

**Rutland City Police Commission**  
**August 8, 2022**

Present: Chairman Sean Sargeant, Commissioners Tony Romeo, Alis Headlam and Peg Flory.

Also attending: Chief Kilcullen, Commander Greg Sheldon, Sgt. Lorman, Ryan Brady, Crime Analyst Nathan Thibodeau, Mayor Allaire, Nick Santora, Marilyn Griffith, Cpl. Caravaggio, Probationary officers Chad St. John, \*Anthony Carapezza and Alex Root.

Call to order by Chairman Sargeant at 6 pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Romeo moved to approve the minutes of July 11, 2022 Commissioner Headlam seconded. Motion carried 3-0 with 1 abstention Commissioner Flory.

**Introduction/Recognition of Police Department Members**

Chief Kilcullen administered the oath to Probationary Officers Chad St. John and Alex Root.

**Public Comment**

Nick Santoro and Marilyn Griffith, 132 Maple Street, discussed the issues in their neighborhood due to perceived drug activity at 121 Robbins Street. They are concerned for themselves and children in the neighborhood due to an awareness of mental instability of the third-floor occupants at 121 Robbins Street. Chairman Sargeant discussed the role of Matt Prouty as the Community Resource Specialist, as well as, Alicia Armstrong who responds to mental health crisis. Commander Sheldon affirmed that although he is unable to discuss the case, the situation is being investigated. Mayor Allaire discussed the need for bail reform in response to the revolving door for low-level offenders. Chairman Sargeant explained the call data driven patrols and encouraged the neighbors to call the police when there are issues. Chief Kilcullen added that a judicial summit is being planned for the fall to work on these issues. Chairman Sargeant said he would make sure that meeting is publicly warned. Nate Thibodeau encouraged the couple to call RCPC with their concerns as he uses the calls in determining drug stops and includes it in his mapping updates.

Mayor Allaire discussed the monthly meeting with the homeless population at the hotels saying, it was well attended and included the owners of two facilities. The calls for service are down slightly and the State has directed the local affiliate not to issue any new participation vouchers at either the Quality Inn or Cortina Inn. There is concern that this may cause issues to escalate at other hotels. Nate said this is happening at the Econolodge, 138 N. Main St., with total cases to date 52 and 18 cases in July. Calls at the Rodeway Inn have been escalating since March with 0 in March, 5 in April, 7 in May, 14 in June and 18 and July. He described the context of the calls. Commissioner

Headlam asked how many chances are given to individuals causing issues at the hotels. The Mayor said he believes that if someone causes an issue, they can reapply for housing in 15 days.

\*Probationary officer Anthony Carapezza arrived and Chief Kilcullen administered the oath.

### **Communication from the Union**

Union Rep Caravaggio discussed the wear test of the new body cameras saying they are still getting use to them, but he believes it will be positive and beneficial to review footage to strengthen evidence. Chairman Sargeant asked if body cam footage can be attached to an affidavit and sent to a judge. Cpl. Caravaggio said no it would just be a sworn affidavit, but the body cam footage could be part of the discovery process and evidentiary. Commissioner Headlam asked how many officers currently have body cameras. Cpl. Caravaggio said two officers are testing them but everyone will have them. He added that a policy will need to be adopted regarding them. Commissioner Flory asked if it will be policy for officers to be allowed to view the body camera footage before arresting someone. Chief Kilcullen said this was addressed in the Use of Force Policy that was legislated last year, and the focus is on deadly force situations. Commissioner Flory said she is concerned that the body camera footage not only be used for deadly force cases. Chairman Sargeant offered to provide a copy of a model policy. Cpl. Caravaggio said in cases, other than deadly force, an officer should develop probable cause for an arrest without body camera footage, but in terms of writing up an affidavit officers have been able to review body or dash cam footage.

