

Rutland City Police Commission
March 13, 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, Aldermen Cupoli and Talbott, Mayor-elect Doenges, PO Rajda, Amber Houle, Staff Operations Specialist Brady and Steve Singiser.

Call to order by Chairman Sargeant at 6 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Flory moved to approve the minutes of February 13, 2023. Commissioner Brown seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Introduction/Recognition of Police Department Members

Chief Kilcullen administered the oath of police officer to Amber Houle and welcomed her back.

Public Comment

Chairman Sargeant said it has been his pleasure to serve as Chairman of this Commission under both Mayor Allaire and Mayor Louras and he hopes to continue for Mayor Doenges. Mayor Allaire thanked the Police Commissioners past and present, and wanted the Rutland City Police Department to know their service is valued. He said the RPD is the centerpiece of the community and he will continue to have their backs as a private citizen. Mayor Allaire is pleased with the progress the police have made and the great job they do is not lost on City Hall.

Mayor-elect Doenges said the City has some challenges with hiring, homelessness, crime and public safety that is similar to many communities. The RPD has done an amazing job and that is a testament of the leadership of this Commission and the officers and to the public who accepts them whole heartedly. Chief Kilcullen said the effectiveness of the police is directly related to the support of the community, the legislative body and executives across the street.

Steve Singiser, who is retired from a career in finance, has started a non-profit business making flat teddy bears that have been tested safe for children and could be used by first responders during crisis situations involving children. The cost is \$30 for two bears, the second bear is donated to Save the Children charity. He has sold some to the hospital and he hopes first responders, schools and churches will buy them. Steve donated 3 bears, but is asking if the Police would be interested in purchasing more. Commissioner Flory volunteered to reach out to DCF on Steve's behalf. Commissioner Headlam suggested that Commander Prouty bring the flat teddy bears to a Project

VISION meeting. Members might buy 2 bears and donate one to first responders. Chairman Sargeant thanked Steve for coming to the meeting and for the donation of the 3 bears. Officer Houle who works with youth was given Steve's business card.

Chief Kilcullen read a card of appreciation from the parents of an individual that Officer Rosario made a connection with during Treatment Court. The Chief added that it speaks to the impact Treatment Court can have.

Officer Rajda discussed a fundraiser, organized by Dispatcher Leinoff, to purchase a kennel insert for the K-9 cruiser and a safety feature for King Nash. He said the West Rutland American Legion sold 50 boxes of the "world's finest chocolates" and donated the proceeds. To date \$2,500 has been raised with \$3,900 left to cover the costs to outfit the vehicle.

Communications from the Union

Chairman Sargeant asked if Commissioner Flory had an opportunity to convene a meeting of the subcommittee with Officer Rice regarding proposed Directive 305. Commissioner Flory said she will set up a meeting in the next two weeks.

Commanders' Report

Commander Delpha welcomed Amber back to B.C.I. and said there are 3 applicants in background, one of whom is a Level 3 which means they are fully certified and can start working on day one. Three interviews have been scheduled for Wednesday for candidates who have passed the PT at the Academy. Commissioner Sargeant said Probationary Officer Root has been elected president of his Academy class.

Commander Prouty said Patrol is desperate for those candidates to get through the Academy. He said in dispatch Brianna Dyer resigned for another opportunity. In VISION Community Resource Specialist Kyle Dawson has been doing great work and he will attend the Dolan Group De-escalation training. On Feb. 15 a cold case team from Boston used the VISION center for interviews and using 23 & Me, got a suspect and made an arrest. There was a VISION meeting last Thursday with a call to action for Community Partners to address issues. There is an area everyone can fall in whether its prevention, intervention, enforcement, or re-entry supervision and support. RRMC also sent correspondence to Commander Prouty about Officer Rosario being able to de-escalate a situation that hospital staff were unable to do despite their training. VISION was invited to Bennington next Monday as they launch Project Alliance, a similar collaborative that the City will help coach. Chief Kilcullen said Brattleboro PD reached out asking for the CRS job description. Commander Prouty invited them to also ride along on some calls.

Mapping Update

Nate Thibodeau discussed the call volume analysis (focused on inbound calls from the public) compared to actual case volume or proactive work. February predicted calls

were 869, actual 775. The forecasted calls for March is 953 and is on track for being a little higher, but with the snowstorm it may stop some calls. Chairman Sargeant asked if the goal of forecasting the calls is to inform Commander Prouty's staffing. Nate said yes to give a heads up. The year to date call volume is at 1,703, a 16% increase from last year. When the February call volume is compared the only year, it was exceeded was 2018. Actual case volume is at 1,924, a 29% increase from last year. Both 2018 and 2020 exceeded this amount. Surface data breaks down 100 initial call code types in 12 categories with the largest being NCI followed by Traffic Related.

