

# CITY OF PORT JERVIS

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PORT JERVIS, NEW YORK 12771



Police Committee  
City of Port Jervis  
Monthly Meeting Minutes

## **21 April 2022 6:15pm**

Meeting to called to order at 6:15 pm by Mr. Foster with the following members in attendance: Ms. Miller, Mr. Siegel, Mr. M. Decker, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Simmons, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Monahan, and Ms. Trovei- Citizens Advisory Committee, Chief Worden.

### **Joint Session: Police Committee and Community Advisory Board Meeting**

**Public Comment:** Mr. Siegel addressed the committees regarding a recent telephone conversation that was recorded without his knowledge that was posted on YouTube regarding the Port Jervis Police Department. Mr. Siegel stated that the conversation only represents portions of his conversation and was taken out of context. Mr. Siegel apologized for his comments and stated that he has demonstrated a long history of supporting the City's police and fire departments.

Mr. Siegel further discussed complaints of individuals pedaling for solar technology without permits at Hillside Terrace Apartment.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Minutes to be electronically distributed to the committee and common council for review.

### **New Business:**

#### **Beard Policy:**

- The Chief updated police committee and citizen advisory members present of the current department policy addressing facial hair and past department practices. From November 2021 – March 31, 2022, the Chief permitted members to grow facial hair that was neatly trimmed based upon a request by the PBA to raise donations by department members to fund local charitable causes. The Chief requested on-going input from members of both committees to help guide potential changes with this policy over the next year. Committee members posed questions and raised concerns related to potential safety issues with facial hair that was not neatly trimmed but were not opposed to neatly trimmed facial hair. This policy will be under review with the Chief soliciting input from the police and citizen advisory committee.

#### **Surplus Equipment**

- The department has inventoried surplus radio equipment and an electric vehicle for potential sale through surplus. Information transmitted to the City Clerk's Office for further review by the Common Council.

**Training Report-** Officers and Detectives are being scheduled to attend various trainings over the next two months to include:

- Child Forensic Interview Training April 25-29<sup>th</sup> (Virtual) – 2 officers
- CPR, AED, Stop the Bleed – sworn members
- Firearms and Taser In-service Training – sworn members
- CIT Training OCPA- two officers
- Verbal Judo De-escalation Training - Middletown 5 officers.
- ALERRT LEVEL I Active Shooter Response Train the Trainer- Westchester County- 1 trainer
- Range Instructor In-Service Training – 3 officers
- Radar Lidar Certification – 2 officers
- City Compliance Training Completed. Mr. Simmons advised that the Zoning and Planning Board have requested to attend a training session.

### **Reform Recommendations Review – Year One**

- The Chief distributed all members with a draft copy of the City of Port Jervis Reform Recommendations Year One Report. The purpose of this report is to document the steps taken by the Police Committee and Police Dept. to accomplish the recommendations listed in the 2021 Adopted Reform Collaborative Report and provide an update for Mayor Decker, the members of the Common Council, 2020-1 EO 203 Reform Committee, Citizen's Advisory Group and the public of the committee's progress with complying with the seventeen recommendations provided by the Reform Committee.
- Members of the police and citizen advisory committee will review the report, and its various accomplishments and will provide input for the May Police Committee meeting. Committee Goal: Submit a final report to the common council for approval and publishing.

### **Business Cards**

- The Committee discussed the format for the proposed officer contact cards as recommended by the City's Reform Committee. The cards will include officer contact information, a space designated to write an incident number, reference to obtaining accident reports on line, and contact information for the City, the Dept, and the Citizen Advisory Group to send feedback such as comments, commendations or complaints. Chief will research a draft card to submit to the committees for review and approval.

### **Traffic Safety Grants: GTSC**

- The department is researching crash statistics and preparing grant applications to receive funding under the following traffic safety programs provided through the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee: PTS/BUNY Grant 2022-23 "Police Traffic Services and Buckle up New York" designed to reduce crashes through extra patrols targeting distracted and aggressive driving behaviors and the Child Passenger Safety "CPS Grant" 2022-23. Grant applications are due May 2, 2022.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report

- The Chief reviewed the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter report with the committee and reported that Part I Crime (most serious violent and property crimes) have increased 15.6%. Regular overtime for the department has decreased by 11.8 % while Court related overtime has increased by 54.5% due to increased numbers of cases being adjudicated in county court, ECAB and prisoner transports.

