



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 on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. in City Hall, Council Chambers. Participants in this meeting: Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens, Comm. Stanley, Chief Toussaint, Dep. Chief Boudreau, Capt. Thomas, Chaplain Cilley and Secretary Warburton. Also present were invited guests and members of the Department.

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

All participated in the pledge of allegiance. Chaplain Cilley led us in prayer.

B. Roll Call. The clerk called the roll marking Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Stevens and Commissioner Stanley present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sarah Leonard - 5 Highland Street. Ms. Leonard noted that she has been a resident of Rochester for the past 1.5 years. Ms. Leonard described at length and in detail her mental health and her interaction with the Police Department. She noted that Rochester has a CIT team, one of the best she has experienced. She has had three interactions with the Department and two were negative. She indicated that CIT officers did not respond to one of the events as they were off duty. She quoted the Police Department website that says, "Officers will be part of a specialized team, which can respond to a crisis at any time."

She noted that she had a caregiver crisis and that the Police Department became involved in her life in the past year in an unnecessary way that that was damaging and could affect her in a permanent way. She indicated that with her PTSD she is afraid to live in my city and my home. She said that we need a full time crisis intervention team so I feel safer living here and I don't die.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A. May 5, 2021 regular meeting.

Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the minutes of the May 5, 2021 meeting as presented. Comm. Stanley SECONDED the motion. The motion to accept the minutes PASSED unanimously.

4. **OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** No old or unfinished business.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Awards and Recognitions. Chief Toussaint said that it is nice to see people in person. This is the first time in a long time, so we have a hefty agenda with awards. These have been put off until we could get people here to show support of the officers and to recognize the excellent work.

1. *Robert Brown – 40 years of volunteerism Diversion Programs.* First up Chief Toussaint said our first award of the night, he will turn the mic over to Nicole Rodler our Diversion Coordinator. She has an award for one of Rochester's finest citizens who has been volunteering and doing outstanding work for the City for many, many years.

Ms. Rodler said this person is one of our city's and our youths' greatest champions. She invited Anne May up as this goes back to 1980, which shows how significant this truly is.

Anne May noted that she arrived in Rochester, NH, in 1980, a transplant from the mid-west. She was hired to administer a 3-year Juvenile Court Diversion program grant. The first order of business was to recruit community members to sit on contract committees to make contracts with each of the young people that were referred. She said Bob Brown showed up in that process. And, he is still here, which is absolutely amazing. The committees met once per month, listened and spoke with the young person and parent and make a contract specific to that person. Kind of a one and done thing. However, I was able to follow these kids and help them through the contract process to succeed in the program. The committee members never had the experience that I had. The people that come up to say thank you, and me after you saved my life; thank you, you changed my life; thank you, I'm a grandfather now; thank you, I own my own business, with 20 employees. So I pass those thank you's on to Bob for 40 years of contracts. Thank you.

Nicole followed with words penned by Deb Houle, who followed Anne in the Diversion role and who passed that torch along to Nicole in 2009.

Deb Houle said I was the Coordinator of The Rochester Juvenile Court Diversion Program for 20 years, retiring in 2010. While she couldn't attend in person, she was here in heart. Her words can't come close to capturing what Bob Brown has been to the Juvenile Court Diversion program for 40 years. This man is one of the most compassionate, dedicated, selfless individuals I have EVER met, and his impact on this community cannot be measured. He has had a profound influence and interest in Rochester, the community-at-large and countless individuals. Rochester has been privileged to have had him serving as a juvenile court diversion committee member for every one of those years.

Bob has always exemplified the best qualities necessary as a volunteer in restorative justice and believed in the worth of every young person "clients" who has come through the doors of the diversion program. He took an active interest in the lives of the young people we served. He set up meaningful community service situations where our "clients" could meet good, kind adults who made them feel worthwhile but also helped to develop new skills. He wanted the program to provide the framework for positive change in a disciplined way but not as a punitive means of diminishing the individual. And

typically, the contracts were tough but individually designed to bring out the best in our youth and help them to make proper amends both to the community and victim, if possible, while learning something of value that could have a lasting effect.

