



THOMAS H. KIELY
CHIEF OF POLICE

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POLICE COMMISSION

JACK TESTANI, CHAIRMAN
ALFRED LIGGINS, COMMISSIONER
ROGER MCGOVERN, COMMISSIONER
LINO COSTANTINI, COMMISSIONER
PHILIP DIGENARO, COMMISSIONER
ALBERT ZAMARY, COMMISSIONER

Trumbull Police Commission Meeting
Trumbull Town Hall - Long Hill Conference Room
December 12, 2013

MINUTES

The Trumbull Police Commission meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Members present: Jack Testani, Chairman
Roger McGovern
Leo Costantini
Alfred Liggins
Albert Zamary

Also Present: Chief Thomas Kiely
Deputy Chief Glenn C. Byrnes
Deputy Chief Michael Harry

Absent: Philip DiGennaro

Public Comments:

The Chair OPENED Public Comment at 7:06

There being no public comments Chairman Jack Testani closed the Public Comment at 7:07 p.m.

Approval of the November 12, 2103 Police Commission Meeting Minutes:

Moved by Commissioner Zamary, seconded by Commissioner McGovern to accept the November 2013 meeting as submitted. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letter from Chief Lombardo thanking the Trumbull Police Department, Deputy Chief Harry and the patrol officers' effort and coordination in the recovery of the items stolen from his home and the arrests made in conjunction with. Sgt. Bernaud, Officers Petty, Driscoll, Ruscoe, Redgate and Lee and Detective Schwartz, Testi and Murray responded to his call. Chief Lombardo extended his gratitude to them for their dedication to their profession.
- Letter from Chief Fontenall regarding the Holiday Balloon Parade had been received.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

- Chief Kiely distributed the CT Chiefs Association's review of the response of the Newtown Shooting to the commission. The report is factual and is more accurate than what has been reported in the news. Extra precautions are being made by the department as the one year anniversary approaches.

2014 MEETING DATE SCHEDULE:

The 2014 meeting date schedule was distributed and reviewed by the commission Moved by Commissioner Liggins, seconded by Mr. McGovern to accept the 2014 Meeting Schedule as submitted. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Chief Kiely requested a change to the 2014 meeting schedule. Based on Chief Kiely's request and by unanimous consent the Police Commission agreed to change the January 2014 meeting to the first Tuesday of the month, January 7, 2014 and to keep the January 14, 2014 meeting scheduled for the Pension meeting.

CHIEF'S REPORT CONTINUED:

- Chief Kiely reported the part time mechanic has been hired. He has prepared the garage (on his one time). With assistance from the Highway Garage supervisor he has purchased oil, gas and miscellaneous parts. He is being introduced to the computer system used to record the maintenance and repairs of the fleet. The part time mechanic has completely serviced and checked for safety seven (7) patrol cars. He works 4 to 4.5 hours per day schedule. Service intervals will be at 5,000 miles v. the previous 8,000 mile interval. A process has been implemented for the officers to communicate the fleet issues and/or concerns to the mechanic. Lt. Savarese is overseeing the coordination.
- Chief Kiely reported 97 interviews are being conducted for the hiring of five (5) police officers between December 17' 2013 through December 20' 2013. There were 257 applicants in total. Deputy Chief Harry reviewed the hiring process with the commission. April 4, 2014 is the next academy. The candidates would come before the commission in March or sooner if possible. Chief Kiely indicated that there may be another academy in late spring. The Chair suggested hiring enough officers even if there are not enough spots in the academy. Chief Kiely stated depending on how the process goes they could hire at base level and have them work in the Records Department in the interim.
- Chief Kiely reported two of the recruits are on the road and went through the FTO program well. In 3-4 weeks the other two recruits will be on the road. The department is currently down five officers, but the total number is 9 officers inclusive of long term surgeries and illnesses.
- Chief Kiely spoke favorably of how Lt. Scinto is settling into professional standards on the days shift. Sgt. Allen is on the day shift (there are two sergeants on the day shift) and Sgt. Lopes is on the midnight shift. The next promotion for sergeants will be discussed at the January meeting.
- Chief Kiely reported that he and Deputy Chief Byrnes were invited to meet with James Comey, FBI Director. 25 law enforcement officers were picked from the state to go. He discussed the issues he was facing and asked what the agencies' issues were. The

director has a keen eye on the issues being faced in this area. Chief Kiely spoke favorably of the exchange.

