

**Rutland City Police Commission
January 9, 2023**

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

Also attending: Chief Kilcullen, Commanders Sam Delpha and Matt Prouty, Crime Analyst Nathan Thibodeau, Mayor Allaire and ~~John Brewer~~ Kurt Matzke.

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

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Flory moved to approve the minutes of December 12, 2022. Commissioner Romeo seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comment

Commissioner Romeo reported that the owners of McNeil & Reedy had great things to say about Officer Rosario. He also discussed learning that there were used needles near the treatment facility at Howe Center and asked where they could be disposed. Chief Kilcullen said the police will pick them up and to call the station for needle collections.

Introduction/Recognition of Police Department Members

Chief Kilcullen administered the Commander oath to Matthew Prouty. Commander Prouty will oversee Outreach and Patrol.

Commanders' Report

Commander Delpha said the new applicants have passed everything are ready for the academy in February with 4 full-time going in. Currently he is working with full and part-time applicants that are coming in 2023.

Commander Prouty said there will be an in-person and remote Project VISION meeting on Thursday with members of the Agency of Human Services to talk about the cold weather exemption and voucher program.

Mapping Update

Nate Thibodeau presented the Year in Review through 12/31/22. Call volume for directed patrols was 12,402, an 8% increase and w/o directed 12,360, a 15% increase from last year. The month of December with 969 calls was higher than previous years. There have been 272 calls in the first eight days of 2023. The Surface Data for the year ended is 28% NCI, 13% Traffic, 12% police assist, 11% property crime, 10% disputes, 9% routine investigations, 7% non-violent crime, 3% victimless or medical issues, 3% juvenile related, 2% violent crime and 1% proactive. Thirty percent of these cases had to be handled by an officer.

Nate continued with the December 2022 comparison saying: Homicide in 2021 was 1, five-year average- .6 and 2 in 2022. Robbery 2021- 18, five-year avg.- 9, 2022- 24, Aggravated Assault 2021 -42, five-year avg.-47 2022-58, Burglary 2021 – 92, five-year avg.- 70, 2022-47. Burglary was reduced due to Valcour reporting method, which is common call type. Nate discussed the issues with the call types in Valcour. He continued with robbery information for December: 2022 -24 with location type mainly convenience stores followed by residential, business, street/roadway, bank, vehicle and grocery store. The ID rate is 61%, 21% multiple robberies by same person, 94% are narcotics users, 50% of victims who were robbed are narcotics users, 50% of individuals rubbered refused to cooperate and 50% of the robbery locations are reported narcotics locations. Larceny automobile 2021-38, five-year avg.- 18, 2022-70, larceny from motor vehicle 2021-138, five-year avg.- 76, 2022- 313, larceny from buildings 2021-38, five-year avg.- 41, 2022- 161. Retail theft 2021- 118, five-year avg.- 110, 2022-391. Nate is reviewing all of the retail thefts again for accuracy and said it could add 20 cases to retail theft. The ID rate is 43%, 31% of individuals stolen multiple times, 35% had a no-trespass, 71% are known narcotics users, 50% cite and release and 12% stealing alcohol. Automobile theft at the end of December 11 vehicles stolen with an ID rate of 57% and multi theft is 4%, 64% are narcotics users. The method is 54% unsecured, 45% no permission and 2% forced entry. Vehicle recovery location is 31% residential, 27% in state, 14% at a business, 8% at a hotel, 8% side of the road, 6% out of state, 4% shopping plaza and 2% fairgrounds. Commissioner Headlam asked about the recovery rate and Nate responded that it is very high.

Nate continued with weapons stolen saying in 2021- 25, 2022- 29 and no weapons have been stolen in the past two months. The method is 52% are stolen from unlocked vehicles, 31% from home, 10% broken window, 4% loaned and 3% from a person. Commissioner Flory asked what is included as a weapon. Nate said just firearms. He continued with Guns, Drugs and Money saying that the year finished with 117 overdoses which is a 46% increase from 2021. There were 96 non-fatal, 19 confirmed fatal. December had the highest overdoses at 17 for the past 5 years. Nate said 13 individuals had overdosed multiple times and about 55% of the cases received Narcan. Commissioner Headlam asked if there is a direct connection to the non-resident overdoses and the hotels. Nate said he does check addresses and considers the hotel address as out of Rutland/non-resident. Nate said for operations completed there were 9 operations completed with the arrest of 25 individuals, 37 ounces of drugs seized, \$37,500 cash and 8 guns off the street. The total number of locations was 2,494 with 839 3-peat locations which is 35%. There was a total of 655 arrests with 51 arrests in December. Mayor Allaire asked Nate to provide him with the year-end numbers. Commissioner Headlam asked if the new selling of marijuana is causing problems in the City. Nate said he hasn't looked into it, but other states are reporting increased DUIs with marijuana. Commander Prouty said these numbers only reflect Rutland City and do not include information from Rutland Town. Nate said he has reached out to Rutland Town, Brandon, Castleton and Fair Haven as to how they code their overdoses, but there hasn't been any response. Commander Prouty said we have taken steps

backwards statewide on data equality. Nate discussed the issues with data collection and the exporting functionality. Commissioner Romeo spoke in favor of combining information with Rutland Town to help deal with the situations at the hotels so we are looking at the whole area. Nate added that the hotel calls are still high but not as high as when the calls first started.