If a family needed something, he found it. If a youth needed something, he found it, donated it or made the experience happen. Supportive was anything that could raise youth up and give him/her a glimpse of what a good life can be. And, because of his genuine interest and active engagement, the other volunteers followed his lead. He was, and is, a leader by example.

It didn't stop there. Bob always had the diversion program in the back of his mind when out in the community, working or volunteering for one of his many associations. I am positive he single-handedly recruited more than half of the volunteers that the diversion program has had over these 40 years, and most of those volunteers stayed for many years and became staunch supporters of the diversion process and the youth we serve. Those volunteers also became leaders. In addition, he attended community meetings representing the needs and interests as an advocate for the diversion process. And he tirelessly played an active role in any adjunct program or idea (eg; Teen Drug Court, Family Support Center, Community Drug Coalition, National Night Out to name a few) developed through The Rochester Juvenile Court Diversion Program.

Bob's ongoing support gave me the confidence to pursue ideas, develop programs and make them a reality that could strengthen our community. This is a glimpse of Bob Brown from my perspective. I know there are many people who feel the same having had the privilege of working with this man through his many associations throughout the community and state, in addition to his commitment to The Rochester Juvenile Court Diversion Program.

As Bob would rather fly under the radar than be lauded, I will conclude with this. In my 20 years as the Juvenile Court Diversion Program Coordinator, I can't express enough gratitude to Bob Brown for the extraordinary commitment and support he offered to the youth and families we served and for his dedication and tireless efforts for the City of Rochester. Thank You for your outstanding service.

Nicole Rodler echoed these sentiments. A plaque commemorating Bob Brown's selfless acts was presented to him.

2. Commendation Bar for Lifesaving – Officer Crawford and Officer Butcher. Officer's Crawford and Butcher were presented with the lifesaving bar to wear on their uniform in recognition of performing CPR on a person choking at a local establishment. The officers continued to assist the medical staff while they were working on the male until EMS took over life saving measures. The male was admitted to ICU and survived the ordeal, likely due to the quick decisive actions of these officers.

3. 20 Years of Service – Chief Toussaint noted that it is rare to hit the 20 year milestone, and even rarer in police work to do it all with the same agency.

Lt. Anthony Bossi. Lt. Bossi was hired in 2000, promoted to Sergeant in 2006 and to Lieutenant in 2013. He was a crimes against person's detective prior to promotion. Some things he is involved with in the Department include:

- Coordinates the Honor Guard – was instrumental in the redesign of the uniforms this past year.
- Is the liaison for the Rental Property Owners Association.
- Involved in the Rochester United Neighborhoods; took a vested interest in the Lafayette St neighborhood for many years
- Served on City Boards including for the SOS recovery, Bridging the Gaps, and is Vice President of the RPBA

Lt. Bossi has received the following recognitions in his career thus far

- Lifesaving Award 3 times (one off duty and out of state)
- Distinguished Unit Award seven times,
- Good Conduct Award
- Motor Vehicle Enforcement Award (looking beyond traffic ticket)
- City Employee of the Month

Lt. Bossi was presented with a plaque commemorating his years of service.

Det. Robert Frechette. Det. Frechette was hired in January of 2001. His current assignment is as detective investigating domestic violence. He has worked tirelessly with the Family Justice Center. He has been instrumental in teaching on this topic locally and nationally. He helped write legislation regarding strangulation cases in domestic violence. Other things Bob is involved in with the Department include:

- Bob serves as our guru for First Aid, CPR training
- Is a member of the SWAT Team

Bob has received the following recognitions in his time with us thus far.

- Distinguished Unit Action four times
- Honorable Service
- Chief's award for Domestic Violence Work

Det. Frechette was presented with a plaque commemorating his years of service.

