

## PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION

### MINUTES OF THE July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

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

Stefany Shaheen, Chair  
Buzz Scherr, Commissioner  
Kate Coyle, Commissioner

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 monthly Police Commission meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. (An archived video of the meeting is available on the police department's website and the city's YouTube channel.)

**The following people were present for the public session:**

Commissioners Shaheen, Scherr and Coyle, Chief Mark Newport, Captain Michael Maloney, Business Ops. Manager Karen Senecal, Exec. Assistant Jackie Burnett and members of the public.

- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Captain Maloney led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. **MOTION TO SUSPEND THE AGENDA:**

The Chair asked for a motion to suspend the agenda and move to item #1 under the Award/Recognition Ceremony.

**Action: Commissioner Scherr moved** to suspend the rules for the purpose noted above.

**Seconded by Commissioner Coyle.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed as follows:

Commissioner Shaheen: "Aye."

Commissioner Scherr: "Aye."

Commissioner Coyle: "Aye."

**Chief's Report, #1 Award/Recognition Ceremony:**

Chief Newport honored the valiant efforts of Officer Seth Chavez, Officer Timothy Conroy, Officer Michael Nicoli, Dispatcher Edward Walsh and Dispatcher Victoria Bemis in their handling of a call for service on the Piscataqua bridge on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The Chief recounted the events which

involved a suicidal female, threatening to jump off the high rise bridge. Officers, with the assistance of the dispatchers, were able to successfully rescue the woman and get her the medical treatment she required. All three officers earned a Life Saving Award and both dispatchers were honored with a Letter of Commendation from the Chief.

The Chair commended those being honored with awards and recognition for their efforts in saving a life, stating it's truly a testament to the quality of the community policing that the Portsmouth Police Department is able to deliver under very extraordinary circumstances these days.

**IV. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD**

**ON:** June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Action:** Commissioner Scherr moved to approve the minutes from the 6-13-22 Police Commission meeting.

**Seconded by Commissioner Coyle.**

➤ **On a unanimous roll call vote, 3-0, motion passed.**

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There being no individuals wishing to provide comment, the public comment session was closed.

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.**

**VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. POLICE COMMISSION:**

**1. Acknowledgements:** See Section III

**2. Facilities Update:**

**a. Restoration**

Chief Newport reported that remediation efforts have transitioned down into the basement, noting that contractors are currently focusing on the men's & women's locker rooms, firing range, gym and several nearby storage rooms. Additional phases were discussed and Chief Newport is hopeful all mold remediation and asbestos abatement will be completed by the end of the year. The city's Facilities Manager, Joe Almeida, continues to report all completed work to the Department of Labor.

**b. Next Steps for Public Safety Facility Planning**

Business Manager Karen Senecal reported that the Request for Proposal (RFP) has been sent out, as the vendors' deadline is today.

Relative to the public safety facility planning, Chair Stefany Shaheen had proposed at the last public session that the Commission assemble a group of internal and external stakeholders for the next steps of the process. The Commission agreed to submit a written request to the Mayor as a starting point. Commissioner Scherr made note of the importance of applying the right name to this group, otherwise it may unintentionally cause administrative problems.

### **3. Community Priorities**

#### **a. Review of Progress**

The Chair reported that since meeting attendance is low due to summer schedules, an update on the Seacoast Mental Health mobile crisis unit will be provided at the September Police Commission meeting. She added that for the same reason, the Commission will formally vote on the proposed NDA policy at the September meeting. A draft of the NDA policy is posted for the public on the police department's website under the "Publications" tab, "Public Forum Resources". The public is welcome to weigh in on the proposed policy language.

Commissioner Scherr asked for progress update on the purchasing of a new CAD/RMS system (computer aided dispatch/records management software). Chief Newport stated the department has narrowed it down to two vendors who have provided additional demos and are in the process of answering the agency's follow up questions. They are also looking into additional modules to satisfy all of Portsmouth Police Department's needs, which has slowed the process a bit. The Chair added that the recommendations identified by the Citizen Group were taken into account during the drafting of the RFP.

