



**Rochester Police Commission
Rochester, NH 03867**

Derek J. Peters, Commissioner
David R. Stevens, Commissioner
David E. Winship, Jr. Commissioner

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

The Rochester Police Commission held their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. in City Hall, Council Chambers. Participants in this meeting: Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens, Comm. Winship, Chief Boudreau, Dep. Chief Thomas, Capt. Swanberry, Secretary Warburton, invited guests, members of the public and department in the audience.

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

All participated in the pledge of allegiance.

A. Roll Call. The clerk called the roll marking Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens and Comm. Winship present.

Chaplain Cilley was excused.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A. September 7, 2022.

Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the minutes of the September 7, 2022 meeting. Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion to accept the minutes as presented PASSED 3-0.

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

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Presentation to RPBA: Thank a Police Officer Day: Sheena Downs, Committee Chair. Comm. Peters noted that Sheena Downs, Chair of the Rochester Thank a Cop committee was present to make a donation to the Rochester Police Benevolent Association.

Ms. Downs presented a check in the amount of \$750.00 to the RPBA. Community Engagement Officer Brandon Kimbrough was on hand to receive the donation on behalf of the RPBA.

Comm. Peters commented that community members may have seen the work of the committee around the downtown with flags and signs, and the windows of businesses painted by students in recognition and thanks to the Rochester Police Department. There is a special day where the families are invited to come out.

B. David Lombardi academic award. Chief Boudreau presented an award ribbon to be worn on the uniform to Officer Lombardi in recognition of his academic achievement of graduating with the highest academic score of his academy class. In addition to that achievement, he also placed first in physical fitness.

C. Oaths

1. Sgt. Carl Root. Carl Root took the oath for promotion to Sergeant, administered by Executive Secretary Becky Warburton.

2. Officer Aidan Birmingham. Aidan Birmingham took the oath as a new patrol officer, administered by Executive Secretary Becky Warburton.

D. Accept Resignation: Off. Thomas Butcher

**Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the resignation of Officer Butcher, with regret.
Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED unanimously.**

E. Community Outreach: Community Engagement Officer Brandon Kimbrough.

Officer Kimbrough introduced himself as the new Community Engagement Officer for the Department, stating I've been in the role for about 1.5 months. I've been with the Department since March of 2005. The community engagement officer works closely with juvenile diversion, supervision and the new city outreach coordinator.

Since being moved into the role he has worked with the life safety committee for the City, visited many of the homeless camps to push resources to them and to address quality of life issues to make things better in the city.

Comm. Peters said he works with the downtown and Main Street as well, and even the landlords.

Chief Boudreau stated that Lt. Bossi is our landlord tenant liaison but Brandon can be a resource there.

Comm. Stevens asked if anyone has questions or different organizations want to get a hold of you how would they do that.

Officer Kimbrough said he is available by email, folks can call him or call dispatch. That information will be updated on the website.

F. Monthly Reports

1). Operations. There were no Honor Guard appearances, and none are planned. Lt. Bossi did attend the RPOA meeting. He talked about graffiti which was a timely topic.

There are 79 cases under investigation in detectives. There were three call outs and three background investigations between police and communications.

COMPSTAT: Capt. Swanberry said that most of the data in the comp stat report is within normal ranges. Property crime is down 16% year to date, but it is up for this month. There has been a rash of graffiti cases. That case is under investigation by detectives.

Violent crime is down for the month, but up slightly for the year, most attributed to domestic violence.

Comm. Stevens asked about the number of traffic accidents. Are they up, or down. It seems one or two are happening daily.

Chief Boudreau said that the official comp stat meeting is October 6, but the report indicates that we had 82 crashes throughout the city this month. Year to date accidents we are up 12% over 2021, but are down from 2020. It seems like there has been a rash of accidents, and while up overall year to date it's not significantly up.

Comm. Peters said that with the holiday season on the horizon, we encourage our citizens' diligence in locking their cars and removing valuables. This is a good time to do a reminder.

COMMUNICATIONS: The communications center is still down positions. We have dispatchers, firefighters and patrol officers filling open shifts. The mobile dispatch trailer was used during the Granite State Fair with no major issues.

HIRING: Dep. Chief Thomas stated that our newest Officer Aidan Birmingham did start on September 11. He is completing in house training and is also helping out in dispatch where we are critically low in staffing. He is set to attend the 192nd Police Academy in January.

We have another certified officer starting on October 16, 2022.

We still have two officers in Academy training, due to graduate on November 18, 2022. We have conditional offers out with three people and five more candidates set for first interview and PT test in a week.

Comm. Peters said if those three positions are filled, it leaves us with four open positions.

Dep. Chief Thomas said that's correct.