4. Employees of the Year 2020. Chief Toussaint said that every year the Department seeks nominations from the members, peers, to nominate a non-sworn civilian of the year, and a sworn police officer of the year. The civilian side goes unrecognized many times. It includes many support

staff, whether it be secretaries, prosecution and most notably the dispatch center. This year the award goes to Keri Devine, our Communications Center Supervisor. Chief Toussaint read the nomination letter into the record.

Civilian – Communications Manager Keri Devine. I formally nominate Keri Devine, Communications Center Supervisor, as the departments 2020 Civilian Employee of the Year. Upon hiring, Keri immediately began making several improvements within the center that have bettered the center's overall operations. Being a former dispatcher herself, she has been able to use her own knowledge and expertise to improve the center. She has taken the pros and cons of other supervisors she has worked with as well as comments and concerns of other dispatchers and been able to use those things in developing her own leadership style and guide improvements being made.

In addition to improving the center and maintaining strong staff relations, Keri has also been involved with many projects within the center and she is a very valuable asset in helping with and implementing these projects. She has taken a proactive role in seeking some of these improvements, which has brought the center and staff more up to date with current trends and technology.

In addition to all the technical things Keri has improved in the center and continues to work on, she also solicits ideas from the other dispatchers to make the center more enjoyable to work in. This includes different theme days occasionally, different meal sharing, and other things. She tries to get the staff as much training as possible and develop them the best she can with the limit resources and funds available.

Lastly, she has been able to do all this during the ongoing pandemic. Due to the pandemic and staff being out, Keri has filled many shifts to help reduce the amount of ordered overtime on the other staff and keep the budget from exploding. Respectfully Submitted – Todd Pinkham

Chief Toussaint said he would like to echo those sentiments. Keri is one of the best dispatchers we have ever had. With her knowledge, she jumped into this role seamlessly. She improved the center and saved the city money in overtime costs by being flexible and filling in shifts. She goes above and beyond all the time and this award is certainly well deserved. Supervisor Devine was presented with a plaque commemorating this achievement.

Police Officer – Sgt. Jacob Benjamin. Chief Toussaint said the next award is to the Officer of the Year and he is honored to bring up Sgt. Jacob Benjamin. Sgt. Benjamin received two nomination letters for this award. The letters were read into the record.

First nomination. I wanted to take a moment to recognize Sergeant Jacob Benjamin and nominate him for the Officer of the Year Award. I have gone over the criteria for this award and feel that Sergeant Benjamin is qualified as well as deserving of this prestigious award. Officer Benjamin is very consistent in his service, demeanor and character. He is proud of being a police officer and maintains a high standard in his appearance and performance. As far as his personality goes, we could

not ask for a more professional and genuine person. Sergeant Benjamin participates in any opportunities that come his way and likes to stay active and foster proactivity on his shifts.

Sergeant Benjamin has a great sense of humor and gets along great with his colleagues and subordinates. He is approachable with community members as well as civilian employees in the city. He believes in our mission and strives to achieve it. He is very good at using resources that are available to accomplish the department's goals or tasks. Sergeant Benjamin has the ability to think outside the box and will welcome input or ideas from anyone.

Sergeant Benjamin was a newer sergeant during a very challenging time in our city, with the different obstacles that the covid-19 pandemic brought. He was able to champion those hurdles and keep operations going smooth on a busy shift, balancing our responsibility to the city with the uncertainty that was being faced. This was a difficult time for veteran supervisors, so his perseverance was demonstrated.

He is active in his position and is someone who takes responsibility and uses different situations as learning moments for his subordinates to help them grow and improve. Prior to being promoted, he was involved in many different aspects of the department and took advantage of the different opportunities available. Sergeant Benjamin was an FTO as well as on a couple different specialty units within our agency and was active in those roles. He is ambitious to grow in the department and always seeks constructive criticism as well as input to grow in his position.