- Chief Kiely reported that cyber crime was discussed at the meeting with the FBI Director; this is and will affect all communities in the coming years. Chief Kiely would like through the budgetary process to be able to send an officer for cyber crime training. At this time Trumbull sends the information to Monroe, but it is time for more training at the local level. The training is lengthy. Deputy Chief Harry explained there are certifications in different phases of forensics. Deputy Chief Byrnes indicated that most commonly extracting data from a computer/electronics is what would need to be done. To meet the standards there are certain criteria that needs to be met while extracting, maintaining, recording and preserving the data, there are many legal standards that have to meet right up to the time it is presented in court. There are many more facets but Trumbull needs to get the most prevalent ones covered. Chief Kiely will have more information on the subject when he presents the budget.
- Chief Kiely reported that the Statewide Narcotics Task Force has been successful this year. Year-to-Date there have been 278 drug investigations, 50 search warrants served, assisted in 9 search warrants, 40 arrest warrants, 7 DCF referrals, they referred 16 children to juvenile court for major drug sales, removed 6 children from their homes, and 2 gang members arrested. 105 arrests in total and \$107,238 was taken in currency. This is street level numbers. 6 Firearms, 17 vehicles, 30 lbs of cocaine, 62.7 grams of crack, 573.4 grams of heroin, 257 lbs of marijuana, 2500 doses of LSD was taken off the streets in Bridgeport, Trumbull and Stratford. Once the hiring is up to date another officer will be put into the Task Force, the individual is chosen at the discretion of the Chief of Police.

Deputy Chief Byrnes Report:

Deputy Chief Byrnes reported for the last two years Black Friday has started earlier and earlier. In years past there had been issues with people pushing their way towards the doors. Black Friday was moved back again, stores were opening at midnight; there was a good flow of customers and fewer conflicts. This year Black Friday was moved back even further to Thursday at 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. There was a short line of people at Best Buy and were filtered into the store in small groups at a time as to not overwhelm the store. Target had lines of approximately 100 people. There were no issues throughout the day. Black Friday is always a busy day at the mall there are extra officers scheduled for special duty to work inside the mall and extra personnel on the road. The staff is increased that weekend and every week, especially on Fridays and Saturdays leading up to the holiday. Both canines are used on varying schedules through the week and specifically on Fridays and Saturdays. They are a very good deterrent. To date the season has been orderly; there have been very few issues beyond what is normally handled. Shoplifting is constant, particularly at the anchor stores because they have good security which works continually. Target stores in particular are high contributors to the shoplifting numbers because there are two stores that have a very ambitious staff. The weekend before Christmas is historically the busiest time of the season and because Christmas falls on a Wednesday there will be busy times the days before the holiday as well. The day after Christmas has begun to be a problem; this has increased as the other times have decreased. The youth

comes out and turns it into the place to go the day after the holiday. Officers have been sent to the mall in the last year or two to push the unruly crowds out of the mall and expect to do the same this year. TPD will stay in touch with the GBTA to make sure the people can be moved out of the mall as fast as the police are moving them out of the interior to avoid any conflicts. A new mall manager had been assigned in the last few weeks. Deputy Chief Byrnes has met with him once to date. The substation is being used a greater amount of time and is working out well. The officers are able to write reports, take statements, complete interviews at the substation as well as submit their reports wirelessly.

Detective Bureau Report:

The Detective Bureau Report was delivered by Deputy Chief Harry

- A \$30,000 ring was recovered from case in 2011. Credit was given to Detective Schwartz . This resulted in three (3) arrest warrants.
- An arrest warrant for a convicted felon for possession of an assault weapon is in progress.
- A home invasion took place last week, no one was hurt and the bureau is in the process of investigating.
- There is a suspect for a home invasion of three (3) years ago based on DNA evidence.
- In November there were ten (10) reported burglaries, one (1) was discounted, two (2) were solved, five (5) are open and active.
- Pistol permits have increased by 100 - last year there were 156 permits this year there have been 256 to date. The process has been changed and will be able to process them quicker on the AFIS Livescan.

Activity Report:

Deputy Chief reported that the overall caseload is up 5%. The alarms for November are at just about 200.