Chairman Sargeant asked Nate about the status of a meeting he and Nora had with Valcour. Nate explained that Valcour has no access to the common call type and the NIBRS information that goes to the FBI when reported correctly. He said that the NIBRS information is glitching. Valcour said another check box will be implemented for more accurate common call type. Nate discovered that while reviewing common call type in aggravated assault he found quality of life issues because the common call type is based off of an algorithm that uses the initial call type and the violation. Valcour will not look at each individual's call types. Nate said the call types need to be standardized across the board. Chief Kilcullen said he had a meeting with the Commissioner of Public Safety to review some of their analytical products and discussed the need for uniformity.

Commissioner Headlam discussed a conversation she had with SRO Ernest LaGuardia regarding the vaping going on in the schools. She suggested having him attend the next meeting to discuss his concerns with what is going on in the high school with the use of common objects for vaping. Chairman Sargeant said it may make more sense for SRO LaGuardia to speak to the school board. Commissioner Headlam said he might have insight that this Commission should know as it relates to what is going on in the high school. Chairman Sargeant said he will reach out to SRO LaGuardia for the February meeting.

Commissioner Flory asked about the status of the meeting with Tom Burditt. Chief Kilcullen said he will discuss the judiciary town hall with Commander Prouty. Mayor Allaire added that he will be going in front of the Rutland County Delegation next week to discuss the hotel issue and revolving door of cite and release. The Mayor said anecdotally the voucher program will be extended and the Chair of the Judiciary Committee has little interest in bail reform. Commissioner Flory suggested the Mayor speak to Dave Sears in the Senate and Health and Welfare with the overdose information. Nate said he will include the overdose hotel information at the RUTSTAT meeting.

Budget Report

Chief Kilcullen reported that 6 months into this year's budget expenses are at 46%. Commissioner Headlam asked if there was room in the budget for new hires. Chief Kilcullen said the lines associated with new hires have been funded up to 33 new hires. Commissioner Headlam asked what is the goal. Chief Kilcullen said 39 sworn officers and 2 Community Resource Specialists. The CRS position was posted internally today

and for the second position, the calls continue to be analyzed. He added there are 12 non-sworn employees that could be interested in the CRS position.

Chief's Report

Chief Kilcullen announced that James Ryjda has been hired as the canine handler. Emily and James selected the canine at a kennel in Pennsylvania. There was a community process to name the canine and the result was King Nash. The canine expenses were covered by drug forfeiture money.

Chief Kilcullen said a couple agreements were presented to the Aldermen in executive session. They included a sign-on and referral bonus which was adopted last Tuesday. Chief Kilcullen explained how the bonuses will be paid out depending on whether the officer is coming in as a Level 3 or Level 2. There was also an MOU regarding overtime pay for officers on call. Sworn officers who are called in for a second time or held over, in any given month, will be paid double-time pay. This will encourage volunteering for patrol staffing overtime.

Chief Kilcullen said on Dec. 14 Shop with a Cop which funded \$200 shopping sprees for 48 kids, Dec.15 was the final budget meeting and the Mayor's budget was approved, Dec. 16 Officer Carapezza graduated from the Police Academy, Dec. 19 met with Ian Sullivan, Dec. 20 baked cookies and played basketball at the Allen Street School, Dec. 21 attended a Holiday luncheon at the Allen Street School, Commander Sheldon retired Jan 6, Jan. 9 the Chief was part of panel discussion at the hospital regarding the opioid crisis and he spoke about Project VISION and what the City is experiencing now, Jan. 10 meeting with Efficiency VT to discuss HVAC controls and on Jan. 20 Traffic Safety Committee meets at 9 am.

Chief Kilcullen said on Dec. 7 the Criminal Justice Council adopted a new policy for the body worn cameras. The department trained to the new policy. There was no side by side comparison to the policy adopted last November but the difference has to do with not being required to save both audio and visual. The camera is constantly recording but once the camera is activated what is saved is 30 seconds of video before activation not the audio. Atty. Bloomer may have some edits that don't change the substance. Commissioner Flory moved to direct the Chairman to sign Directive 403 in substantially the form presented with an issue date of Jan. 9, 2023. Commissioner Headlam seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Sargeant said there was a mandatory physical fitness policy that was not followed and it was suspended during COVID. He distributed a copy of Directive 305 which the City Attorney, Mayor, Chief, Chairman and the Union have spent substantial time on, but the Union has not seen this version. Therefore, it will be on agenda for the February meeting. Chief Kilcullen discussed some enhancements to the policy and the standard for the rowing machine.

Outside Employment Requests

Ryan Brady, repeat request, part-time school bus driver 0-10 hours weekly,
Brianna Dyer – Chester Ambulance on call 1-2 hours on days off,
Tim Cornell – repeat request, volunteer firefighter Pittsford Fire Department,
Julie Fitzgibbons – clinical internship with Rutland Mental Health Crisis Team, supervised
by Alicia Armstrong, response with PD to mental health cases in the community 8-10
hours a week,
Emily Leinoff – repeat request, part-time dispatcher for Hartford,
Keith Lorman – repeat request, snow removal weather dependent,
Eric Morgano – repeat request, self-employed property maintenance 8-12 hours a week,
Charles Whitehead - repeat request, self-employed property maintenance 8-12 hours a
week.

Commissioner Flory moved to authorize the Chair to sign the 7 outside employment requests that did not require additional information. Commissioner Romeo seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Flory moved to authorize the Chair to sign the outside employment request from Julie Fitzgibbons provided it is during her off-duty time with the exception to use her lunch time to attend bi-weekly team meetings as part of her internship. Commissioner Romeo seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjournment

Commissioner Flory moved to adjourn. Commissioner Romeo seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting called to a close at 7:30 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