

# CITY OF PORT JERVIS

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



## Police Committee Meeting Agenda

21 June 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:20pm with the following members present:

Ms. Newhauser, Ms. Miller, Ms. Mann, Mr. Siegel, Mayor Decker, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Simmons.

### Public Comment:

No public comment received.

### New Business: Updates-

- Presentation – Feral Cat Program- Ms. Jill Wojtaszek of Jill’s Ferals provided a 20 minute presentation to the committee regarding the City’s feral cat management program including the program’s procedures, costs and goals. Since 2019, the City has been allocating \$2400-\$3500 per year partnering the City’s animal control unit with Jill’s Ferals to manage feral cat colonies through a targeted Trap-Neuter/Spay and release program. Each feral cat trapped through the program in the City of Port Jervis is spayed/neutered and provided with an updated rabies shot by Dr. Roeder – Roeder’s Ark Veterinary Hospital for the cost of \$60.00. The goal of the program is to manage the City’s feral cat population.
- Training update- Officers have attended the following training programs:
  - Mental Health Intervention and Treatment for LE and First Responders-2 Peer Support Members.
  - EVOC- Pursuits- 4 hour block of instruction – all personnel
  - Domestic Violence – 3 hour block of instruction – all personnel
  - Bicycle Officer Certification Course – 40 hour block of instruction – 2 officers
  - NYS Child Passenger Safety Seat Conference Re-certification – 2 officers
- School Safety Initiatives – A successful emergency response drill involving state, county and local emergency services was successfully conducted at the Port Jervis School District 209 campus on May 19<sup>th</sup>.  
The department continues to work closely with the Town of Deepark PD to schedule two emergency training drills per year.
- “Operation See! Be Seen! Pedestrian Safety Enforcement Mobilization” operating June 18-30, 2023.
- The committee reviewed a “Stop Sign” installation request by a resident for the intersection of DuBois and Lincoln Street. Further review required.
- A crosswalk will be reinstalled at Kingston Avenue near the intersection of Culvert Street, and a new crosswalk will be installed on Church Street to facilitate the safe crossing of pre-school aged children, parents and pre-school staff from RECAP Port Jervis Head Start to Church Street park.
- A Stop Sign is being installed at Church Street, (northerly direction) at the intersection with Hill Street to complete a three-way stop intersection.
- Outreach and Crime Prevention- Officers participated in the following events:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade safety day

- High School Teen driver safety (partnered with Catholic Charities and NY National Guard)
  - Pre-School Safety – Recap
  - HBE field races and ASK Field Day Activities
  - Dare Graduation and Activities
  - Middle School Prevention Program graduation.
- Ice Machine – City Hall
    - The committee reviewed the need to purchase a commercial ice machine to be located in the police department to support City services and operations. The committee approved the need to purchase an ice machine using funds from the Asset Forfeiture Account. The committee authorized the Chief of Police to research a commercial ice machine and forward the purchase request to the Common Council for authorization.
  - Chaplain Appointment
    - Pastor Jose F. Rodriguez, Pastor of Counseling and Ministry Engagements and Lead Pastor of Good Will Church of Port Jervis has been recommended by former Chaplain Thomas Zahradnik to serve as department Chaplain. Pastor Rodriguez has officiated at prior police memorial services for the department. The Chief and Lieutenants have met with Pastor Rodriguez and have started a background investigation. The Committee will forward a formal request to appoint Pastor Rodriguez to the position of volunteer police chaplain to the City Council when the background investigation is completed.

Proposed Second Academy Class- August 28<sup>th</sup>- the Orange County Police Academy is advertising that a basic police officer training academy session will be offered tentatively on August 28<sup>th</sup>. The department will continue to canvass the current list of eligible candidates through Civil Service in preparation of an August 4<sup>th</sup> vacancy by Det Michael Decker who is retiring from service.

#### Old Business: Updates

- Range Building
  - Bid Request – Phase #1 - Construction of foundation and rough plumbing is being prepared by project engineer John Fuller for solicitation by the Common Council. Matter to be reviewed by Corporation Counsel and forwarded to Council for approval.
- NYLEAP Wellness App- The police department has incorporated the free NYLEAP Wellness App in support of improved access to health and wellness resources for officers. Lighthouse Health & Wellness provides anonymous access to existing health and wellness programs, a growing library of educational health and wellness information and tools tailored to address the unique needs of those working in public safety.
- Officer Residency- The committee continued to analyze increasing the residency radius for officers employed with the department. Currently, officers must reside in New York State within 15 miles of the City limits.

The committee reviewed residency requirements for the following sample police agencies:  
 C/Middletown-25 miles, V/Washingtonville and V/Monroe-Orange County and Adjacent County,  
 Warwick- informal policy- Orange County, Sullivan County residents, Montgomery Town- no

residency policy, Crawford Town PD- No formal policy- Officers have lived in Sullivan, Ulster and Dutchess, Orange.

Committee discussed various options including 15 mile radius outside City limits to adjoining county in New York and 25-30 miles from City limits inside Orange County. Committee will continue to review expanding residency requirements during next regularly scheduled committee meeting.

School Police Contract- Town of Deerpark-City of Port Jervis and Port Jervis City School District. The City, Town and District are finalizing the draft contract and discussing potential changes to include formalizing summer school security and allowing officers to work a full day in school during half day sessions. MOA will be forwarded to Common Council for their review and approval.

Committee Comments:

Members of the committee discussed pedestrian outside of crosswalks and reckless bicycle riding on sidewalks in the downtown business district.

Public Comment:

No Comments

Executive Session:

No matters for executive session.

Adjournment: 8:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

William J. Worden  
Chief of Police