Sergeant Benjamin is a newer sergeant. He has embraced the position and responsibilities. He brings many qualities to his role and has a high standard for his officers. He is well respected and performs the role he serves very well. Sergeant Benjamin is well rounded and a good spirited person who genuinely cares about others. Sergeant Benjamin is of high moral character and an asset to the department with his drive and well-rounded knowledge.

As a shift lieutenant, I have had the opportunity to witness Sergeant Benjamin in the performance of his duties. He adds to the dynamic of the shift and is someone who can be relied upon. Sergeant Benjamin is a positive individual who can adapt to changing conditions quickly, he is a proud individual that loves what he does and it shows. Please consider Sergeant Benjamin for this award, as he is well deserving of it. Respectfully Submitted - Lt. Anthony Bossi

Second nomination. I am pleased to nominate Sergeant Jacob Benjamin for the 2020 Police Officer of the Year Award in recognition of the consistently superior effort he gives in performance of his duties.

Jacob came to this agency in 2014, and since then he has become involved in various specialty assignments and ultimately promoted to the rank of sergeant nearly one year ago. In his time here, Jacob has developed the technical knowledge and skills to perform as a superior patrol officer and now as a supervisor. Jacob demonstrates strong leadership skills, seeking to improve those he supervises as well as improving himself. Jacob clearly communicates with others, sharing his knowledge as well as listening to what others have to say. Jacob displays enthusiasm and creativity in finding ways to inspire

his shift to having a positive impact on the community — whether that be through a concerted enforcement effort or finding ways to turn police contacts into positive experiences for citizens. Jacob holds himself and others to high standards of dedication, presents himself well in public, and sets a good example for all of us who wear a uniform.

For all of the above reasons, Sergeant Jacob Benjamin exemplifies the term, "Police Professional" and should be appropriately recognized by receiving the 2020 Police Officer of the Year Award. I would be happy to answer any questions. Sincerely, - Lt. Andrew Swanberry

Chief Toussaint said I concur. Jake has been a great addition to the Department and a great addition and valued member to the supervisory role he is in. Sgt. Benjamin was presented with a plaque commemorating this achievement.

5. Blair Memorial Award - Officer Eric Bilodeau.

Chief Toussaint said the final award of the evening is one of our most prized. The award is in memory of a former chief, whom many of you knew. I unfortunately never got to meet him. He passed away just before I was hired at the Rochester Police Department. So I never had the privilege of working with him. Which means that most of the officers who work for the department never had that opportunity either. His name lives on through this award.

We are honored to present the Chief Theodore W. Blair, Jr. Memorial Award. I want to give a little bit of background as to what the criteria was for the award. Our regulations say that this award may be given to that Officer who throughout the year consistently maintains an exceptional level of public service and exemplifies characteristics reminiscent of Chief Blair. Including but not necessarily listed in any specific order Compassion, Enthusiasm for the job, being respectful of others, Commitment and dedication, a good disposition, patience, having honesty and integrity, inspiring through mentoring and a great sense of humor. I don't know how you describe a police officer, a leader better than that. That is why this award is so special. We are honored to present this year's award to Officer Eric Bilodeau. Chief Toussaint also invited members of Chief Blair's family up on the stage for this presentation.

Members are nominated by their peers. The letter for Officer Bilodeau from Lt. Bossi reads:

I wanted to take a moment to recognize Officer Eric Bilodeau and nominate him for the Chief Theodore W. Blair Jr. Memorial Award. I have gone over the criteria for this award and feel that Officer Bilodeau meets what is required and is the example of what this award represents.

I do not have a lot of contact with Officer Bilodeau but the limited opportunities I have had he has impressed me. From what I have seen, he is very consistent in his service, demeanor and character. He is proud of being a police officer, maintains a high standard in his appearance, and is always looking to improve performance. As far as his personality goes, he is very professional and seems to be a genuine person. Officer Bilodeau participates in conversations with anyone and looks to be involved

in whatever is going on. He contributes on his shift and has a spectacular outlook on things. He has to be one of the happiest officers I encounter on a regular basis.

