



BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF MEETING
TUESDAY, October 2nd, 2018
Approved

A meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners was held in the Burlington Police Department Community Room on Tuesday, October 2nd, 2018. Chair Michele Asch called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

The following Commissioners were present: Chair Michele Asch, Vice Chair Shireen Hart, Commissioner Robert Simpson, Commissioner Randall Harp, Commissioner Jim Dunn, Commissioner Nyree Miles, and Commissioner Peter Bahrenburg. Also present: Chief del Pozo, DC Jan Wright, DC Jon Murad, Lt Mike Warren, Lt Lawson, Corporal Kratochvil, and Police Commission Clerk Laura Cheney.

Additions or Modifications to Agenda

- Directive 42: City Lock Access Card

Public Forum

- None

Chief's Report

- The Chief, following Chair Asch who participated in the hiring process, introduced the new DC of Operations, Jon Murad. He is returning to Vermont after a long career in policing.
- The Chief reported on feedback from mental health partners regarding use of force. The department has sought support in handling these situations and working with colleagues from the state and the Howard Center, we will be introducing new processes to work with mental health providers in times of crisis. He expressed challenges related to privacy concerns.
- The Chief noted the opening of the investigation into St. Joseph's Orphanage. There have been dozens of reports. The Diocese is allegedly willing to release folks from the non-disclaimer. We have several avenues for individuals to make a report - our dispatchers take verbal complaints, we have an internet portal, and also created an email, orphanage@bpdvt.org. The BPD will be conducting an investigation with each submission, irrespective of the statute of limitations, or whether the suspect is living or deceased. With the appropriate redactions, we may release a report at the conclusion of the investigation.
- Chair Asch inquired about restricting guns in bars. The Chief noted that we have to do this on the state level, which is much more of a challenge. We can encourage private companies to restrict guns on their own premises.

Review of Incoming Correspondence

- Chair Asch noted that several letters of commendation came late in the month, and we will need more time to work on a process for recognizing officers.
- Clerk Cheney noted various letters from community members related to the incident in City Hall Park, recognizing the skill and competence of officers in deescalating the situation with quick resolve.
- Vice Chair Hart reminded folks of the option to have compliments added to the portal.

Role of the Police Commission: Status of the Civilian Oversight Initiative

- Update on Meeting w/ Public Safety Commission
 - Chair Asch reported that she met with the City Attorney before she and Commissioner Bahrenberg met with the Public Safety Committee. The Commission was granted a 60-day extension and will need to report back in December to the City Council.
 - The Public Safety Committee requested the Commission report to the City Council twice a year. Chair Asch

suggested providing both quantitative and qualitative analysis, with thoughts and feedback about the process and the various complaints. She would also like to share complimentary letters at this time. The goal is that the community knows that someone is paying attention and reviewing complaints.

- The resolution is in draft form while the City Council awaits the Commission's next report with suggested changes and recommendations to the role of the police commission.
 - The City Attorney will attend the Oct 30th Commission meeting to address questions and concerns related to any changes and formalizing the process. Commissioners will submit to Chair Asch and Clerk Cheney any additional questions for the City Attorney prior to that meeting.
 - Commissioner Dunn inquired about internal complaints and suggested discussing further with the City Attorney.
- Distribution of Incoming Complaints (Executive Session)
 - Community Distribution of Complaint Form
 - Chair Asch relayed another recommendation that arose in meeting with the Public Safety Committee - making the complaint form available to citizens in various organizations around the community.
 - The complaint form will include a letter from the commission and the Chief regarding the process and follow up.
 - Chair Asch asked Vice Chair Hart edit the letter for review.
 - Vice Chair Hart suggested the letter be translated.
 - Chair Asch will distribute the letter and the form, with help from other Commissioners, to various locations in the community such as the VT Refugee Resettlement, Fletcher Free Library, AALV, PJC, CJC, and any other appropriate avenues to reach community members, in particular those that may feel intimidated or marginalized.

Commissioners' Updates/Comments:

- Commissioner Harp noted concerns from the community about receiving updates from the PD. Folks are looking for more information, outside of social media outlets.
 - The Chief noted that he was not comfortable with the Nixle platform in part because it does not provide a forum for communication. The PD does intend to use Nixle for emergency situations – accidents, threats, parking bans. We also use Front Porch Forum to address the entire community. The data portal does report all incidents and allows users to sort by date and see where events are occurring.
- Vice Chair Hart suggested educating and reminding folks about the dissemination of information from the PD.
- Chair Asch noted she will be attending CommStat and SubStat and report back.
- Commissioner Dunn noted he spotted the ERV and inquired about a policy on this.
 - The Chief noted it is in draft form and nearing completion.
- Commissioner Harp inquired about status of the regional dispatch.
 - We will request an update from Lt Warren at the November meeting.

Directive 42 City Lock Access Card

- The Chief relayed the importance of the PD having access cards to various facilities around the community in cases of emergency.
- Commissioner Bahrenberg motioned to approve, Commissioner Simpson seconded, all Commissioners voted in favor, and the directive was approved.

Officer Commissions

- Signed by all present members

Consent Agenda – Minutes of Previous Commission Meetings: August 28th Minutes

- Commissioner Dunn motioned to accept, Commissioner Bahrenberg seconded, all Commissioners voted in favor, minutes approved.

Next Meeting's Agenda Items and Date:

- Next meeting - Oct 30th
- The City Attorney will attend to answer questions related to citizen oversight model and the draft resolution.

Adjournment:

- Vice Chair motioned to move to Executive Session, Commissioner Dunn seconded. Open meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.
- Following Executive Session, Commissioner Dunn motioned to accept the Chiefs selections for promotion, seconded by Commissioner Bahrenberg, all voted in favor.
- Commissioner Simpson motioned to adjourn, all in favor, meeting ended at 8:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Cheney
Police Commission Clerk

10/2/2018



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