#### **4. National Night Out**

The Chair wished to remind the community that next Tuesday is National Night Out. This is an event which brings members of the police department together with their community to get to know one another and learn more about the work that officers do each day. Come one, come all.

## **B. CHIEF OF POLICE:**

1. **Award/Recognition Ceremony** See Section III above.
2. **Grants**
  - a. **ARPA funding from the Department of Justice or NH Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force in the amount of \$700,000.**

**Action:** Commissioner Scherr moved to accept the grant in the amount of 700,000 from the Department of Justice through the American Rescue Plan Act for the New Hampshire Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and to forward it to the City Council for their action.

**Seconded by Commissioner Coyle.**

➤ **On a unanimous roll call vote, 3-0, motion passed.**
  - b. **USPCA AKC REUNITE K9 grant in the amount of \$7,500 to go toward the cost of acquiring a new police canine.**

**Action:** Commissioner Scherr moved to accept the grant in the amount of \$7,500 from the USPCA AKC Reunite K9 grant for the Portsmouth Police Department's K-9 Unit and to forward to the City Council for their action.

**Seconded by Commissioner Coyle.**

➤ **On a unanimous roll call vote, 3-0, motion passed.**
3. **General Acknowledgements**
  - a. **Ice Cream Social**

Patrol Officers' decided to purchase ice cream on National Ice Cream Day to distribute to people downtown. This act was well received by members of the public. This was an excellent example of what community policing should look. The Chair added that the social media posts highlighting this activity were really fun to see.
  - b. **Officer Fisher recognition**

Sherry and Craig Simard messaged the police department to commend Officer Laurel Fisher, the PD's resident Falconer, who helped to save the life of an injured hawk that the Simard's had reported to dispatch. They were comforted knowing that Officer Fisher had the training to properly handle the hawk before it was transported to experts for treatment and rehabilitation.
4. **Quarterly Accreditation Update**

Chief Newport read the Accreditation Manager's status report. He explained that the state has brought back their State Accreditation Program for agencies who may not have the funding to afford the

National CALEA Accreditation Program. The Chair added that it would be nice if the state incentivized national accreditation status.

**5. Monthly Traffic Stats**

Chief Newport reported traffic statistics from the month of June 2022 and explained why certain stats were higher this month than in previous months.

**6. Financial Report** - Karen Senecal reported that there is no financial report this month due to the closing of FY22. July is the first reporting period in FY23, but that hasn't closed yet.

a. **Strategic Plan:** Nearing completion. There has been a change in Detectives leadership, so Karen Senecal is meeting with them to see if they would like to make any changes.

b. **Grant Application Update:** NH Highway Safety allowed us to amend traffic enforcement grants to include a speed message board(s). The current boards the police department has are older technology. Paperwork for the Victim's of Crime Act (VOCA) and the Bullet Proof Vest grant have been submitted. Also, the Federal ICAC grant will be coming shortly. This funds 100% of ICAC Commander and 80% of Detective.

**VIII. PATROL DIVISION:**

a. This report was included in the commission meeting packet.

**IX. COURT OFFICE REPORT:**

a. This confidential report was included in the commission meeting packet.

**X. MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER BUSINESS:**

**XI. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

The next regular commission meeting date is September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022.  
Hope to see you at NNO

**XII. MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

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

**Action: Commissioner Scherr moved** the July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 monthly Police Commission Meeting be adjourned.

**Seconded by Commissioner Coyle.**

Police Commission Meeting  
July 28, 2022

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed 3-0 to adjourn the July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 monthly Police Commission Meeting at 6:16 pm.

END OF MEETING

*Respectfully Submitted by Jacqueline Burnett, Executive Assistant*  
**Commissioner Buzz Scherr, Recording Clerk of the Commission**