Officer Bilodeau has a good sense of humor and gets along great with his colleagues as well as the community members. He is active in his position and is someone who takes responsibility. He is a newer officer, which makes these traits that much more impressive. As a newer officer, he is good with accepting constructive criticism and does routinely strive to improve. He is well rounded and a good spirited person who genuinely cares about others. Officer Bilodeau is of high moral character and an asset to the department.

As shift lieutenant, I would be happy to have Officer Bilodeau on my team. He adds to the dynamic of the shift and is someone who can be relied upon. Officer Bilodeau is a positive individual who can adapt to changing conditions quickly. He is someone who enjoys the company of his peers and brings humor to the shift he is assigned to.

I unfortunately did not have the honor to know Chief Blair, but based off the criteria of the award and what I have been told by those that did know him; Officer Bilodeau would have been someone who Chief Blair would have been happy to have serving on his department. Please consider Officer Bilodeau for this award, as he is well deserving of it. - Respectfully submitted – Lt. Bossi

Officer Bilodeau was presented with a ribbon for his uniform and a plaque commemorating this achievement.

A short recess was called. The meeting came back into session at 8:10 P.M.

B. Monthly Reports

1. Operations: Over in the support, side there were 35 cases set up from Patrol or ISB generated. There are 69 active cases. There were 28 cases presented to a virtual grand jury. All were true bills.

COMPSTAT: Traffic activity looks like it has increased year to date. The reality at this time a year ago we were shut down from COVID. There was no proactive activity. Our current numbers are still very low but that has to do with staffing.

Property Crimes the good news is overall, year to date, property crime is down 20%. We do have increases year to date in thefts from motor vehicles, which is up 42%. We implore our residents to lock your car doors. You should be able to feel safe in your driveway, but the reality is we have people out overnight just checking for unlocked doors and cars to go through. The biggest decrease year to date is thefts from buildings down 53% year to date, and shoplifting is down 36% year to date.

Drug incidents year to date were up 13% mostly due to possession and drug events. A drug event is typically we are called to a person dancing in the street, which is common in people using meth. Even though incidents are up 13%, in overall drug incidents, overdoses are down 32% year to date and fatal overdoses are down 33% year to date.

Overall, violent crime is following the same trend and is down 28% year to date. A handful of aggravated assaults are from domestic violence. Simple assaults are down year to date and there are no trends or concerns there.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER/PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING UNIT: Officer Danie has met with the Rochester Main Street board to plan future community events as COVID restrictions ease. The CEO and POP and a handful of officers took part in the adaptive bicycle event at the high school. They rode the various bikes and interacted with students. This was very successful. With the retirement of Officer Ball, each member of the unit is rotating weekly in patrol to fill Officer Ball's schedule until additional staffing is available.

COMMUNICATIONS: Our current trainee is in the final stages of training. It is expected she will be released to solo by the end of June. We have a conditional offer and a background underway for the other open position.

HONOR GUARD: The Honor Guard participated in the sad and tragic event for the wake and funeral services for retired Sgt. Stephen Burke. They also participated in the retirement recognition for Officer Eric Ball.

HOUSING: There were 10 background checks and 20 police calls for service at housing locations. The increase can be attributed to the warmer weather. Officers' Mundy and Babine are getting out to the properties and interacting with the tenants. They are doing foot beats and handing out cop cards and free ice cream cards.

K9: It has been one month, today that Officer Dwayne Hatch picked up Gunner from Officer MacKenzie. He is still in training and attending the Working Dog Foundation training every Monday. They have been bonding and Gunner is living with Officer Hatch. Because they have already spent time training with and prior to the retirement of Officer MacKenzie what typically is a six-month certification window we hope to reduce to two months. We are looking at them being certified by July and we can begin using him for call outs. He shows up every day with Gunner, as that is part of bonding and training.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS: Comm. Peters asked if the SRO's would be detailed to patrol during the summer months.

