

Rutland City Police Commission
May 9, 2022

Present: Chairman Sean Sargeant, Commissioners Tony Romeo, Luther Brown and Peg Flory.

Also attending: Chief Kilcullen, Commanders Greg Sheldon and Sam Delpha, Sgt. Lorman, Crime Analyst Nathan Thibodeau, Mayor Allaire, Carrie Major and neighbors from Adams Street, Alis Headlam, and Tom Calcagni.

Call to order by Chairman Sargeant at 6:05 pm.

Recognition of Police Commission Member

Chairman Sargeant presented former Commissioner Tom Calcagni with a Certificate of Citation thanking him for serving the Police Commission for nearly 20 years.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Romeo moved to approve the minutes of April 11, 2022 with the correction on page 5 under Review/Comment Municipal Guidance for Cannabis that the Police Chief will have a seat on the proposed local control board. Commissioner Brown seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Comment

Carrie Major of Adams Street spoke on behalf of the neighbors present regarding the issues the neighborhood is having with the habitants at 158 Adams Street. Those issues include noise complaints, behavior indicative of drug trafficking, an assault that was not reported, as well as, concern for the welfare of children and dogs living at the residence and safety issues for the neighborhood. Chief Kilcullen and Commander Sheldon discussed the ordinance tickets that are being issued regarding disturbing the peace. Commissioner Flory asked if DCF had been contacted regarding the children. There was discussion as to whether the individual holding the mortgage on the property could be sued or held responsible. The Chief suggested the neighbors contact William Notte on Orchard Drive as a legislator who is also on the judicial committee. Sgt. Mosher recommended that the neighbors press charges to put the homeowner on notice. Commander Sheldon discussed the Noise in the Nighttime criminal offense. Chief Kilcullen said he will follow up with DCF, the citations and Building & Zoning. He recommended that the neighbors pass along their video evidence to the police and continue to call.

Commissioner Sargeant said he received an email from Eric Swartz regarding concerns about graffiti. Commissioner Sargeant said Mr. Swartz was invited to come to the Police Commission meeting. Mayor Allaire said he had also been contacted and he recommended that Mr. Swartz attend the Project VISION meeting on Thursday.

Mayor Allaire discussed a meeting with the State last Friday to discuss the issues at the hotels. He also received a call from the regional manager at Ocean State Job Lots who is receiving numerous calls from employees regarding an uptick in shoplifting over the last few weeks, as well as, concerns for their safety due to activity behind the building. In addition, a resident from Dana Avenue contacted the Mayor regarding increased loitering in the neighborhood and noise at 10:30 pm. The Mayor is meeting with the Life Intervention Team (LIT) and Karim tomorrow regarding these concerns. Chairman Sargeant asked about the process to suspend services to people in the hotels who violate laws or create chaos in that area. Mayor Allaire said there is a process and during a meeting last Friday, Karim had assured everyone that any issues he was aware of were being addressed. Chief Kilcullen said the PD has been told that LIT has the authority to evict tenants on the spot. However, information was received from staff there regarding an individual that was arrested at Cortina and given a no trespass order from the hotel, but the State had nowhere to place him and kept him at the Cortina despite the order. The Chief said there will be a meeting on June 15 at 6:30 pm at the RIS auditorium that will be attended by Commissioner Brown to answer questions and concerns regarding addressing the barriers to permanent housing when these programs end in 12 months. Commander Sheldon added that there is a connection between the individual arrested and Karim's thought was when dealing with someone with mental health issues it was better to keep them at the hotel than release them into the neighborhood. Commander Sheldon disagreed saying when criminal activity is taking place LIT could have been an accessory if something additional had happened to the victim. He also commended Mark Stockton for reporting any criminal activity that he sees. Commander Sheldon suggested a meeting needs to be held with LIT to discuss these issues.

Chairman Sargeant said he participated in the Board of Aldermen discussion regarding the cannabis control board. The Aldermen did impanel a Board of Control Commissioners for Cannabis Retail which gives the Chief a review of any licensees in the City. The final say resides in Montpelier with the Cannabis Control Board but at least any applicant in the City gets a review by the Chief of Police followed by the Aldermen to decide whether a recommendation to support or not support the licensee at the state level. Commissioner Flory said the Cannabis Control Board has only approved 3 licenses. Chairman Sargeant said they are licensing manufacturers that had medical licenses or part of the community who had suffered damages by their unlawful behavior in the

past. They are not focused on retail yet because they need to build a pipeline with manufacturers to get to a retail launch.

Commanders' Report

Commander Sheldon said the meeting on June 15 will be opened up to all Project VISION list serve. He has received multiple text messages from Rob Evans who works for the consulting company Margolis Healy who are working on the hotel program as the go between for the Commissioner of Law Enforcement. Deputy Commissioner Tyo has retired and two interim people replaced her but it sounds like Commissioner Brown will attend. Another meeting is being scheduled through Project VISION with partners having do with LIT and concerns that Karim is spread too thin and he is not accessing resources for assistance and instead having his employees referring people to Westridge which they are not trained to do. The PD does not have a lot of complaints because things are a lot better than last year but the meeting will be coordinated through Project VISION on May 16. People from BROCC, Rutland Mental Health, Evergreen, Turning Point and Regional Ambulance have been asked to attend. Commander Sheldon also discussed the recent suicide of a 13-year-old boy and how the officers involved and dispatchers have all had a debriefing with the two officers involved struggling but doing better.

