

**PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF THE JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2016 MONTHLY POLICE COMMISSION**  
**MEETING**

5:30 p.m. Public Session – Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers

Brenna Cavanaugh, Chair  
Joseph J. Onosko  
Joe Plaia

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 monthly police commission meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. (Archived video of the meeting is available on the city’s website.)

**The following people were present:** Commissioners Cavanaugh, Onosko, and Plaia, Captain of Operations Frank Warchol, Admin. Manager Karen Senecal, Exec. Assistant Kathleen Levesque, members of the public and the press.

- II. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

The Chair asked if there were any amendments to the minutes of the meeting held on May 10<sup>th</sup> or May 24<sup>th</sup>. There were no amendments to these minutes.

**Action: Commissioner Onosko moved** to accept the minutes of the May 10<sup>th</sup> and May 24<sup>th</sup> meetings.

**Seconded by Commissioner Plaia.**

**On Voice Vote:** The motion passed to accept the minutes of the May 10<sup>th</sup>, and May 24<sup>th</sup> meetings.

- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Executive Assistant Kathleen Levesque led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** (The following is a brief summary of each person’s comments and represents the speaker’s personal opinion. The entire meeting can be viewed online by going to the city’s website and clicking “Channel 22”, and then clicking on “Archived 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 meetings.”)

Mr. Merle White - 14 Pioneer Road, Owner of Anchor Taxi: Mr. White felt the city has failed to enforce the taxi ordinance, saying most of the taxis are out of compliance. He said the city has undone one of the best ordinances out there by deregulating the taxi business. This deregulation has made the taxi business unsafe in Portsmouth.

Mr. John Palreiro – 23 Blue Heron, Owner of two taxi companies in the city. Mr. Palreiro said the Uber issue is now in the hands of the state, and the police have done a poor job of enforcing existing ordinances prior to that happening. Mr. Palreiro complained about people running stop signs and speeding. He said the police need to start enforcing the laws; to start writing tickets instead of watching people run stop signs. Someone needs to do something about it before someone gets hurt. He also criticized DWI patrols and the department’s lack of sobriety checkpoints.

The Chair exercised a point of privilege to address some of the points brought up by Mr. Palreiro regarding the DWI patrols and sobriety checkpoints, as well as enforcement of the jay walking ordinance.

## V. NEW BUSINESS:

### A.) **POLICE COMMISSION:**

1. **Commissioner Plaia** – The commission currently has a Skype non-meeting with counsel scheduled with the city attorney and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) representative re: our contract with them to conduct a nationwide executive search for a permanent chief of police. He explained the commission’s hands have been tied pending review of the proposed contract with IACP by the city’s legal department. This Skype meeting will take place tomorrow, and then the commission will be able to move forward.
2. **Commissioner Cavanaugh** – The Chair received complaints on Market Square Day regarding pedestrian safety and traffic control for the road race event in the morning. The Chair was asked by the resident to forward the input to the Chief. Commissioner Cavanaugh asked Capt. Warchol to forward the resident’s comments to the traffic & safety committee as well.

The Chair’s second item was enforcement of the hands-free law. The person calling her said there are a lot of abuses, and there doesn’t seem to be any real enforcement. The caller cited stats that distracted

driving contributes to more fatalities than drunk driving. Captain Warchol spoke to the issues, saying he has the same sense, and explained how difficult this law is to enforce. When people see a fully marked police cruiser while driving and talking on their cell phone, the cell phone goes down on the seat temporarily until the cruiser goes by. This makes it hard for the officer to prove the violation was occurring. He said however, the state has recently made grant monies available specifically for enforcement of this law...so stay tuned.

**B.) CHIEF'S REPORT:**

1. K-9 certification updates.

**C.) FINANCIAL REPORT:**

1. Karen reported that we are at the end of the fiscal year, and in the process of closing out the books. We will have our final numbers in August.

**VI. MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER BUSINESS: None**

**VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

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

**Action: Commissioner Plaia moved** the June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 police commission meeting be adjourned.

**Seconded by Commissioner Onosko.**

**On a Voice Vote:** The motion passed to adjourn the June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 police commission meeting at 5:51 p.m.

The Chair announced the date of the next scheduled police commission meeting, which will take place on Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016, with the usual 4:30/5:30 start. (The meeting will be called to order at 4:30 p.m. and a motion will be made to go into non-public according to the appropriate provision of RSA 91-A. The regular public business portion of the meeting will resume at or about 5:30 p.m. in council chambers.)

END OF MEETING