Capt. Thomas said that Officer Jackson will take a couple of weeks of vacation at the end of the school year, and be detailed to the patrol schedule upon his return. Officer Porfido will be taking some paternity leave this summer.

Comm. Peters said the other is part-time so he has things he will do to prepare for. Capt. Thomas said that is correct.

2. Administrative. There has been technical work going on behind the scenes for the radio replacement project related to firehouse alerts to get that part of the project up and running. We've been meeting with the vendor and IT on that aspect. The tower was craned into place today and should be on line by September when power and fiber connectivity is available from the DPW building.

Comm. Stanley asked if this was the final stage of the project.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said the final stage right now. As noted, we did purchase additional gear for a “to-be-built” tower at Highfield Commons, which is the highest point in the City, and we continue to discuss with the City of Dover adding gear to the Long Hill Rd tower for more coverage to the south.

We had a cruiser accident in May. Our insurance carrier totaled the frontline car, a 2019. We were fortunate to locate an unclaimed 2021 Explorer at Arundel Ford. We worked with finance to secure funding and picked it up on Friday. We are waiting for equipment to outfit it. This was extremely lucky timing. We otherwise would have been waiting six months for a cruiser to be built.

The Council approved the city O&M and CIP budgets. We will be able to start the bid process for new cruisers and begin work on the CIP projects that will require significant time and work.

Chief Toussaint said one of the most notable is that the body camera project is going through. We had always planned to go with WatchGuard, who is our vendor for in-car cameras. It is a significant project. We have other vendors who wish to make presentations to us and we feel it is worthwhile to see what else is out there.

Comm. Peters asked if this would be compatible with our existing Watch Guard cameras.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said that is a question to ask. We already have some of the infrastructure with WatchGuard in place, when the cruisers pull into the lot they connect to wireless and video is already downloading. So those are key points.

Comm. Stevens asked whom is the primary vendor that others in NH are using.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said there are several vendors out there for this product. We’ve seen the demo from WatchGuard. How they sync up is great technology. Even responding code, you have both angles, the cruiser and the body camera.

Comm. Peters commented that the cruiser cameras were a valuable tool during the officer involved shooting on Route 125 a couple of years ago.

Comm. Stevens asked what is the time frame to have it on each officer.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said we are laying the groundwork now. The budget doesn’t start until July 1. After that, we can move forward with the city purchasing process.

Comm. Peters said he knows that Comm. Stanley had forwarded some information that the state was looking at possibly funding.

Comm. Stanley said it is a timing issue. We have to watch that legislation which is likely to pass. But then its six months from the passage that a fund will be established. If this is a high priority that probably isn’t the route to go. But there is an opportunity to tap into state funds after January.

Chief Toussaint replied that we will certainly explore that. It is a matter of if we want to wait. The money has been appropriated through the CIP process for this project. Any money we don't have to spend is a bonus for the City. But it has not passed the legislature yet. I imagine it will. But we don't know how much money will be appropriated. We don't know how competitive the process will be. Will they just give anyone that asks half of the cost. We don't know.

Comm. Stevens commented that we don't know if potentially they could provide reimbursement for part of it.

Chief Toussaint said we are aware of the funding on the horizon and we will explore it and look for any opportunity to save the City money.

Comm. Stevens asked now that we are close to the end of the fiscal year, what are we looking at to turn back?

Dep. Chief Boudreau said the return is projected in the area of \$400-450,000, from salaries and benefits.

Hiring. Officer Spencer Aube started on May 17. He has completed in house training and is transitioning to field training. Both of the candidates the Commission interviewed are in backgrounds. One is certified, and one is not. We had two days of oral boards and have several non-certified candidates to schedule for interviews with the Commission.