Commander Delpha said 6 applicants are in background, 1 is part-time certified and 4 are signed up for the part-time academy in June. The next full-time academy is scheduled for August 22. BCI helped by making background a priority. Commander Delpha discussed the award ceremony scheduled for May 17 saying they are finalizing the details. The memorial ceremony for deceased members of the police department. typically held outside in front of City Hall will be combined with the awards ceremony. Chairman Sargeant asked if there will be an event at City Hall. Commander Delpha said he believes everything will happen at the church, but Emily Leinoff is working on something to be left at the memorial site. Commissioner Brown asked what inspired the increase in applicants. Commander Delpha said it has to do with timing, it's a good career and people are proud to serve the community. Chief Kilcullen added that being on Police App has contributed to out-of-state interest.

Mapping Update

Nate Thibodeau said he has been streamlining himself, the Police Commission and RutStat due to keeping up the amount of tracking with VALCOUR because it is not data friendly. Nate now has to read all of the cases, but that provides more information. The YTD calls are 3,322 with the 5-year average 3,234. Out of 200 cases, most case locations are residential followed by commercial, traffic, hazard, calls by phone, responses to hospital, school and hotel. Commander Sheldon asked what NCI stands for and Nate

said Non-criminal Instant. He discussed the risk level which are the calls officers respond to that become more hostile. Chairman Sargeant said he likes the format. Nate said it is still a work in progress. He discussed the crime comparison reporting that there was 1 Homicide in 2021, none so far this year, Robbery is 4 this year, Aggravated Assault has been difficult to find, Burglary 20 with this year 17. Larceny comparison information followed with Automobile theft (car stolen) 5-year average is 4/currently 26 with 50% know who took the car, larceny from automobile average 20, currently at 106, theft from buildings average 11/currently 26. Retail theft average is 37/currently 72. The total larcenies are 82 in January, 61 in February, 80 in March and 105 in April with the largest larceny from motor vehicle. Larceny from motor vehicle 74% are unlocked and 13% are broken into and 13% unknown. Nate said another problem is stolen weapons from unlocked vehicles. Chairman Sargeant said the department has done a good job with notices on the Facebook page over the last month.

Nate said hotel/motel calls are escalating with 18 calls in April and 154 total calls or 5% of the total call volume with Econolodge seeing the most. He said there was one fatal overdose and one at the Quality. He will be adding slides to the Drugs, Guns and Money and tracking the pick up of needles. Overdose comparison information, there were 25 in 2021 and for the end of April 20 with 2 fatal and the perceived overdoses from heroin and fentanyl with 58% male and 42% female with most occurring on Friday at 7pm. Seizure information includes 193 grams total, crack 144 grams and heroine 48 grams and 3 guns with 22 arrests, 19 residents and 3 out of state. Chairman Sargeant asked if Nate has reviewed cases for the community resource officer position and asked if he could summarize the result of that study. Nate said he has two years of research done and could not summarize at this time. However, he believes there is enough research to support at least one community resource officer and possibly two. He added that 40% of the calls could be handled by the new position. Commissioner Romeo asked about the working schedule for the new position. Commander Sheldon said there would be some Union negotiations with regard to the hours. Chief Kilcullen said most likely from 10 am to 8 pm.

Budget Report

Chief Kilcullen reported that at 83% of the fiscal year, expenses are at 68.49% of the budget due to openings. Commissioner Romeo asked about the status of the uniforms. Chief Kilcullen said he went to the Board of Finance on April 28th with 3 requests, the alternate bidder for the cars which saved \$500 per car, the firearms transition to a 9mm firearm and the uniforms. The BOF asked for a quote for the uniform items from AAA Supply out of Massachusetts and whether the order can be filled in this fiscal year. Sgt. Lorman said he emailed the vendor today asking for the quote.

Chief's Report

Chief Kilcullen said the Parking Committee met on April 21 to discuss replacing the kiosks and researching payment solutions like the proposed Park Mobile which was presented at the meeting. The Board of Aldermen moved the Parking Committee's request to go out for proposals. On April 27 the Parking Committee met again to discuss the walkway from Center Street to the parking deck and determined it will stay closed with follow up next month. On April 28 Project Vision walked downtown and met with residents of the Bardwell House who want to be a part of Project VISION. Alis discussed the intent of the walks was to make connections between the Downtown businesses and the police department. She said the next walk will include Turning Point on May 20 and she discussed including community agencies in the walks going forward. Chief Kilcullen continued with his report saying on May 6 there was a meeting with State Representatives Economic Service representatives local level, there is a vicious dog hearing scheduled for May 10 and on May 11 there is a meeting with AXON who supplies the tasers and will include Dominion Tech, body cams, to discuss IT issues with storage. On May 12 at noon there is a Project VISION meeting and the awards ceremony on May 17. There will be a Neighborhood Walk on May 20 at 3:30 and May 31-June 2 is the Chiefs' Association and Sheriff's Conference that both the Chief and Commander Sheldon will attend. The June Project VISION walk is scheduled for the 16th with BROCC at 2:30 pm. On April 26, the recruitment team attended a job fair in Essex and used the fatal vision goggles to attract people to the booth. On April 30 the Family Feud was held at the Paramount and the police won over the fire department. The Human Trafficking Case Manager has resigned. The position is funded by the state but housed in Rutland. A student from RHS will be hosted from June 1-14 as part of YES plan. The new dispatcher starts the week of May 23.

Trainings

April 5-7 – Spring firearms training for all sworn officers completed.

Draft Physical Fitness Policy

Chairman Sargeant asked if the Commission was ok with him working on the policy with the City Attorney. He will be asking what is a qualified training center for the purposes of workman's comp. The Commissioners agreed that was ok.

Adjournment

Commissioner Flory moved to adjourn. Commissioner Romeo seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Meeting called to a close at 7:46 pm.

Submitted by: Barbara Spaulding

cc: Chief Brian Kilcullen
Mayor David Allaire
Police Commission
City Clerk Henry Heck
Board of Aldermen
Union President Rick Caravaggio