- Drug violations - There was one drug overdose, the person survived thanks to the good response of the officers and EMS. A drug arrest took place as well.
- Larcenies from motor vehicles are higher than last month at 13, to the credit of the midnight shift they apprehended two individuals responsible for the larcenies and since then have dropped off significantly.
- Medical calls continue at a consistent number of 149 and continue to climb through the year. To date medical calls have increased by 2% however they claim 10% of the overall case load and occupies a significant amount of the officers' time. The time spent is important, it does save lives.
- There were 50 arrests made in the month of November.
- There were 3 DUI arrests made.

Deputy Chief Harry reported between 2012 and 2013 the alarms have increased by 160. In September the Alarm ordinance was enforced. In October there were 185 alarms. There have been 1,017 alarms registered to date. 149 Letters have been mailed since October to those that have failed to register, of the 149 mailed 31 people have responded and paid the \$100 fine. A mass mailing to notify the resident of the

ordinance has been looked into, but it is very costly. Instead a flyer could be sent with the tax mailings and also a small advertisement in the Trumbull Times. The fines along with all of the revenues are deposited into the general fund. Commissioner McGovern suggested using some of the fine money to pay for the mass mailing. Deputy Chief Harry stated a supplemental request to the BOF would be necessary. Deputy Chief Harry will get a cost estimate for the mailing and report back to the commission at the January meeting. Deputy Chief Byrnes suggested that the information be included in the mailing that the town does to all new residents.

New Business:

Chief Kiely reported that EMS calls have increased from 70-75% of all calls to 93-96%. The EMS Chief is very accessible to the Police Department and is visible. He brings a lot of enthusiasm. Chief Kiely confirmed for the commission that the EMS Chief has taken over the first responder.

Traffic Report:

Chief Kiely reported that all of the yellow safety signs have been replaced with the high visibility green signs; this was paid for by the DOT. The department was prepared for the worst during the Thanksgiving holiday but it did not happen. It has been an uneventful month.

The Chair requested a preliminary report at the January meeting and more concrete resolutions for the February meeting on the two following traffic issues:

- Route 111 crosswalk - A resident called the Chairman with regard to this crosswalk with a concern that the blinking light is not high enough. The resident believes it is only a matter of time before a pedestrian is hit. The Chairman suggested sending police cars over to the area more often, but also had indicated to the resident that this is a State road which limits the Town on how the area can be enhanced. Chief Kiely indicated they are in negotiations with the State on this issue. Chief Kiely will bring literature to the January meeting and further explained that plans were looked at for a bridge over and/or the tunnel under. Both options are problematic and are instead looking at massive overhead signs. Chief Kiely suggested meeting with the professionals who have researched the bridge and tunnel over the crosswalk. The Chair agreed and suggested the commissioners go as a group with Chief Kiely.
- Whitney Avenue - Chief Kiely indicated that Lt. Savarese had been working with the Town Engineer on getting the signs that were similar to those Darien have. The issue was funding and they were looking into the Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency for assistance, but there have been some changes made in personnel at that agency. Chief Kiely will follow up on this with regard to enforcement in the area. The Chair indicated the speed is still an issue.

Chief Kiely indicated that both issues need to be addressed with the State as bigger projects. It may be necessary to address it in the budget process. The Chair asked the Chief to follow up on the Whitney Avenue issue with Lt. Savarese and the Town Engineer and to apprise the commission via email. Commissioner McGovern reported

during the recent storm a car did go off the Whitney Avenue into the woods. Also at the corner of Teller Road and Whitney Avenue the bingo sign was knocked down as well. Before the sign is replaced he wanted to make Lt. Savarese aware that the current stop sign at the intersection is too far back and is causing the cars to put the nose of the car out into traffic. The Chair suggested that the Traffic Division review this issue.

Old Business:

Deputy Chief Byrnes updated the commission on the Communication Center Renovation and Radio Upgrade project. A full presentation was made to the BOF. The original request was for \$4.5 million. The BOF approved \$2.9 million, the whole radio portion was approved, the building renovation was reduced to allow for detailed plans in the amount of \$200,000. Last night they presented to the Town Council Finance Committee where the \$2.9 million was approved and recommended to the full council. Next week on 12-17-2013 the full Town Council meeting is scheduled and expects this will be approved at the \$2.9 million.

There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Commissioner McGovern, seconded by Commissioner Liggins the Trumbull Police Commission adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni, Acting Clerk