

**REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 13, 2011
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT**

PRESENT: Commissioners Richard Epstein, Chairman; Cathy Graves; Evelise Ribeiro; Sandra Trevino; Richard Buckholz; Theodore Brooks

Chief Frank Limon: Department of Police Services

Assistant Chief Thomas Hensgen: Department of Police Services

Michael Wolek: Corporation Counsel

Captain Denise Blanchard: Department of Police Services

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT FROM 6:50 TO 6:56 P.M.

Officer James Evarts: Department of Police Services

Norm Pattis: Counsel for James Evarts

Arpad Tonley: President of Local 530

Odino Rasile: Treasurer of Local 530

Holly Smith

OPEN SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 6:02, Richard Epstein, Chairman, presiding.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Frank Limon

Copies of Chief Limon's monthly report were distributed along with attachments. The following matters were highlighted:

CRIME UPDATE

- Projected stats for August, not audited numbers is the first attachment. We show decrease of 19% for August of 2011 versus 2010 and a decrease of 8% for total cases this year. They have not been audited.
- Due to personnel issues, the last audited report receive remains April of 2011. May of 2011 has been submitted and we are waiting for a response.
- There was a discussion regarding the nature of these crimes and measures being taken by the department.
- We were tied into the Hurricane Irene response and recovery. Most public safety response was to address power outages, trees that were blocking the roadways, downed electrical wires. It had an impact on our traffic signals, so we had a lot of resources out in the field. Overtime cost for the hurricane was over \$250,000. Because of the power outages we needed to add more people in the streets. Everybody did a great job.

TRAINING

- Chief Limon and Assistant Chief Redding went to Counter-Terrorism Briefing and Training in New York on August 9, 2011.

DEPARTMENT EVENTS

- National Night out was August 2, 2011.
- Monthly Accountability Meeting (VISE) was held on August 11, 2011.
- Accountability Meeting (TASCA) was held on August 12, 2011. Every six weeks we meet to review what we're doing about certain crimes and how we're using our resources.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- We had the Blue Mass at St. Francis Church on September 11, 2011.
- There have been numerous block parties that Chief Limon attended this month and will continue to attend them.

ASSISTANT CHIEF HENSGEN'S REPORT

- Commissioner Epstein inquires as to status of the cameras. Assistant Chief Hensgen and Chief Limon responds and explains what remains to be done.
- Regarding phone service, we are having the same problem that we addressed in July. Apparently, our current phone carrier is having problems with AT&T.
- Assistant Chief Hensgen reports on IT concerns. Discussion regarding filling the civilian spots vacated by retirements.
- Budgeted strength is down two more positions, two less than last month's report. The CAO is working on recruitment and testing options that will be available. Exam dates were discussed. Chief Limon reports the department was awarded a \$300,000 grant called Smart Policing Grant. Details to be worked out.

ASSISTANT CHIEF REDDING'S REPORT

- Safe Summer Program ended on Labor Day and over 5,000 tickers, 400 arrests, 15 felony arrests, 70 warrants and over 1,000 parking tags.
- EOC active for Hurricane Irene. Police did an excellent job. All city agencies worked well together.
- Long Gun Training started this week. Assistant Chief Adger has the academy timeline on that.

ASSISTANT CHIEF VELLECA'S REPORT

- Major Crimes Unit investigated 24 homicides and 87 non-fatal shootings in 2011. MCU detectives have made 17 homicide arrests, 71% clearance rate.
- Inadequate staffing has had adverse impact on the efficient structuring of the ISD. ISD is currently staffed with 45 detectives, which is 16 lower than the budgeted strength of 61. Discussion regarding upcoming retirements and recruitment.

- Narcotics Unit is working is engaged in a lot of long-term gang investigations targeting drug and firearms trafficking. These are long term and hopefully we will see some of those cases being taken down.
- VISE initiative, again, is our monthly meeting we have regard violent drug offenders. That is working very well. The prosecutors have noted that they are now seeing some results.
- Commissioner Ribiero suggests sending out letters to victims' families to keep apprised of progress of case. Chief Limon is in agreement.

District Manager's report was distributed to everyone. Will discuss later.

Chief Limon commented on taser report which usage is down 40%.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of regular session minutes of August 9, 2011.

Commissioner Ribiero move approval of minutes of July 12, 2011.

Commissioner Graves seconded.

**Voting for: Commissioners Brooks, Ribiero. Graves and Trevino,
Buckholz**

Motion passed (5-0-0)

RETIREMENTS:

Officer Michael Novella - Age annuity, effective 9/10/11

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SEPARATION OF SERVICE

Commissioner Ribiero moves to table recommendations for separation of service.

Commissioner Graves seconded.

**Voting for: Commissioners Buckholz, Ribiero, Trevino, Graves,
Brooks.**

Motion passed: (5-0-0)

EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE REPORT
(Commissioner Graves)

- We have new chairs.
- The basement has been power washed and new energy efficient lighting has been installed and it is lit.
- We had rocks placed on West Water and Union Avenue to prevent people from parking on the grass alongside of the police department.
- The substations are getting new roofs. Howard Avenue is being replaced now. All the substations have new heating and cooling rooftop units installed.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
(Commissioner Ribiero)

- Commissioner Ribiero passed out copies of budget. It appears we are over budget by 121%. Out of the \$125,000 that was appropriated, we spent \$151,000 to date. I am going to inquire as to whether we bought a lot of uniforms as of July 1st or what happened with that line item. Once Commissioner Ribiero receives a response she will get back to everyone.
- Overtime, the department is about 40%. This seems pretty accurate considering the report about Hurricane Irene and the amount of overtime.
- Commissioner Ribiero inquired about the forfeiture fund. The Federal fund has about \$15,000; State fund has about \$62,000. On the Federal level the money is being spent to cover car rental, cell phones, etc. The State fund is being spent on undercover buy money.

CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARD LIAISON REPORT
(Commissioner Ribiero)

- CRB had a meeting on Thursday. One of the new changes is IA has extended hours for the CRB to come down and read the cases. So they could come down two days a month in the evenings. The first Tuesday and the third Wednesday of the month they are open from 5 to 7.
- There were 12 closed cases and there are 2 open cases for the month of August.

Chief Limon reported an officer was injured in the morning when hit by a drunk driver.

The Commission expressed their sympathies for Captain Peterson for the tragic loss of her son and the loss of her father a few days later.

Officer James Evarts addresses the Commission regarding his future with the New Haven Police Department.

- **Commissioner Ribiero moves to go into executive session.**

Commissioner Buckholz seconded the motion.

Voting for: Commissioners Ribiero, Trevino, Brooks, Graves and Buckholz.

Motion passed: (5-0-0)

(Meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m. to begin executive session.)

- **Commissioner Brooks made motion to adjourn executive session.**

Commissioner Ribiero seconded the motion.

Voting for: Commissioners Ribiero, Brooks, Graves, Trevino, and Buckholz.

Motion passed: (5-0-0)

(Executive session was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.)