

Rutland City Police Commission
June 14, 2021

Present: Chairman Sean Sargeant, Commissioners Luther Brown, Tony Romeo and Jeanette Langston.

Also attending: Chief Kilcullen, Sgt. Lorman, Commanders Greg Sheldon and David LaChance, Crime Analyst Nathan Thibodeau, *Alderman Savage and Pat Hunter.

Call to order by Chairman Sargeant at 6:02 pm.

Chairman Sargeant said Governor Scott announced he has rescinded all state COVID-19 restrictions and Vermont's State of Emergency is slated to expire on June 15. Therefore, this will be the final remote meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the minutes of May 10, 2021. Commissioner Romeo seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Comment

Chairman Sargeant said he received positive feedback on the commentary he wrote that ran in the Herald and Mountain Times. He said it is important to tell the story of what is going on in Rutland and celebrate the good message instead of letting other people tell the story.

Communication from Union

Chairman Sargeant said he has had communication with Rick Caravaggio and Eric Morgano, President and Vice President of the Union. They asked for data regarding real property values for Union negotiations. Chairman Sargeant provided the information to both the Union and the City of Rutland to help inform their discussions.

Commanders' Report

Commander Sheldon said the Community Policing Subcommittee met today and are starting to meet monthly with Commander Sheldon and Pat Hunter as co-chairs. The subcommittee has identified 3 outcomes and some action steps that should be finalized next week. As part of one of the Subcommittee's outcomes, he has reached out to Binghamton, NY Lieutenant who teaches Crime Prevention through Environmental Design and asked for a cost/price analysis for the class. Both Sgt. Dickerson and Commander Sheldon have been approved to travel to Binghamton to take the class later this month. The Community Engagement Committee with Alis Headlam is doing good

work including a walk that both he and the Chief participated in on May 29 in the northwest sector. The next Community Engagement Walk will be held June 26 at the former CSJ campus for the Recreation Department's program called Just Play, No Way. Commander Sheldon said he continues to hear great things about Emilio Rosario downtown who is reaching out and engaging with the businesses. Unsolicited comments about how great Emilio is are being received at least 3-4 times a week. ACO Tim Jones is busy with animal control and vicious dog hearings. There could be a criminal charge in one case depending on the State's Attorney's review. Commander Sheldon said Nate Thibodeau is working with Barre and Bennington with data and link analysis as links involving drug and criminal activity are being identified between all three. Sgt. Dickerson is busy with treatment court today doing home checks to make sure participants are doing well, as well as, assisting Commander Sheldon with technology and meetings. The Vision Roadshow is starting again in Montpelier to spread the word about Rutland's Project Vision with the legislators. Jeanette has been helping with the social media presence for Project Vision and the agency overall.

*Alderman Savage arrived.

Chief Kilcullen said Commander Delpha is working patrol tonight adding that in regard to a Herald article last week about openings, they do all exist in patrol.

Commander LaChance said Rutland is not the only one in the state or country that is facing a manpower and staffing shortage. He has completed a state survey regarding manpower and it was submitted Monday. Commander LaChance said we are down 8 positions, not counting Sgt. Bartlett's retirement in October. There are five applicants in background and in preparation the part-time school in September has five slots arranged. He added that registrations for the full-time academy will be in February. Two assessment centers were conducted last month. The position for a communications operator will be open in July. Commander LaChance said he has held one meeting with Sgt. Lorman, Heath Plemmons and Sgt. Dickerson to review the first policy. The MOU for CFAC has been signed. The successful fundraiser for Tim Tuttle was held yesterday with the flag raffle raising \$3,000 and the barbecue raising \$12,000. The Law Enforcement BPA Memorial was held May 28.

Commissioner Langston asked if targeted advertising in key newspapers in states out west was considered for the open positions. Chief Kilcullen responded that he is working on using a national service through the IACP.

Commissioner Brown asked where in the hiring process is there a tendency to lose the most candidates. Chief Kilcullen said lately it has been during the polygraph test.

Commander LaChance said the written test and PT are also where most of the applicants fail. Commander LaChance added that an issue with hiring out of state or cross country is that an applicant can't take all the tests in one day. Commissioner Brown said that half of the students who graduate from the criminal justice program at Castleton are interested in being police officers but don't seem to make it through the hiring process. He is wondering what can be done to prepare freshmen for becoming police officers. Commander LaChance wonders if the students in the criminal justice program are looking for a law degree. Commissioner Brown said some of his students have shared their desire to become law enforcement persons and this has great potential for Rutland and he is not sure what the hinderance is for those students. Commander LaChance suggested that Commissioner Brown find out from the students where they are having trouble with the testing.

Chairman Sargeant reminded the Animal Control Board members there are two vicious dog hearings on the next two Tuesdays. He asked Commander Sheldon for any evidence or tickets regarding the dog "Mercedes". Commander Sheldon said that ACO Jones did issue a \$500 ticket prior to the vicious animal hearing for violation of a prior order.

Commissioner Langston shared that she has been partnering with her Social Tinkering "hat" and the LGBTQ group to organize the Pride Car Caravan that will take place on June 26. She has been coordinating with Commander Delpha and the VT State Police as well. GMP has offered their parking lot to convene the caravan and Sgt. Delpha will have a patrol officer and VT State Police officer assist in getting safely through the city and the VT State Police officer will help transport through to Manchester to meet with the Bennington group. Commissioner Langston said this shows support from the RCPD and the LGBTQ community. She also gave a shout out to Emilio who she spoke to last week regarding a business owner's concerns and he has already followed up. He is doing a great job.

