled a student and parents regarding issues occurring at school. He completed security checks on outside doors throughout the month. He completed 5 offense and 5 arrest reports

Middle School Highlights: Sgt. Deluca taught the principles of ADD at St. Charles Children's Home. He worked Teen Night. He worked twelve different instances assisting a student lacking normal social skills. He worked with the Guidance office for nine different students having issues. He completed security checks for the building throughout month. He taught ADD to students. He completed 2 offense and 1 arrest report.

Elementary School Highlights: Officer Porfido did weekly check-in at all the schools. He finished LEADs classes for 5 schools, gave students certificates. He conducted crossing guard responsibilities at Portland/School Street school. He did a lockdown drill at Chamberlain Street School. He chaperoned a field trip to the Museum of Science in Boston. He participated in a parent/teacher re-entry meeting for a student. He completed 4 offense reports (3 regarding SRO duties and 1 patrol duty) and completed 1 arrest report while working a patrol shift. He also worked Teen Night, worked on Skate with a Cop with Officer Danie, completed two fingerprint sessions with Rotary and attended the Explorer meetings.

Explorer Post: Officer Jackson held two Explorer meetings this month. The re-chartering process for the Post is ongoing. He took members of the post for a tour of the Strafford County Jail.

TRAINING: Officers' Colson and Knox are through four weeks of the Academy, with no concerns. Officer Marshall is getting ready for his final observation week prior to being released to solo patrol. All officers in field training are progressing through the training. We are completing our annual Taser recertification this period. We were scheduled to host a Glock armorer training but it was canceled due to low enrollment. We would have received two free seats for hosting. Captain Pinkham and Secretary Green attended Right to Know training. Officer Garneau was certified as a firearms instructor.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence for the month included: A resident thanks Off. Turgeon and Sgt. Deluca for assisting their child with a bullying incident.

7. INFORMATION:

A. End 68. Comm. Stanley commented that the City was a corporate sponsor for End 68 hours of hunger in January; city and school employees held a food drive. Comm. Stanley publicly thanked the Police Department for putting forward such an enormous effort. They were one of the larger contributors. The total collection of monetary and food donations was substantial and valued at roughly \$3,000.00.

B. Salvation Army Thrift Store. Comm. Stanley asked that we reach out to Bill Moriarty, the regional manager for the Salvation Army Thrift stores about recent vandalism and thefts occurring there.

Chief Toussaint advised the POP unit could reach out to talk about ways to mitigate the problems they are seeing.

8. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: (Pursuant to: RSA 91-A:3)

Commissioner Stanley MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 8:00 P.M. pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, paragraph II, section A (personnel) and section E (legal.) Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote 2 - 0 with Comm. Stevens and Comm. Stanley voting in the affirmative.

The non-public session closed at 8:20 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. Stevens. SECOND by Comm. Stanley. The motion PASSED by roll call vote 2 - 0 with Comm. Stevens and Comm. Stanley voting in the affirmative.

Comm. Stevens MOVED to seal the minutes indefinitely. SECOND by Comm. Stanley. The motion PASSED by roll call vote 2 - 0 with Comm. Stevens and Comm. Stanley voting in the affirmative.

9. MISCELLANEOUS:

Comm. Stanley MOVED to award per the collective bargaining agreement a merit increase on the respective anniversary dates to Off. William Robinson to merit track 4 and Off. Jason Plumb to merit track 4. Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Stanley 8:22 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton
Secretary

APPROVED BY COMMISSION: 03/04/2020