

CITY OF PORT JERVIS

P.O. BOX 1002
20 HAMMOND STREET
PORT JERVIS, NEW YORK 12771



Police Committee Meeting Minutes

20 July 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm with the following members in attendance:

Ms. Miller, Ms. Fuller, Ms. Mann, Mr. Siegel, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Simmons, Ms. Newhauser.

Public Comment: No comments

New Business: Updates-

- Monthly Crime and Statistical Report- A review of key statistical data for the first half of the year was conducted. Over all offenses submitted through the incident Based Reporting System are down by 17% from the same time in 2022. Part 1 Offenses are down by 22% and Part 2 Offenses are down by 18.9%. Increases in Pedestrian Injuries from automobile crashes have increased, while overall property damage auto accidents have decreased.
- Officer Physical Fitness – Wellness Incentive Program- The Chief updated the committee on a wellness project he is investigating for all city employees bringing a mobile health screening program to the City by Dr. Perry Frankel. The Committee requested the Chief to obtain specifics for this program.
- National Night Out Against Crime Celebration is scheduled for August 1st. The Department is making preparations for this event.
- Youth Academy is scheduled for August 7th. Thirty-One recruits are approved to attend the event.
- 2022 Awards Report: The Department will be distributing a report to the Common Council outlining the 2022 Awards and letters of commendations issued to department members for service in 2022.
- NNO Grant- The Chief was apprised by Sen. James Skoufas that \$6,500 has been granted to the City to support this year's National Night Out Against Crime Event.

SNUG Program: Sen. James Skoufis has informed the Chief of Police that \$100,000 has been secured for the city to participate in the NYS SNUG Anti-Violence program. The SNUG Street Outreach program is an evidence-based, violence reduction initiative that treats violence like a disease by identifying its causes and interrupting its transmission. The program identifies high-risk individuals who engage in gun violence, addresses the issues that prompt those individuals to use a gun, and aims to change community norms and attitudes that accept violence as a part of life. The NYS SNUG program includes a focus on trauma and mental health and employs social workers and case managers across the state.

Orange County Youth Bureau Funding Agreement - the 2023 OCYB Funding Agreement providing \$8,000 in reimbursement aid to the Junvenile Aid Unit was reviewed by City Attorney Will Frank and approved for Council consideration for approval.

Old Business: (Updates, Reform, Reinvention & Collaborative Report- EO 203)

- Det. Michael Decker's Retirement is scheduled for August 4th. An open lunch will be hosted by the PBA in the Council Room from 12pm to 1pm, walkout ceremony at 2:30pm and Retirement celebration at 3pm at the Erie Trackside.
- Civil Service Canvass – Vacant Patrol Officer Position – The department is currently canvassing the remaining eligible candidates from the 2019 Civil Service List for a potential opening in August. The police academy is tentatively scheduled for August 28, 2023.
- New Officer Training Update - Officer Hulse is approaching the final two weeks of her in-house field training program.
- Officer Residency- The committee continued to discuss modifications to the current officer residency requirement of residing within fifteen miles of the City of Port Jervis geographical limits. Members are examining potential expansion of the requirement to include 25 miles within the city limits within Orange County and 15 miles outside the city limits into Sullivan County as currently proscribed. Discussions will continue at the committee level.
- Range Training Building- The Chief updated the committee on the status of the Range Training Facility. A meeting was facilitated between the project Engineer, Mr. John Fuller, and City Engineer, Mike Lamareaux, to examine the future of this project. Mr. Lamareaux expressed concerns that the current grant funding

allocated to the project (\$100,000) was insufficient and has concerns with an incremental construction plan based on the fact that future funding has not been allocated to complete the project which he estimates could cost between \$350,000 to \$400,000 in total. The Chief will contact Sen. Skoufas and Assemblyman Brabenec to seek NYS assistance with additional funding.

- MOA- School Police Unit – The Chief reviewed suggested changes to the draft MOA as proposed by the City’s Attorney, Mr. Will Frank which included adding language clarifying a termination clause and allocation of school officers during situations where one officer is unable to perform their duties.
- MOA – Child Abuse Task Force – The updated the committee pertaining to an MOA being negotiated by Mr. Waxman and NYSUPA governing the assignment of a police officer to the Orange County Child Abuse Task Force. Once the MOA is completed, Mr. Waxman will forward to the City Council for their review.
- Injured Officer Update- An independent medical examination is currently being scheduled by the NYSIF for an injured officer who sustained a line of duty related injury.

The Chief reported deploying additional patrol resources in the 4th ward due to recent incidents involving disturbances, fights and violence.

Committee Comments:

Mr. Livingston requested that a left turn lane be implemented on Pike Street for traffic entering the City from the Port Jervis/Matamoras Bridge turning left on to Water Street. Police department DPW to review.

Ms. Mann reported a parking condition occurring at the dead end of Sussex Street with vehicles blocking access to the rear Front Street service road.

Ms. Mann further commented about a crime prevention initiative deployed by EPRPD where an un-staffed marked patrol vehicle is strategically parked at locations to deter crime and traffic violations and inquired about the feasibility of deploying this tactic in Port Jervis.

Mr. Siegel thanked the committee and DPW for the installation of a stop sign and crosswalk on Church Street.

Ms. Fuller discussed the Emergency Services Club at the Port Jervis High School and reported that many BOCES students were not aware of the club and recommended advertising club meetings with BOCES students to accommodate their participation.

Public Comment: None.

Executive Session: No matters for executive session.

Adjournment: 7pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

William J. Worden

Chief of Police