

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 17TH 2016 PUBLIC FORUM
FOR INPUT ON THE POLICE BUDGET FOR FY '17**

6:00 p.m. – Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers, Portsmouth City Hall

**Brenna Cavanaugh, Chair
Joseph J. Onosko
Joe Plaia**

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** The chair called the February 17th, 2016 public hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. and turned the meeting over to Chief Mara to present his budget recommendations for fiscal year 2017.

(A video archive of the entire hearing can be viewed online by going to the city's website and clicking "Channel22", and then clicking on "Archived 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 meetings.")

Present during the public hearing: Commissioners Cavanaugh, Onosko, and Plaia, Chief Mara, Admin Manager Karen Senecal, Executive Assistant Kathleen Levesque, members of the public and the press.

II. BUDGET BRIEFING FROM THE CHIEF:

Chief Mara indicated instructions from the city's Joint Budget Committee ('JBC') were to stay within 3% of last year's budget. He began by talking about the evaluation of the department he has been conducting, and said he would be discussing CALEA, Staffing, and specific Goals.

Using a PowerPoint presentation the chief laid out a new staffing structure in each of the three divisions, and discussed his three main goals as well as the collective bargaining agreements with the department's three unions.

Chief Mara talked about accountability and an expansion of community policing, finishing with his budget request of \$9,986,919, which is 3.84% over a status quo figure.

- III. PUBLIC COMMENT:** The Chair opened the floor to public comment and input.

Ms. Zelita Morgan – Richards Avenue - Ms. Morgan spoke about speeding cars on neighborhood streets. She felt this was a chronic issue. Ms. Morgan

encouraged Chief Mara to reach out to the citywide neighborhood committee. She also suggested we reach out to New Castle and Rye about collaborating on this issue during the busy season.

Mr. Dick Bagley – 213 Pleasant Street – Mr. Bagley said he has the impression that crime is actually on the increase in Portsmouth. He felt it would be helpful to know what the crime rate is. Mr. Bagley said it also seems like all of the new development is putting pressure on the police department. He felt community policing was very important, particularly in dealing with the heroin epidemic. Mr. Bagley also spoke about certain business communities, like the restaurant community, being particularly hard hit. He urged the community to work together and encouraged the Chief to go to the varied neighborhood communities and build bridges among the very different groups and the police.

Mr. Mark Brighton – President of the Portsmouth Taxpayers Association. Mr. Brighton agreed with Chief Mara's presentation that we need the 3.8% budget. He then turned to the commission and exhorted them in their collective bargaining to restrict the contracts to the rate of inflation.

There being no one else who wished to come forward and give input on the budget, Chairwoman Brenna Cavanaugh closed public input.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the commission, the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn.

Action: Commissioner Plaia moved to adjourn the February 17th, 2016 public hearing on the police department budget for FY '17.

Seconded by Commissioner Onosko.

On a Voice Vote: The board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:58 p.m.

Kathe

Respectfully Submitted By Kathleen Levesque, Executive Assistant

Joe Plaia, Clerk of the Commission

**MONTHLY POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION**

DATE OF MEETING: 2-17-16

Name & Address: Zelita Morgan
39 Richards Ave

Topic: Speed ^{limit} enforcement

Name & Address: _____

Topic: _____

Name & Address: _____

Topic: _____

Name & Address: _____

Topic: _____

Name & Address: _____

Topic: _____

Name & Address: _____

Topic: _____