

**Rutland City Police Commission
October 10, 2022**

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

Also attending: Chief Kilcullen, Commander Sam Delpha, Ryan Brady, Crime Analyst Nathan Thibodeau, Cpl. Rick Caravaggio, Mayor Allaire, Sgt. Whitehead, Richard Ley, Carmen Ley, Carleen and Anthony Vero.

Call to order by Chairman Sargeant at 6 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the minutes of September 12, 2022. Commissioner Flory seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Introduction/Recognition of Police Department Members

Chief Kilcullen administered the oath Probationary Officer to Nick Boudreau.

Public Comment

Richard Ley asked to film his presentation to the Commission. He asked the Chair if he had seen the video regarding the incident on Aug 4 that he reported to the Commission at the Sept. 12 meeting. Chairman Sargeant said he had not because Mr. Ley had not provided the "slow motion" version of the video. Mr. Ley explained that he had technical difficulties with slowing the speed of the video. He stated that the video he provided to the police is sufficient to prove that the police were called to the scene following the recorded assault. Mr. Ley had a list of follow up questions for the Commission that he asked to read. He also provided information including a letter from his optometrist, a definition of personal space as defined by the VT Legislative Council, Title 13 Crimes and Criminal Procedure, Assault Categories, a list of the Police Commission minutes currently available online, a corrected version of his statement dated Oct 10, 2022 and a photo to show the scale of one step equals 3 ft. Chairman Sargeant said he would have these documents added to the minutes of this meeting. He also said he will watch the video Mr. Ley provided to the police with the Commander. Chairman Sargeant explained that it is the job of the Commission to determine whether the police followed the proper procedures and protocols, not to determine whether the incident constituted an assault.

Carleen Vero, 75 School Street, spoke to the Commission regarding perceived drug activity at 77 School Street saying that it is getting worse and she is asking for help from the police. Chief Kilcullen said these cases are not built quickly enough and they need to develop probable cause. He said they could meet with the landlord and asked if she had the landlord's contact information would she give it to Sgt. Whitehead. Anthony Vero said they had tried to contact the landlord, but their letters went undelivered. He

discussed smells from the building and pest control issues. Mrs. Vero discussed how the tenants at 77 School Street moved the dumpsters to create a "road" between School Street and Traverse. She also described the residents using the area as a restroom. She sometimes feels like she is annoying the dispatchers when she calls the RPD. Chief Kilcullen encouraged the Veros and neighbors to continue calling the police department. The Mayor supports the direction to have the police contact the landlord.

Communication from the Union

Officer Caravaggio said they are finalizing recruitment and retention plans and incentives to encourage existing officers to recruit.

Commanders' Report

Commander Delpha reported that the next full time class is February 6. Two applicants have cleared background and 5 new applicants are in background. Chairman Sargeant confirmed that there are two new part-time officers who have been through level 2 with the potential for 7 spots in the February class. Commander Delpha said he is working on the formal acceptance of a grant that was approved. He acknowledged that Sgt. Whitehead and a couple officers have been working hard on arrests for the recent robberies, as well as, background checks and drug cases. A conditional offer has been made for the dispatch position and he expects the position to be filled by the end of the month.

Mapping Update

Nate Thibodeau presented the mapping update. He reported that the call volume for the year to date is 9,223 calls with calls escalating in September and an estimated 1,070 expected calls in October. Nate discussed how he condensed 120 initial call code types into 12 categories with the largest one NCI. Commissioner Flory asked for clarification on NCI. Nate said Non-Criminal Incident. He continued with the 2022 comparison saying: Homicide in 2021 was 1, 5 year average 0 and 1 in 2022. Robbery 2021- 15, five-year avg.-7, 2022-13, Aggravated Assault 2021 -72, five-year avg.-35 2022-50, Burglary 2021 – 72, five-year avg.- 55, 2022-29. Nate said RCPD has a 75% identification rate with 100% of the offenders are known narcotics users. He added that 60% of the victims are known narcotics users. Larceny automobile 2021-31 five-year avg.- 15 2022-63, larceny from motor vehicle 2021-120 five-year avg.- 63 2022-223, larceny from buildings 2021-31 five-year avg.- 34 2022 - 123. Retail theft 2021- 92 five-year avg.- 88 2022-272. There was a drop in larcenies from August to September of almost 30 with the primary being retail theft and motor vehicle theft declining. Monthly theft from motor vehicle was 29 in Aug 5 and 22 in September with 77% from unlocked vehicles and 8% broken into. There has been an increase in the LAZ parking lot with windows being broken there. Automobile theft was 11 in August and 2 in September with 71% no relation, 21% related or associated. There was 1 stolen weapon in August and 1 in September from an unlocked vehicle. Retail theft information includes a slight decrease from August to September with an ID rate of 43% and 31% of the individuals have stolen multiple times, 36% precede with a no trespass, 68% are known narcotics

users, 50% cite and release and 13% involve alcohol theft. Commissioner Flory asked whether the cite and release was from court. Nate said it was from the police station with a citation to appear in court.