Nate continued with the February 2023 crime comparison saying: Homicide 5 year avg. 0, 2022 0, 2023 is 1, Robbery five-year avg. 2.4, 2023 is 1, Aggravated Assault 2023 - 14, five-year avg. 6.6, 2022-2, Burglary 2023 - 7, five-year avg.- 8, 2022- 6. He continued Larceny Comparison: Automobile 2022 - 14, five-year avg.4.2, 2023 - 10, larceny from motor vehicle 2022- 44, five-year avg. 16, 2023- 27, larceny from buildings 2022-11, five-year avg.- 6, 2023- 9. Retail theft 2022 - 15, five-year avg.- 16.2, 2023-37. The case comparison for February on Gun Theft is 2021 - 5 weapons stolen, 2022 - 4 and 5 in 2023. The method has been 60% unlocked vehicle, 40% from home. Commissioner Headlam asked if there were guns stolen from gun shops. Nate said those attempts were unsuccessful. Catalytic converters are stolen for the precious metals, rhodium and platinum, 2021 - 5, 2022 - 16, 2023 - 8 from mainly businesses and utility trucks at the hotels. Retail theft started to escalate in March of 2022 and it doubles from 15 to 38 in March with 2021 - 16, 2022 - 15 and 2023 - 41. The ID rate is 33%, 33% stole multiple times and 100% are known narcotics users. Larceny from motor vehicle has gone down 2022 - 44 and 2023 - 27 with Elm Street the target.

Nate continued with Narcotics related information: substance use overdose comparison 2021 - 13, 2022 -13 and 2023 - 18 with 14 non-fatal and 4 fatal this year. March had a bad first week with 7 overdoses the first week. Residents 17 and 3 non-residents, repeat victims - 1, Narcan was administered 45%, transport only 5% accepted transportation to hospital. Chairman Sargeant said there was a recent arrest that seized 23 grams of fentanyl which is enough to poison everyone in the City. He is not surprised March started off badly considering fentanyl is here. Commissioner Brown asked if the overdoses were concentrated anywhere in the City. Nate said there were a few at the hotels and in the Northwest sector. Commander Prouty added that meth is in Rutland. Nate discussed the ease of making meth and Commander Prouty said we need to discuss precautions and he added that they are already adding training for officers on this subject. Chief Kilcullen said they just received new testing equipment that doesn't require opening packages.

Budget Report

Chief Kilcullen reported that at 2/3rds through the year, expenses are at 60%. Some of the items not budgeted that went to the Board of Finance were new patrol rifles, but there is an anticipated surplus in the budget that can cover these expenses.

Chief's Report

Chief Kilcullen said on February 14, Commander Prouty, the Chief and Sgt. Plemmons sat through an app demonstration used the police departments across the country to get information out, dispels inaccuracies and provide notifications to the community. On Feb. 16 the Chief refereed a basketball game at the Allen Street School and on Feb. 22 there was an after action review on the Water Street incident and stocking the frontline cars. March 9 the Chief participated on the Steering Committee for the Reimagine Depot Park input on design. On March 20 there is a Dismas House Legislative Breakfast on Royce St. and later that day a Workplace Violence meeting at RRMC. Amber Houle returned on Feb. 26 to the Special Investigation unit, Crystal Murray is going back to dispatch and Kyle Dawson took the CRS position. The records clerk opening was posted both internally and externally and a former employee is interested, the details are being worked out. PO Oscar Menjivar transferred to BCI.

Trainings

February – Completed Domestic Violence Training provided by the State's Atty's office
March 1 – Putting "T" back in Field Training Officer Course completed
March 8-10 – Nate and Det. Billings attended an Open Source Intelligence Course
March – Kyle Dawson completed de-escalation training "Surviving Verbal Conflict"
March 13 - Det. Lucia completed Human Trafficking for First Responders Training
Upcoming - Amber Houle will be attending International Symposium on Child Abuse
Upcoming – Kyle Dawson and Tim Jones will be attending a VIN verification training
Upcoming – Kyle Dawson will be trained in fingerprinting
May – Firearms qualification and Patrol Rifle instructor training for Officer Dumas
June 5-9 – Cpl. Tavares will attend FBI LEEDA Supervisory Leadership Institute Training
June – Mechanical and Shotgun Breaching Instructing Training in Manchester, NH

Outside Employment Request

Kyle Dawson, request to work with Chester Ambulance Service, 12 hour bi-weekly plus some on-call overnights. Commissioner Romeo moved to authorize the Chair to sign the outside employment request by Kyle Dawson. Commissioner Headlam seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Executive Session

At 7:07 pm Commissioner Brown moved to go into executive session under I VSA section 313 paragraph 1A to discuss contracts where premature general knowledge would place the City body at a significant disadvantage and invite the Chief, Commanders to participate. Commissioner Romeo seconded. Motion was approved 5-0.

Executive session exited at 7:30 pm.

Adjournment

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

Meeting called to a close at 7:35 pm.

Submitted by: Barbara Spaulding

cc: Chief Brian Kilcullen
Mayor Mike Doenges
Police Commission
City Clerk Henry Heck
Board of Aldermen
Union President