

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017
Subject to approval

A meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners was held in the Burlington Police Department Community Room on **Tuesday, September 26, 2017**. Chair Kemp Longmore called the meeting to order at 6:12 PM. Chief del Pozo arrived at 6:13 PM.

The following Commissioners were present: Chair Christine Kemp Longmore, Commissioner Shireen Hart, Commissioner Michele Asch, Commissioner Robert Simpson and Commissioner Jim Dunn. Also present: Police Chief Brandon del Pozo, Deputy Chiefs Jannine Wright, Police Commission Clerk Brion Houston, and Officer Eric Kratochvil.

Additions or Modifications to Agenda:

~ Commissioner Dunn asked to add a discussion about the vicious animal case following the Commission Reorganization item.

Public Forum:

~ Rachel Siegel from the Peace and Justice Center addressed the Commission reiterating the need for the City of Burlington to fund the televised coverage of the Commission meeting, so that the duty doesn't fall on cash-strapped nonprofits to help promote transparency.

~ Martha Reeves Lang complimented the Police Commission and the Police Department for their work to better the city, stating she has seen a significant decrease in crime in her neighborhood. Lang praised the Department's community outreach efforts with the community engagements. Lang stated that she is concerned about numerous people who are constantly loitering during the day time on the corner of Colchester Avenue and Fletcher Allen Drive; stating it's an accident waiting to happen. She asked that the Police Department keep an eye on the situation.

~ Brandon Harding introduced himself and asked to be heard when the Commission took up the vicious animal matter later in the agenda.

Appointment of Vice Chair, Board of Police Commissioners:

~ Commissioner Dunn made the motion to nominate Commissioner Hart as the Commission's Vice Chair, Commissioner Simpson seconded, all Commissioners in favor; passed, making Commissioner Hart Vice Chair.

Update on the Fair and Impartial Policing Policy:

~ Chief del Pozo stated the State of Vermont is still formulating their policy. Officer Kratochvil stated the Department is working on securing Dr. Bryant Marks for implicit bias training. Dr. Marks is a Professor of Psychology at Morehouse College. Right now, they are looking at funding sources for this training, including a portion of BPD's forfeiture funds.

Commission Reorganization:

~ Commission started to review handout assigning various Commission tasks to Commission members. Chair Kemp Longmore expressed a concern regarding Commissioners needing to use the Burlington email account. Deputy Chief Wright stated that all Commissioners should be using the burlingtonvt.gov emails instead of their personal email accounts to conduct any Commission business. This makes response to information requests much more streamlined.

Vicious Animal Matter Update:

~ Commissioner Simpson motioned to take up the vicious animal matter at this time. Commissioner Dunn seconded. Commissioner Dunn addressed Brandon and Melissa Harding about the procedural failures that were learned after the hearing with respect to service of the hearing notice.
~ Brandon Harding asked to have a new hearing, with new Commissioners, given that the 3 Commissioners who heard the matter before may have drawn conclusions based on the testimony of one side.
~ Commissioner Simpson moved to have another hearing to allow the Harding family fair representation, because it was determined after the previous hearing that the Harding's had not received the hearing notice in time. Commissioner Dunn seconded, all Commissioners in favor; passed to have another hearing with 3 different Commissioners. Commissioner Dunn motioned to serve future hearing in hand by a Police Officer to verify notifications have been made. Commissioner Simpson seconded. Discussion followed about whether it was necessary to formally change how service is undertaken. It was agreed that going forward, service would be done in a manner to assure completion prior to any similar hearing.

Annual Report:

~ Deputy Chief Wright stated the Commissions Annual Report is due to the City. Commissioner Kemp Longmore said she would reach out to Sarah Kenney to determine what the status of the report is, as she may have started to prepare one before her departure.

Chief's Report:

~ Chief del Pozo stated Officers are doing Patrol Procedure training this week. Chief del Pozo stated the Department has taken delivery of new vests and helmets that were shown at the last meeting. Chief del Pozo stated that approximately 460 creemees have been given out so far during the Creemee With A Cop community engagement series. Chief del Pozo stated the Department is hiring a new Crime Data Analyst and a new Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police. Chief del Pozo stated that the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council (State Police Academy) has approved the Police Officer entrance exam amendments that Constance Crisp made. Those should be implemented around December.

Review of Any Incoming Correspondence {as need}:

~ None for this meeting.

Commissioners' Updates/Comments:

~ Chair Kemp Longmore stated the recent CALEO meeting was successful.
~ Commissioner Dunn asked about how requests to record Commission meetings have been made. It was explained that the previous Chair, Sarah Kenney, out this request in writing to the City Council and/or Mayor's Office. Chief del Pozo stated that the City's Chief Innovation Officer, Beth Anderson, has collected data from city commissions regarding what is being recorded, where, and how it was paid for. Commissioner Dunn stated he will contact Anderson to follow up on the status.

Review Updated Directives:

~ No directives were presented to be reviewed at this meeting.

Consent Agenda – Minutes of Previous Commission Meetings:

~ Vice Chair Hart motioned to accept, Commissioner Asch seconded, all Commissioners in favor; so passed.

Next Meeting's Agenda Items and Date:

~ October 24th, 2017
~ Commission's Annual Report.
~ Vicious animal matter update.
~ Status of city-funded coverage of video recorded meetings.

Executive Session:

~ Vice Chair Hart motioned to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel discipline issue. Commissioner Asch seconded, Commissioners in favor; Commission entered executive session at 7:59 PM.

Adjournment:

~ Vice Chair Hart motioned to adjourn, Seconded by Commissioner Simpson. Adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brion Houston
Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police
Clerk of the Police Commission

09/26/2017
Date

DRAFT