Nate continued with Guns, Drugs and Money saying that the year to date drug overdose comparison is 2021 65 overdoses, 2022 75. There were 68 non-fatal and 7 fatal this year. He discussed seeing a spike during the month of September from 2017 to date. The highest age rate is 28-37 with 70% residents, 17% temporary in the hotels and 13% transient. BCI has completed 5 operations this year that led to the arrest of 13 individuals, 5.6 ounces of drugs, \$20,000 cash and 4 guns off the street. Chairman Sargeant asked if the monthly 4-5 page report is being distributed to the Mayor and Aldermen. Nate said he will get that document across the street.

Budget Report

Chief Kilcullen reported that at 25% of the fiscal year, expenses are at 22.43%.

Chief's Report

Chief Kilcullen discussed a report by the Commissioner of Public Safety to the Governor on current state of affairs when it comes to public safety in Vermont. The Chief was asked to summarize one thing to tell the Governor regarding public safety in local cities and his response was the community's frustration for lack of accountability for those creating chaos in our cities. The Commissioner of Public Safety presented the report to the Chief's Association two weeks ago. That group came up with a problem statement that says "a statewide work-force crisis, coupled with various social and public policy factors, has resulted in a spike in criminal activity particularly drug related violent crime. These trends are negatively impacting the public safety and welfare of the state. The Governor's response was to implement a 10-point plan to accomplish three goals including: reinforce frontline law enforcement compacity and prioritize immediate reduction prevention and prosecution of violent crimes statewide, to expand prosecution capacity and help the courts address their backlog cases and prioritize long-term violence prevention policies, systems and services. Chief Kilcullen said the point most relevant to Rutland is #8 "apply Vermont's pandemic response model to public safety, social services and mental health." This was discussed at the Tuesday RUTSTAT meeting and how it relates to Project VISION.

Nate said he includes information on individuals in need of assistance (INOS) in the RUTSTAT report and a quarterly report goes to Commander Sheldon of the repeat offenders and chaos creators to make the partners aware of these individuals. Chief Kilcullen said the next step is to present to the Governor's Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council what is happening locally address the statutes that prohibit getting things done effectively.

Chairman Sargeant asked if there was anything in the Governor's plan to increase corrections capacity. Chief Kilcullen said not for corrections but for courts and

prosecution. Chief Kilcullen read the 10 points to the Commission. Chief Kilcullen asked what state resources will be allocated to accomplish these points and he will follow up.

Chief Kilcullen said there was a parking committee meeting on Sept. 22 to finalize some parking solutions going forward, using a mobile app and removing the kiosks to be replaced with meter heads to pay by phone. Commissioner Flory asked if the meters would only be accessed by phone. Chief Kilcullen said not likely. On Sept. 28 the Chief attended the Halloween Parade meeting, on Sept. 29 he met with the US Attorney, who is responsible for the forfeiture of homes when landlords don't take the appropriate steps to stop the drug activity. On Oct. 3 Ryan Brady set up a meeting with Efficiency VT, Green Mountain Power and New England Air to talk about the RPD HVAC system. It was determined that there is no heat in the dispatch area due to how the HVAC system is designed and accounts for body heat. The immediate need is to heat that room and to replace the controls, which are not operating the HVAC system, as fuel is being wasted. The new price tag is \$200,000 and this was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting on Oct 5, they are identifying all requests for ARPA funds. The Chief discussed the department's requests for ARPA money including the HVAC, \$60,000 for ADA, IT work to replace primary servers for \$100,000, \$50,000-\$60,000 to upgrade the dispatch stations and COVID premium pay for unsworn staff. On Oct. 6, the Chief with Sgt. Whitehead and a federal partner met with a landlord of a problem location and on Friday, VLCT held their Town Fair. Chief Kilcullen attended the First Amendment Audits and Recruitment and Retention for Law Enforcement for the 21st Century. Project VISION meets on Oct. 13 at noon and on Wednesday there is a meeting with Senator Sanders and on Oct 12 the Recruitment Team will host a Food Truck Mixer from 5—8 pm in shopping plaza. Chief Kilcullen said Nick Boudreau finished his level 2 training and is in his FTO going to the Level 3 Academy in February. Anthony Carapezza started the Level 3 in August and he will graduate in December.

Trainings

Oct 11-12 – Patrol Rifle Training

Oct. 12-14 – Cpl. Lucia will attend a Drug Investigation Training

October - CPR/First Aid Training

Oct. 26 – Team 2 Training, responding to those in mental health crisis

Nov 1 & 3 – Use of Force and Tactics refresher for sworn staff

Nov. 7-9 – Officers Tavares and Blanchard will attend a Basic Self-Defense Instructor Certification Class

January – Officer Blanchard will be attending Field Officer Training

Chief Kilcullen requested to roll over 112 hours of vacation to his FY23 contract.

Commissioner Flory so moved. Commissioner Romeo seconded. Motion was approved 4-0.

Adjournment

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

Meeting called to a close at 7:17 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