

**PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2004 MEETING**

6:30 PM (Non-Public) 7:00 PM (Public)  
Stoodley's Tavern, Hancock Street  
Strawbery Banke Museum Complex  
Portsmouth, NH

John D. Kelley, Chairman  
William F. Devine  
Gerald W. Howe

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Chairman called the April 21<sup>st</sup>, monthly police commission meeting to order at 7:07 PM. (*One cassette tape documenting this meeting is on file for reference.*)

**Present during public session:** Commissioners Kelley, Devine, and Howe, Chief Magnant, Deputy Chief Young, Commander John Russo, Auxiliary Officer Joseph Follensbee and his family, City Councilor Harold Whitehouse, Budget Coordinator Karen Senecal, residents of the South End area of Portsmouth, Herald Reporter Emily Aronson, and Administrative Aide Kathe Hoyt

The Chairman welcomed the residents of the South End and thanked them for coming out to attend the Commission meeting in their neighborhood. Chairman Kelley explained the purpose in taking some of the Commission meetings out into different Portsmouth neighborhoods and said the Commission would welcome questions at the conclusion of the meeting proper.

- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Auxiliary Officer Joseph Follensbee led the Pledge of Allegiance to open the meeting.
- III. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**  
**Action:** Commissioner Howe moved the Board accept the minutes of the meeting held on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004.  
**Seconded by Commissioner Devine.**  
**On a Roll Call Vote:** The Board unanimously voted in favor of the motion to accept the minutes.
- IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Commissioner Kelley suspended the agenda to move directly to item B.  
Chief of Police, as follows:**

**1. Recognition**

Chief Magnant presented Major Joseph Follensbee of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Reserve (PPD Auxiliary Officer Follensbee) with a Certificate of Recognition and a personal letter of thanks, for Major Follensbee's service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Chief's letter, which was read aloud, recounted some of the actions and assignments of Major Follensbee and is part of the record of this meeting.

**2. Project Safe Neighborhoods**

Chief Magnant announced the sentencing of a former Strafford man in Federal Court for firearms violations. Donald Ure, 37, was sentenced in Federal Court on March 17<sup>th</sup> to two years probation, including six months home confinement for possessing a firearm while unlawfully using controlled substances. Mr. Ure was arrested by Portsmouth Police in the early morning hours of September 11, 2003, after a brief encounter with the subject and a consensual search of his vehicle.

**3. Financial Report**

- a. The financial reports were briefly reviewed; Chairman Kelley asked about the overtime account. Karen Senecal explained at this point in the fiscal year we should be 75% expended and we are at 73.5%, although we are in a three payroll month which will affect that figure.
- b. The Chief explained that part of the training budget specifically requested last year for training in Weapons of Mass Destruction was in the process of being expended this week in department-wide training for sworn officers out at Pease.

**The Commission then returned to the agenda for the meeting.**

**A. POLICE COMMISSION:**

**1. Items That Require Action**

**Commissioner Howe** moved to accept the donation to the Honor Guard from Jenaly Technology Group in the amount of \$100.

**Seconded by Commissioner Devine.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The Board unanimously voted in favor of the motion to accept the donation from Jenaly Technology Group and forward it to the City Council.

2. **Commissioner Howe** moved to accept the donation to the Honor Guard from VSI, LLC in the amount of \$500.  
**Seconded by Commissioner Devine.**  
**On a Roll Call Vote:** The Board unanimously voted in favor of the motion to accept the donation from VSI, LLC and forward it to the City Council.
3. **Commissioner Howe** moved to accept the donation from Mr. & Mrs. Bellerose of one (1) used refrigerator valued at \$350.  
**Seconded by Commissioner Devine.**  
**On a Roll Call Vote:** The Board unanimously voted in favor of the motion to accept the donation from Mr. & Mrs. Bellerose and forward it to the City Council.