### **Commanders' Report**

Commander Sheldon said the VT State Fair schedule has been set but that two additional officers are needed for the end of the week. He said Chris Ghio has volunteered to head up the Neighborhood Watch program in the fall once the Citizens' Academy is online. National Night Out was held last week and was successful. Commissioner Romeo confirmed with the Chief the Fair parade date of August 20 at 3 pm with the same route as last year. Commander Sheldon has someone signed up for the parade and he will also be there with the Chief. Commissioner Romeo also discussed ways to make the new Fair Treasurer feel safe.

### **Mapping Update**

Nate Thibodeau presented the first end of month report for July 2022. The highlights include 210 cases reviewed or 18% of the 1181 cases that occurred in July. Of the cases reviewed 18% have a narcotics nexus with one individual caught there was a large reduction in crime under larceny from motor vehicles. Regarding overdoses information, the five-year high at 58 but people are using less and less services. Commissioner Flory asked of those overdosing were there repeats. Nate said of the 43 individuals identified 14% have overdosed multiple times with only 27% agreeing to go to the hospital following an event. The locations of chronic repeats are 138 N. Main, 14

Cottage and 234 State Street with 21 calls in the last week. Cpl. Caravaggio said most calls there will be handled by the new CRS position. Chairman Sargeant asked where will this new report be distributed. Nate said he will send it to admins and the Commission. Chairman Sargeant suggested this report be sent to the Board of Aldermen. The Commission agreed. Commissioner Headlam asked Nate to clarify the shopping plaza addresses under chronic repeats. Nate said Wal-Mart, TJ Maxx and Price Chopper.

Nate proceeded with the crime comparison. He reported there was 1 homicide in 2021, and zero so far in 2022. Robbery 2021- 15, five-year avg.-6, 2022-6, Aggravated Assault five-year avg.-28 2022-30, Burglary five-year avg.-38 2022-37. Larceny automobile 2021-19 five-year avg.-10 2022-49, larceny from motor vehicle 2021-81 five-year avg.-43 2022-179, larceny from buildings 2021-23 five-year avg.-25 2022-83. Retail theft 2021-73 five-year avg.-66 2022-183. Commissioner Headlam asked if the larceny from buildings was due to break-ins or are the buildings unsecured. Nate said larceny from buildings could be someone stealing from a friend who is home or someone steals from work. Break-ins are listed under burglary. He continued with Stolen Weapons of which none were stolen in July, 66% were stolen from unlocked vehicles this year, 30% stolen from homes and 10% from individuals. Auto thefts there were 9 in June and 7 in July with 68% no relation, 32% related or associated and out of the no relations 76% were unlocked with keys in car. Auto theft recovery rate in Rutland is 84% with the national average at 56%. Retail theft information June 38, July 36 with ID rate at 43% and 25% have stolen multiple times with 69% known narcotics users and 63% have had a no-trespass at that location and 53% are cite and release and 10% have stayed or currently stay at a hotel.

Nate continued saying that hotel/motel calls were 53 in June with 36 in July so calls are down. The Quality Inn has the highest calls for services followed by the Econolodge and Rodeway Inn. Total calls between all 6 hotel/motels were 294. He reported that there have been 58 overdoses which is mainly from heroine followed by fentanyl.

Commissioner Headlam asked how needle pickups are logged. Nate said some pickups can be incorrectly logged with VALCOUR. Total referrals have been 47 to Turning Point and the hospital. Chief Kilcullen added that in response to the Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative an Overdose Response Team was created to assist in the non-fatal overdoses and provide referrals to families and those affected. With the staffing shortage, Nate has been making these referrals. Commissioner Headlam asked if only 43% of overdoses are administered Narcan, how do the others come out their overdose. Nate said either naturally or Narcan was administered before the police arrived.

### **Budget Report**

Chief Kilcullen reported that at the end of the first month of FY23, expenses are at 8.7%.