## Firehouse Subs Grant Discussion

- Police Department is drafting a grant submission through Firehouse Subs Community Public Safety Grant to support the purchase of two "E-Bikes" for the bicycle patrol unit. The bicycles cost approximately \$4,000.00 each and would be purchased from a local vendor.

## Community Events-

- PBA 5k "foot chase" charity benefit will be held on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

## Foot Patrol Target Areas-

- Officers are being tasked to conduct foot patrols in the downtown business districts and portions of the City's walking loop. Park and walk patrols additionally being assigned in city wards.

## Old Business: Updates

Stop Sign Request- King/Second Street- Work order being submitted to DPW to install stop signs and line painting.

Orange Street Speed Study- Traffic conditions are currently being studied by Sgt. Dillinger of Orange Street between the intersections with Hornbeck Avenue and Crawford Street. Study results will be transmitted by Sgt. Dillinger to the committee once the study is completed.

West Main Street Speeding Conditions –

- Continued speed enforcement details are being assigned to address speeding conditions present on West Main Street in the west end section of the City. A second study will be conducted during the month of June to determine if overall speeds have been reduced through enforcement.
- The department will research adding additional speed signs, conduct social media posts and continue to deploy speed enforcement patrols to address this condition. In addition, the Chief will research electronic speed limit signage and forward to the committee for review.
- The committee discussed the potential installment of stop signs on strategic intersections on West Main Street as a possible solution to control traffic.
- Committee to continue to monitor and address this concern.

Orange County Drug Task Force –District Attorney Hoovler contacted the Chief and clarified questions pertaining to asset forfeiture the committee posed pertaining to the draft agreement between the City

and the Orange County District Attorney's Office pertaining to assigning a member of the department to the County Drug Task Force.

#### DASNY Grant- Range Building-

Based upon a series of meetings with the City's architect for this project, the initial award of 100,000 may be insufficient to construct a training facility at the present Police Department Firing Range due to drastic increases related to the costs of construction. The architect and City engineer recommend bidding the first phase of the project to excavate and construct a foundation and rough plumbing for the building footprint. Chief will continue to explore alternatives with the project architect with a recommendation for the May meeting.

#### UTV Trailer-

The department obtained an enclosed storage trailer in 2009 under a Homeland Security Grant to support multi-agency emergency services. Currently, the trailer is shared with the City's emergency services and public works and needs updated decaling. The department is working with a local vendor to draft updated decals for the trailer and will work with the fire department to approve a design.

#### Body Cameras

The Chief and Ms. Quick have been working together to finalize grant acceptance and reporting requirements with the DOJ to obtain final approval to expend grant funds toward purchasing body worn camera infrastructure. Goal- Obtain approval in May 2022 and complete outfitting of department officers in June 2022.

#### **Committee Comments:**

Ms. Hernandez: inquired about a request made by Mayor Decker to review the four way stop sign at the intersection of Church and Seward Avenue as the new sign is located at the base of a hill. Committee members recommended potentially placing a "warning-stop intersection ahead sign on Seward Avenue. Chief to investigate signage.

Mr. Simmons requested signage be installed on East Main Street near Dunkin Donuts to mitigate traffic originating from the establishment's driver thru from backing up into on-coming traffic lanes. Chief to contact DPW to investigate signage.

Mr. Decker requested a speed study be conducted for a portion of Canal Street located between Hamilton Street and Ryan Street.

Mr. Monahan requested the Chief to investigate the implementation of a loading and unloading parking zone on West Broome Street in front of Park Plaza. He further reported observing a general lack of compliance of motorists stopping for stop signs at Canal Street and West Broome Street.

**Public Comment:** No Public Comment

**Executive Session:**

Review of P/T Dispatcher Candidate Angelica Hernandez and SPO Candidate Ricky Maldonado. Both candidates are bi-lingual and candidate Maldonado currently serves at a department dispatcher and part time officer with the Village of Maybrook. Background investigations are currently underway, and a recommendation will be made to the Common Council in May.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm

Respectfully Submitted,

*William J. Worden*

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Chief of Police