## **B. CHIEF'S REPORT:**

**(Items 1 & 2 were covered at the beginning of this meeting)**

### **3. Division and Team Reports**

#### **a. Information Systems**

The Chief noted that Captain Yerardi and IT Manager Felicia Donovan have been exploring the feasibility of a reverse e-mail system whereby subscribers in the downtown could receive notices of things like street closures, or perhaps an alert for shoplifting activity, etc. Subscribers would be merchants in the downtown area.

#### **b. Accident Investigation Team**

The Chief briefly expanded on a very serious accident that occurred at the intersection of Elwyn Road and Gosport; six people were injured and a sixteen-year-old girl had to be medi-vac'd to Boston in critical condition. We anticipate charges will be filed when the investigation is complete.

#### **c. Portsmouth Police Honor Guard**

#### **d. Records Division**

### **4. Letters of Thanks and Recognition from Outside the Department**

- a. Letter of thanks from Ms. Nanci Crosbie of NYC for the actions of Detective Steve Arnold. Ms. Crosbie found herself in the midst of a drug situation while visiting someone close to her in Portsmouth. Ms. Crosbie states that she was scared and confused when she came into the Portsmouth Police Department and she felt Detective Arnold's care, patience and professional counsel were exceptional.
- b. Letter of thanks from Sheriff Scott Carr, Carroll County, for the assistance of Det. Tim West and Det. Michael Leclair in a Center Ossipee

- internet crimes case. Sheriff Carr's letter mentioned the importance of having experts in internet crime present for the collection of evidence.
- c. Note of thanks from Ms. Margaret McCann to Officer Rochelle Jones for her help with a noise dispute between neighbors.
  - d. Thank you letter from Louise F. McGee of Maplewood Avenue, for what Ms. McGee refers to as our "watchful presence" over her neighborhood as she observes our daily patrol of her home and property.

## **C. PATROL SERVICES BUREAU:**

### **1. Log Activity Reports**

- a. Commissioner Kelley, Chief Magnant and Deputy Young briefly discussed the drop in overall calls for service between 2002 and 2003. The reduction represented an 11% decrease in calls for service.

### **2. Communications Center Report**

- a. Commissioner Howe asked about operational problems with the Dispatch center. Deputy Young indicated that start-up glitches have been worked out and the center is running well.

### **3. FTO Report**

### **4. K-9 Report**

### **5. Auxiliary Monthly Activity Report**

### **6. Personnel Out Sick & Injured**

### **7. Update on Special Events**

Deputy Young reported the Farmer's Market will be starting for the season this coming weekend, and this is the beginning of our very busy event season, with some type of event scheduled almost every weekend through the spring and summer season. Children's Day and Market Square day are coming up as well.

## **D. CITY PROSECUTOR REPORT**

## **E. BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES**

The Deputy commented briefly on the bank robbery that occurred here in March. There were bank robberies in Exeter and North Hampton during that period and Portsmouth worked with both towns in this investigation and resulting arrest. The suspect will be charged federally. The activities of our SIU were also discussed.

## **VI. MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. Chief Magnant returned to the Bureau of Investigative Services briefly to

cover the activities of Detective Mike Leclair, who oversees the sex offender registration list. The Chief indicated that Portsmouth has an aggressive posture regarding the monitoring of sex offender registration. Det. Leclair made arrests in March of two individuals who did not register and they will be prosecuted.

**B. Commissioner Howe moved** that on the recommendation of the negotiating committee, the Commission ratify the contract with the Civilian Employees Union and forward it to the City Council for their approval.

**Seconded by Commissioner Devine.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The Board voted unanimously to accept the contract with the Portsmouth Police Civilian Employees Union and forward it to the City Council for their approval.

## **VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

There being no further business before this Commission,

**Commissioner Howe moved** the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting be adjourned.

**Seconded by Commissioner Devine.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The Board unanimously voted in favor of the motion at 7:30 P.M.

## **VIII. NEXT MEETING:      *May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004***

*Respectfully Submitted By Kathleen Hoyt, Administrative Aide*

*Reviewed By Commissioner Gerald Howe, Clerk*