### **Chief's Report**

Chief Kilcullen gave the following report: Chad St. John graduated on July 15 from the first Academy session this year with the next classes starting in August and February. On July 19, the Chief read to kids at Camp Otter Creek at the REC and on July 27 Coffee with a Cop. On July 29 he attended the Burlington Amtrak Open House which now means the train no longer stays in Rutland overnight. Also on July 29 he attended the LIT Town Hall during which transportation for doctor's appointments and services were discussed. Chief Kilcullen said Officer Root was in the dunk tank at National Night Out on August 2. Upcoming meetings include Charter & Ordinance on Aug 10 at 5:30 pm at City Hall to discuss the City's noise ordinance, DPW Committee meeting on Aug 9 at 5:30 pm to discuss the reclaiming of green belt on Forest Street, Aug 10 Project Vision at noon, Aug 18 at 5:30 pm Animal Control Hearing for two repeat dog offenders and on Sept. 9 Proctor Gas will provide a cook out for officers from 11 am to 1 pm. Chief Kilcullen discussed the recent hires at the RCPC including Matt Prouty who started August 1 as Community Resource Specialist, Ryan Brady who started July 25 as Staff Operations Support Specialist and Eric Morgano as Evidence/Property Clerk. There is an open records position that has been posted internally with one interested candidate.

Commissioner Headlam asked for follow up on Tiffany Heath's comment regarding accessibility to the building. Chief Kilcullen said the City Building Inspector Mark Sadakierski has contacted a vendor and gotten prices on an automatic door opener and will be going forward with the installation.

Nick Santoro asked how businesses are responding to the increase in thefts and the shortage in police officers. Chief Kilcullen the police are responding but some stores are not interested in prosecuting offenders, while other stores don't even call the police. He said stores have shrinkage/loss amounts built in that are then reflected by an increase to the cost of consumer goods. Mayor Allaire said businesses making contributions to the police for hiring is not the issue, the money is there, the problem is fewer people want to be police officers in the current environment.

### **Draft Physical Fitness Policy**

Chairman Sargeant explained why the physical fitness policy needed to be changed and explained how he felt the draft presented tonight addresses the issues of 1) the Academy changed its physical fitness entrance standard, 2) there were issues executing our policy as written and 3) COVID. Chief Kilcullen suspended the former policy. The Union was involved in conversations to draft a new policy and they wanted to see a policy that would reward officers, and all members of the department, who wanted to pursue physical fitness. The new draft says if officers and staff volunteer to be tested there are three methods: pushups or sit-ups to the Cooper Standard, and the row to the Texas Dept. of Public Safety Standard used by the Police Academy. Commander Delpha was very interested in a run component and Chairman Sargeant is considering adding that method. The proposal is the test will be offered twice a year, once in the

spring and once in the fall. There is a five-level rating system from fair to superior and depending on the score the rewards would be: a fitness pin, paid leave or cashing in of sick time. Commissioner Headlam asked why it would be lowest score instead of the average, saying as drafted it lowers the incentive to improve. Chairman Sargeant noted the comment saying he is hearing a consensus to use an average. A "Most Fit Shift Award" has been incorporated in the draft, in which all members of a shift would have to participate in the testing to be eligible. Next steps include a presentation to the City Attorney and the Union for formal feedback. Commissioner Headlam asked if there is formal statement of a person's goal and is there some accountability to themselves? Chairman Sargeant said he is trying to include a statement of purpose for an individual to set their own health goals and then pursue the activity at their pace to achieve that goal. The idea is that a person would be incentivized to reach their personal goal. Commissioner Flory suggested rewriting 1.C. to "set their own goals." Commissioner Flory moved to direct the Chair to rewrite the draft to include the two comments made and forward to the Union and City Attorney for comment. Commissioner Romeo seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Romeo suggested that for the "Most Fit Shift Award" the policy consider a team effort be submitted. Chairman Sargeant said he will consider it.

### **Adjournment**

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

Meeting called to a close at 8 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