Mapping Update

Nate Thibodeau presented the Rutland City Police Department May YTD comparison. He said the 3peat percent of call volume is 9%. The busiest time of day for May is between 9 am and noon and the second is between 8 and 10 pm. The busiest day of the week is Monday and second is Saturday. The YTD comparison for May 31, 2021 call volume is 4,321 with the average 4,208, directed patrols is 417 with the average 341. Larceny (all other) is up to 49 with the average 34; Shoplifting is up to 53 with the average 43; Aggravated Assault is down 15 with the average 20; Breaking Entering is up 25 with the average 16; Robbery is up but an arrest has been made. Motor vehicle larceny is up 55 with the average 22; Larceny from Building is at 16 with the average 16. Overdoses are up 26 and the four-year average is 20. Narcan use has increased over the years by

police, EMS and a bystander. Arrests for Larceny (all other) total cases is 49 with 9 arrests; Shoplifting is 53 cases with 31 arrests; Aggravated Assault total cases is 14, Breaking Entering is at 25 with 3 arrests, B&E no force is 5 with 2 arrests; Robbery is 10 cases with 3 arrests. The Map Update shows thefts from motor vehicle in Sector 1 area, Breaking Entering in Sector 1, Sector 2 and Shopping Plaza, Aggravated Assault, Robbery and Overdoses in Sector 1.

Commissioner Langston asked if overdoses increased. Nate said there were 26 this year and that was the same as 2017. She asked if the larceny and breaking entering included locked vehicles and houses. Nate said the majority was unlocked vehicles and some force into homes with broken doors or windows. Commander LaChance said there has been an increase in break-ins in the county.

Commissioner Langston said she has noticed an increased tagging to signs. Chief Kilcullen agreed it is spread throughout the City but the amount has not gotten to a point where good intelligence can be collected. Commissioner Langston said it is disappointing to see but knows it is difficult to catch.

Chairman Sargeant mentioned the increase in shopping carts needing to be returned to the plaza but added that he understands with the bag ban it's harder for people who do not have access to private vehicles. He discussed an event in Winooski or Burlington where they were able to subsidize 75 individual folding shopping trolleys and hand them out in neighborhoods where shopping carts were an issue. Alderman Savage emailed the Commission that the Board is currently looking into the carts.

Budget Report

Chief Kilcullen reported that as of the 11th month of the fiscal year or 92% of the year, expenses are at 82% of the budget. This is partly due to the job openings and in part to the year-end payouts that haven't been made yet. The salary line is at 79%.

Chief's Report

Chief Kilcullen said on May 13 he and SRO LaGuardia met with Ron Bliss, Superintendent of Schools, to discuss a matter that was brought to the RPD attention involving a student and potentially developing curriculum on how to respond in situations when students are being targeted for any reason. On May 14 Project Vision sponsored Stuff a Cruiser with Stockton Security vehicles and also on May 14 Sgt. Dickerson participated in an Opioid Overdose Roundtable. On May 17 contract negotiations with the Union started. May 26 the Chief met with Eric McGuire, director of Rutland DISMAS House and on May 27 attended session two for Union negotiations. On May 28 a Memorial Service was held to honor deceased police officers whose names have been put on the wall in

front of City Hall. May 29 was the Community Engagement Walk and June 8 the Chief met with the Mayor and residents of the northwest neighborhood to talk about supporting the department and potentially a neighborhood watch. On June 10 the third bargaining session with the Union was held. On June 15 at 11 am at the Allen Street School is the campus ribbon cutting ceremony for the bike track and on June 16 there will be broadband installed through the city with a number of city crews out and the RCPD will be coordinating with DPW. On June 19 the Boys & Girls Club is having summer celebration from 1 to 4 pm on Merchants Row. On June 22 there is a vicious dog hearing and on June 29 another Union negotiation session, as well as, a second vicious dog hearing. On July 19 there will be a re-opening celebration of the Amtrak Station at 7:30 am with a train ride to Castleton. One of the dispatchers has tendered her resignation as of July 4, the position has been posted. Also, the building cleaning, uniform cleaning and maintenance contracts have been put out to bid with a closing of June 22 and bid opening at the Board of Finance Committee meeting on June 23 at City Hall.

Trainings

May 26 – Handgun skill training

June 8 – Use of Force & Tactics Update for Detective Billings

June 14 – Death and Homicide Investigation training for Detective Billings

Ongoing – Required training for Tim Rice who is a waiver candidate

June 12-14 – Annual National Association for School Resource Officers School Safety Conference for Officer LaGuardia

Commissioner Langston asked for more information regarding his conversation with LaGuardia and Rob Bliss and any bias incidents at schools. Chief Kilcullen said the incident was not on school property but it was a student whose parent contacted the Chief and made him aware of the incident a week later. With the parent's permission he spoke to SRO LaGuardia and the student who shared her concerns. An arrest of two individuals was made and referred to the Attorney General's BIAS Reporting System. Commissioner Langston asked how these things can be prevented or if not prevented what is the follow up regarding students or teachers harassing other students. Chief Kilcullen responded that to be a hate crime there has to be an underlying crime already and the difficulty is protected speech even if it is offensive; but it can be reported to the Attorney General's office.

Executive Session

At 6:58 pm Chairman Sargeant moved to go into Executive Session under Title 1 Section 3134 to hear a disciplinary or dismissal action against a public officer or employee.

Commissioner Langston seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Members of the Commission received a second email with the link for the executive session.

7:16 pm Exit Executive Session.

Adjournment

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

Meeting called to a close at 7:16 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