

Police Committee

July 16 2020

The July monthly meeting of the police committee was called to order at 6:05pm with the following members in attendance: Mr. Foster, Ms. Randazzo, Ms. Trovei, Ms. Campbell, Ms. Mann, Chief Worden.

Public Comment-

Ms. Jessica Cohen, media news reporter, was presented a copy of the meeting agenda and inquired about agenda items during the meeting for her report.

Six Month Statistical Review and Crime Update- Part I Crime overall is trending at a 23.5 % reduction from 2018. In addition, most crime categories, incidents and categories involving traffic related crashes are significantly lower than 2018 largely due to the current pandemic that is facing our nation and our community.

A report of an arrest that occurred on July 15, 2020 resulting from an investigation by a team of City Police Detectives and the FBI Hudson Valley Safe Streets Task Force into a home invasion robbery involving the discharge of a firearm occurring on September 15, 2019 in Port Jervis. Two individuals have arrested and charged with Federal robbery related offenses based upon arrest warrants issued from the United States District Court for the Southern District of NY. The Port Jervis Police Department has been working in partnership with the US Attorney's Office and the Hudson Valley Safe Streets Task to assist in addressing violent crime and narcotics trafficking in our community.

Traffic Safety Update

- Police Traffic Services- traffic enforcement patrols financed by the governor's traffic safety committee are being deployed on various city streets to address accident causing behaviors.
- The department has submitted grant requests for additional funding for seat belt and traffic safety patrols for 2021.

Speed Monitor Deployments- The department continues to deploy the city's speed monitor to study speeding conditions in neighborhoods throughout the city. The following streets have recently been studies.

- Culvert Street
- West Main Street
- East Main Street (Tri-States)

- Speed Study Spread Sheet has been created incorporating the various speed studies conducted to provide comparisons.
- Mr. Foster discussed speeding concerns on West Main Street and Ms. Mann discussed speeding concerns on upper Jersey Avenue that occurred during the evening hours.

Child Passenger Safety Seat Inspection- The department was awarded a grant from GTSC to conduct a Child Passenger Safety Seat inspection and purchase 35 seats. Department is currently planning a Safety Seat inspection for August and will announce a date.

Stop Sign Intersections- The following intersections have been identified for stop sign placement during the month of July:

- West End- 1st Ward: Erie Street at Harold Street, Erie Street at Center Street, Erie Street at Grand Street.
- Fourth Ward – Front Street at Seward Avenue, Franklin Street @ Seward Avenue and Barcelow Street at Seward Avenue.

Traffic Complaint- Tractor Trailers- Tri-States- A No Truck Traffic Sign will be installed on Patterson Street to address tractor trailer traffic turning from North Maple Avenue to Bennet and Wright Streets.

Personal Protective Equipment – Preparations for a potential return of the pandemic are currently being made and the department is storing personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies for officers to protect their health and safety.

Orange County Rape Crisis Services / Sexual Assault Response Team has appointed the Chief of Police to be a member of the Executive Committee for OC SART to provide guidance and assistance with OC SART's revitalization including an updated mission and vision statement, and the launching of "Start by Believing Campaign". Start by Believing is a public awareness campaign designed to end the cycle of silence and change the way we respond to sexual assault by promoting increased awareness, enhancing team responses and providing support and services for survivors of sexual assaults.

The Chief discussed the development of a Strategic Plan to Modernize and Reinvent Police Strategies and Programs to be in compliance for filing with the State of New York by April 1, 2021, as per the Executive Order of Gov. Andrew Cuomo. The plan will include a series of public meetings and a public hearing involving the Common Council to adopt a plan after receiving public input. The goal will be to present a plan to the common council by February/March 2021 for potential approval.

Outreach and Prevention

- PJ Pride – Senior Outreach- The department and PJ Pride will be hosting walk-in senior outreach and medication disposal hours during the month of August at senior centers.

- Hope Not Handcuffs- A photo opportunity with PJ Pride and Hope Not handcuffs promoting our new signage was held. Signs were made available to members of the committee for display in the community.
- The department is reviewing the potential of providing a Jump Out Party in August in partnership with PJ Pride and PJ Recreation. We are following current CDC and Dept of Health Guidelines and are reviewing potential options to provide an outreach if health and safety guidelines permit.

Lexipol Policy Development Update- The Chief and Lt. Fitzpatrick are currently undergoing training via series of webinar presentations to provide managerial guidance for implementing the Lexipol Policy and Training Solution program for the department. The Department will begin reviewing updated policies in September 2020 with the goal of potential implementation of the enhanced manual in early 2021.

Training

- Firearms Simulator Train the trainer tentatively scheduled for August
- The Department is sending officers to a series of DCJS certified Procedural Justice Training that incorporates 24 hours of cycled training covering procedural justice, fairness in policing, Principled Policing, Police Legitimacy, Cultural Sensitivity and Implicit Bias as part of the department's efforts to enhance training and community responsiveness in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order for restructuring police departments across New York.
- The committee reviewed and discussed an invoice sent from the Police Academy for a one-time training assessment fee for all participating agencies supporting the new police academy that was relocated in Middletown, New York.
- 2 Hour Use of Force and De-escalation Training was conducted by members using a Lexipol trainer.
- 3 Hour Department In-Service covering legal updates is currently being planned for August.

The Department is researching the costs of implementing a Body Camera program and are currently soliciting quotes for infrastructure and storage from the following vendors:

- Axon/Motorola
- Watch Guard
- Visual Labs

The department has tested several body camera products and has enacted policy governing body camera deployments with the PBA. Currently, the cost of video storage is an obstacle.

The department has been forced to cancel many regularly scheduled outreach events due to the pandemic including National Night Out, Bicycle Safety Programs and the Leadership

Academy. The department has been focusing on providing enhanced directed foot patrols on all shifts located in the four wards and has purchased a new bicycle to increase bicycle patrol deployments.

Staffing Update

- Sergeant Vacancy- Three candidates were interviewed for the current police sergeant vacancy.
- Patrol Vacancy - Civil Service will be sponsoring their first physical fitness examination as part of the civil service list certification process on Saturday July 18, 2020. 23 candidates are scheduled to attend.

1902 hrs: Committee entered executive session to discuss Sergeants promotions and a contractual matter regarding employee leave time.

1915 hrs: Meeting re-convened and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

William Worden

Chief of Police