Comm. Peters noted we are using Indeed more than normal and it seems to be a bigger pay off.

Training. The Academy transitioned from a day academy to the live-in academy as they have always done.

Comm. Stanley asked the Chief to address the CIT training as was brought up during public comment. Relative to certifying officers for CIT and the difficulty we have getting officers into it.

Chief Toussaint said I hate to blame COVID for everything, but it is a factor. As we have discussed I would love to have every sworn officer in this department and in every police department really have CIT training. I don't buy into the concept of a team, just as outlined tonight, because at times, the team is not available. People shift bid by seniority. There is no way for us to mandate X amount per shift and we don't have enough officers to staff it 24/7. We struggle enough just to staff officers for that amount of time.

I echo the sentiment that we should have that. It is certainly a goal of mine to get more training. But you also have to understand that CIT training is a 40-hr class. We were planning a class this summer and we just can't do it. There is no way we can pull groups of officers for 40 hours of training. And then there is continuing education training that has to go on. So, our number one goal is to get to full staffing levels. Then we can reexamine getting everyone CIT trained.

We put that kind of training into people and then at times they leave, they retire or they get promoted. So it's an ongoing process for us until we can get to a point where we can get everyone trained in this, because it is important.

And I don't want people to get the impression that CIT training means they are an expert in this. It means they have had slightly more training than the average person to hopefully better handle people in mental health crisis. Which we deal with a lot. It is something we are interested in doing as we constantly strive to improve. It's a work in progress. We are nowhere near where we want to be.

As we had mentioned one of our former employees who recently passed away, he was instrumental in bringing this CIT program to Rochester. He recognized the importance of it years ago, and we recognize it still to this day. And want to continue that legacy to better serve the public. It is something we are working on.

Comm. Stanley said absolutely a work in progress and with the turnover the department has had has made it difficult. But we are putting funding toward it and we are trying to improve

Comm. Peters asked do they offer any type of training when they are at the academy. Or is it so limited.

Chief Toussaint said the answer is no. Not really. They may have some minimal stuff but it's not a CIT program. I would love to see PSTC, the academy, overhaul some of their curriculum and make that part of it, so that every officer in NH that gets certification in NH would have that training. I think we would be a much better as a profession if that was the case.

Comm. Peters said I'd make that recommendation.

Chief Toussaint said he has made that recommendation. But it is a big undertaking.

Comm. Stevens commented they are trying to squeeze as much as they can into the 16 weeks.

Comm. Stanley asked it is an opportune time to make those recommendations because of the Governor's commission. All of that training is under review. I believe they have a new Director. It might be worthwhile to write a letter from this Commission stating as much.

Chief Toussaint said that he participated in a forum to suggest changes to the curriculum at the Academy. Given the time constraints. They are looking at what they can trim, what they can downshift to the various departments and what is the core we are looking for. I strongly believe that CIT training should be part of that.

Comm. Stanley said we are the default call. We need to be trained to respond to it. She said I will be happy to draft a letter on behalf of the Commission. The Commission concurs.

6. CORRESPONDENCE: There was no correspondence this period.

7. INFORMATION: There was no additional information for discussion.

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

Commissioner Stanley MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 8:34 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 Comm. Peters – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes, Comm. Stanley – yes.

The non-public session closed at 9:00 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. Stanley. Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Peters – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes, Comm. Stanley – yes.

Comm. Stanley MOVED to seal the minutes indefinitely. Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Peters – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes, Comm. Stanley – yes.

9. MISCELLANEOUS:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the evaluations as presented for Officer Matthew Flathers (top of grade), Off. Govoni to step 6, Off. Oswalt to step 5, Off. Turgeon to step 5, and Off. Butcher to step 4. Comm. Stanley SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Peters – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes, Comm. Stanley – yes.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Stanley at 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton
Secretary

APPROVED BY COMMISSION: 08/04/2021