

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2019, 7:00 P.M.
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM, POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Vice Chair Bergami called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sam Bergami, Alberta Jagoe, John Mager, Sharon Marrone, D. Rubenstein

COMMISSIONER NOT PRESENT: Richard Smith

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Rahn, Ald. Vetro, D. Candido, Secty.

A quorum was present to conduct the business of the meeting.

1.a. Reorganization of the Board

It was moved by Vice Chair Bergami and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to continue to support and enjoy the leadership of Richard Smith as Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to nominate Comm. Bergami as Vice Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners. Motion carried unanimously.

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS - none

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- B. Carissimi – 64 Kirkside Ave. – stated she recently attended the retirement party of Capt. Dumas and other retiring officers and had the opportunity to hear the fine comments of the retirees who shared wonderful and supportive comments of the Department and its leadership. She complimented Chief Mello and his staff for his creative and effective leadership.
- Marc Zahariades – 78 Harborside Drive – expressed his concern regarding a homeless person who is living in a tent in the park (Wilcox) across from his home. Stated he has contacted the Police Department about this issue, however, neither the tent nor the person living in it has been removed. He stated now there is a 2nd tent in the park with another person living in it. He shared his concern regarding the issues that have occurred behind the library and the impact this situation has on the residents in the area.

Chief Mello explained that recently an ordinance was passed to further address this problem. He emphasized the fact that the police cannot criminalize homelessness and Milford is not the only community faced with this problem. He explained the various outreach services that are offered to our homeless community.

Further Chief Mello stated while attempting to enforce this ordinance, an officer cannot physically remove the homeless individual(s) and he would not place our officers in that situation. He noted the goal is to manage and reduce the problem and bring the homeless

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away from residential areas. He also explained there are cameras in the park but these cameras continue to not be supported and therefore do not work. Chief Mello reminded those present that officers are taught that law enforcement is fair and equitable to all. He explained his staff is looking for intervention from the city attorney with language to address removal of the person from the park, wooded area, etc. but at this time it is the goal of the Department to stay aggressive in managing the problem. Chief Mello emphasized the fact that homelessness is not illegal. He explained his officers are working on the problem not only in the Wilcox Park area but in other areas of the city.

Mr. Zahariades directed comments to one specific homeless individual and his concern regarding the fact they could be a behavioral problem.

Chief Mello explained the Department is doing everything they can within the law and our officers will continue to be present and do everything possible to address the problem. He added he sincerely understands and respects the frustrations being expressed and noted it is the job of the Department to protect people's constitutional rights no matter what their background or status may be. He further urged residents to support the issue of getting funding for those cameras in that specific park area.

Mr. Zahariades suggested officers be more empathetic to those people who reside in the area.

- Ald. Vetro congratulated Chair Smith and Vice Chair Bergami for their leadership of this Commission. He addressed comments made by previous speaker regarding the homeless population and he explained the numerous agencies in our city who work diligently to assist this homeless population.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2018 meeting as presented. Motion carried with Comm. Rubenstein abstaining as he was not present at the December meeting.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE – Chief Mello shared the following:

- Chief Mello stated he had received numerous emails from residents regarding the homeless issue based on the recent adoption of an ordinance.
- Mary Ann Cianculli – resident – expressed gratitude to Sgt. Simpson for his professional and helpful manner.
- Jennifer Casceillo, Dean of Students & Director of Facilities, Lauralton Hall – took the opportunity to acknowledge and thank the officers who continuously take care of the facility and students as is displayed by their various roles on campus. Specifically, Officers Davidson, Robinson, Dempsey, DeVito, Salati, Napolitano, Mills, Sgt. DelMonte and Sgt. O'Keefe.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

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- a. Year End Report for Police Sick and Relief Fund – It was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to roll over the Police Sick and Relief Fund. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Informational: Safe Driving awards for Officers Michael Moreno, Steve Napolitano and Brock Roggie.
- c. Chief's General comments – Chief Mello explained the most recent session of the Police Academy has begun and those enrolled will graduate in July.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING & ZONING REQUESTS

- a. Tribus Beer Company – 100 Raton Drive – it was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding the Tribus Beer Company, 100 Radon Drive. Motion carried unanimously.

8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to approve the following reports:

- a. Special Investigations Unit Report
- b. Detective Bureau Report
- c. Crime Prevention Unit Report
- d. Traffic Division and Licensing Unit Report

Motion carried unanimously.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

10. NEW BUSINESS - none

11. COMMENDATIONS - none

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Mager to add to the agenda Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. Consideration of Report of Chief of Police on matters concerning the Appointment, Employment, Performance, Evaluation, Health or Dismissal of Department Employees.

- a. Discussion regarding performance of (1) employee.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Mello, Deputy Chief Rahn and commissioners present remained for Executive Session.

(Chief Rahn left Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.)

The meeting reconvened in public session at 8:35 p.m.

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Being no further business, it was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido

Submitted to City Clerk January 15, 2019