K9: Officer Hatch and K9 Ripley had two community appearances at the Library and two tracks for the month. One track was unsuccessful and the other never got established as the person was located by other responding officers.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS: The School Resources officers at the middle school and high school continue to maintain relationships at the schools. The “adopt an elementary school” program is going well. Checked in with all officers almost all have made a presence at the schools. This has been well-received.

2.) Administration: Dep. Chief Thomas said that in purchasing there is nothing of highlight to pass on. Purchases over \$5,000.00 included the renewal of the crime analyst contract and purchasing seven tactical vests for new employees. We also created an open purchase order for \$5,000.00 for advertising. We have been getting the bulk of our candidate interest from Indeed.

We have a couple of highlights in training. Officer Crawford became an OC Spray instructor, and Officer Garneau and Det. Danie are now rifle instructors. We are always in need of instructors for our own personnel due to promotions, transfers or other issues, so any time we can get officers into various instructor training classes we try to do that.

Specialist Heather Stevens received her certification as a training officer for new dispatchers.

It is good to see PSTC getting some good trainings back on the schedule. One we recently sent four officers to and have slated four more officers to attend is crime scene processing. It's a week-long training and officers that attended said it was really good training. This is beneficial training to have as officers arrive on a scene.

The four officers that just graduated from the academy will start field training this coming week.

We still have two in the current academy. They have completed 9 weeks and will graduate on November 18.

Comm. Stevens commented the amount of training past couple months officers are receiving that is amazing. It gives the opportunity to learn and be better officers but to also to train others which is beneficial for the department and is good for retention.

Chief Boudreau agreed stating that talking with the younger generation of officers that is what they want. It was hard during the COVID shutdown. But this falls in line with some of the state mandates from the LEACT committee and required training. Currently it is 8 hours annually, which is not enough. It will increase to over time to 20+ hours of training.

Comm. Peters said we have officers wanting to be instructors so that is a big draw. To come back and teach is a great asset. One area we are lacking is CIT (crisis intervention).

Chief Boudreau said we had finally got the training set to go and just days before the class the instructor got COVID.

Capt. Swanberry said we had hoped to put 13 officers through the training. We are looking to reschedule in mid-January.

Comm. Peters asked Chief Boudreau to talk a bit about CIT.

Chief Boudreau said the acronym CIT means crisis intervention. We were the first department in the state to have this, back in 2009. It is a goal for all officers to be trained in it. There is annual training for officers to maintain that certification. It is a valuable tool for officers to have these days with the amount of mental health contacts we have.

E. Other.

1. Update Body Cameras. Chief Boudreau stated that the body camera project is on track. The cameras have arrived. We are in the process of working with IT for some back end work, and building a charging bank station. We are working on the policy as well and hope to roll these out in the beginning of 2023.

2. State of the City. This was a well-attended event with positive comments on the presentations given. The event is up on the city website. It's roughly two hours in length.

3. Other. There are two programs we will roll out this month on a temporary basis.

Pink Patch: Officers will wear a pink embroidered patch in support of breast cancer awareness. This has touched our Department and we want to show our support.

Beards for Bucks: In support of the local Child Advocacy Center, officers are permitted to have a beard for the month. This is a fundraiser for them. The CAC is very valuable to our agency and to the community throughout Strafford County working with child victims and witnesses. This is a way to support them and to have a bit of fun with it. Officers have to self-donate \$35.00 to take part and each has their own page on the link that the public can donate to the cause. We will have the City Public Info Officer, Matt Wyatt do some press on this.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received this period: Det. Garstin and Det. Danie are thanked for providing a tour to Scout Pack 186. Officer Hatch and K9 Ripley are thanked for visiting campers at the Nancy Loud summer camp. Det. Flathers, Det. Govoni, Det. Garstin and Off. Gantert are recognized for their work by County Attorney Velardi, where the suspect received a 5-10 year sentence for the crimes he committed. Off. Moon is thanked by a parent for how he handled an incident involving his juvenile daughter.

7. INFORMATION: None

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

Commissioner Stevens MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 7:41 P.M. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, paragraph II, section A (personnel). Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Peters – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes, Comm. Winship – yes.

The non-public session closed at 9:10 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. Stevens. Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Peters – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes, Comm. Winship – yes.

Comm. Stevens MOVED to seal the minutes of the non-public session. The motion was SECONDED by Comm. Winship. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Peters – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes, Comm. Winship – yes.

9. MISCELLANEOUS:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the evaluations of Officer Zachary Masse, Officer Zachary Vatcher and Officer Kristine Bibeau, (no merit track 0-24 months) and to also accept the evaluations and merit track increase for Officer Nicole Knox (merit track 3) Officer Jacob Garstin (merit track 8), Officer Jon Labosier (merit track 4), Officer Hattie Johnson (merit track 4), Officer Kendall DeCost (merit track 4), Sgt. Spencer Williams-Hurley (merit track 2). Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Winship at 9:12 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton
Secretary

APPROVED BY COMMISSION: 11/02/2022