

CITY OF PORT JERVIS

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



Police Committee Meeting Minutes: 27 October 2022 6:15 pm

Meeting called to order by Mr. Foster with the following members in attendance: Ms. Miller, Ms. Mann, Mr. Siegel, Mr. Decker, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Simmons, Ms. Newhauser, Chief Worden.

Public Comment: No public comment received.

New Business: Updates-

Third Quarter - September Crime Report – Chief Worden reviewed key statistics for the 3rd Quarter of 2022 including Part I and Part II Offenses and accident data. Part I overall crimes have increased by 40.3% as compared to 2021 while Part II offenses have decreased by 8.9%. Key increases in Part I offenses includes the crimes of aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and robbery while decreases have been experienced with offenses involving Rape and motor vehicle theft. Part II notable increases have occurred in offenses related to driving while impaired, simple assault and weapons related offenses while decreased have been observed in cases involving controlled substances, and fraud. Overall, arrests have increased by 40.7% while reported incidents or calls for service have relatively remained consistent with 2021. Accidents involving property damage have increased by 10% while accidents involving personal injury have decreased by 57.8%.

Review of accidents: Orange Street/Canal Street - A crash study was conducted for the intersection of Orange and Canal Street based upon a request to implement a 4-way stop intersection at this location.

Between the time of October 3rd, 2017, through October 3rd, 2022, there have been 575 reportable accidents that occurred at all intersections within the City of Port Jervis. 7 accidents of the 575 accidents occurred at the intersection of Orange St. at Canal St. The following is a brief description of the accidents that occurred at this location:

- 11/11/2017 Fail to yield right of way.
- 06/08/2018 Fail to yield right of way.
- 10/11/2018 Fail to yield right of way.
- 03/05/2020 Following too closely, rear ended vehicle slowing for pedestrian crossing.
- 08/24/2021 Fail to yield right of way.
- 01/08/2022 View obstructed by large snowbank.
- 09/29/2022 Fail to yield right of way.

Based upon the data review, the committee decided that the four-way stop intersection was not warranted at this time.

Grace Church Trunk or Treat – The department will be participating in the upcoming trunk or treat at Riverside Park on October 29.

Halloween Safety Initiatives - Officers have been visiting area pre-schools and ASK Elementary School providing Halloween Safety and distributing high visibility-reflective halloween bags with activities to children. In addition, officers will be distributing glow sticks to children on Halloween and fire department crews will be deployed in all city wards to increase safety.

Training Report: The department is providing training to member(s) in the following areas-

- General In-Service scheduled for wellness, ABLE (Active Bystandership), Investigation skills updates.
- Cellular Telephone Evidence and Data
- Crime Scene Processing
- School Officer Basic Training-Orientation
- Firearms Training

No Shave Fundraiser: The department will be participating in the No Shave annual fundraiser with donations being designated to support local charitable organizations and families. Male officers are permitted to grow facial hair while female officers have elected to allow their hair to be worn in a pony tail for this charitable event.

Police Exam Recruitment: The department is planning to launch a police officer candidate recruitment effort for the anticipated civil service exam scheduled for September 2023.

Youth Drug/Violence Prevention Program: The department developed a revised seven week drug, alcohol and violence prevention program with the Port Jervis Middle School to replace the Too Good For Drugs Program. 8th grade health students will receive 7 lessons provided by a certified instructor from the department partnered with health teacher Rick Graham throughout the school year.

Christmas Parade Route – The committee reviewed a proposed change to the annual Christmas Parade Route (Start at Airport Park, Proceed to Pennsylvania Avenue in Matamoras to Pike Street, Port Jervis, to East Main Street, to Fowler Street, to Jersey Avenue, to Front Street, to Sussex Street to Ball Street). The parade route will be difficult to staff due to the multitude of intersections and comments were received about the extended length of the parade during the evening hours. Chief to discuss committee concerns with parade committee from the Chamber of Commerce.

OC Drug Task Force- A review of the recent multi-agency narcotics investigation was conducted with a request from the Chief of Police to review expanding their part time participation with the task force to a full time commitment based upon the success of recent high level investigations. Committee members were provided with an informational memo containing key arrests and seizures since the department increased their partnership with the Orange County Drug Task Force. Committee to continue to review.

Drill Prep- Bon Secours Community Hospital- The department is working with the Orange County Sheriff's Office to host a multi-agency drill on December 10th at Bon Secours Community Hospital involving police, fire, ems and other emergency services agencies.

Grant Award- DCJS Anti-Violence Initiative – National Night Out - \$6,250.00- Chief Worden reported the department received this grant through Sen. Skoufis to off-set the costs of providing the annual National Night Out Against Crime outreach in 2022.

Old Business: Updates

Range Building Bid - Engineer John Fuller is finalizing the revised floor plan and bid documents to present to the Council.

Body Cameras - The department is awaiting the final installation of software and will deploy training during the months of November and December.

Committee Comments:

Committee members discussed the following concerns regarding parking conditions on Front Street:

- Limited visibility of pedestrians standing in crosswalks due to parking spaces located directly adjacent to crosswalk
- Vehicles parking on the end of Sussex Street and behind the store fronts on the Front Street access road making it difficult for vehicles and emergency vehicles to access the service road.
- Lack of handicapped signage at designated spaces.
- Chief to coordinate with DPW to conduct a site review and make recommendations to the committee during the December meeting.

Mr. Siegel reported on an illegal dumping condition on Pike Street involving a privately owned dumpster. Mr. Siegel advised that persons without authority are depositing trash at the site and it is accumulating outside the dumpster on the parking lot. Mr. Siegel will advise the owner of the property to contact the police department to report the matter.

Public Comment: No Comments.

Executive Session: N/A

Adjournment: 7:26pm

Respectfully Submitted,

William J. Worden
Chief of Police