

Rutland City Police Commission
July 11, 2022

Present: Chairman Sean Sargeant, Commissioners Tony Romeo, Luther Brown and Alis Hedlam.

Also attending: Chief Kilcullen, Commanders Greg Sheldon and Sam Delpha, Sgt. Lorman, Ryan Brady, Crime Analyst Nathan Thibodeau, Mayor Allaire, Pat Hunter, Pat Garcia, Kurt Matzke, John Brower and Tiffany Heath.

Call to order by Chairman Sargeant at 6:01 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Romeo moved to approve the minutes of June 13, 2022 Commissioner Brown seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Introduction/Recognition of Police Department Members

Chief Kilcullen announced that Ryan Brady will be taking over as Staff Operations Support Specialist on Sunday.

Public Comment

Tiffany Heath spoke on behalf of Ronald Hemenway who had discussed the need for ADA Compliant doors for the Police Department at the June 20 Aldermen's meeting. Mayor Allaire said he is aware of the door issue and it will be addressed by an outside contractor. He added that the remaining issues at the front of the police station will need to be addressed in the next budget season.

Kurt Matzke provided the Commission with a summary of issues at 158 Adams Street. Chairman Sargeant asked that the summary be added to the minutes. Mr. Matzke thanked the police for the two arrests that were made on June 6. He asked what will happen if people don't feel like the police can do anything. Chief Kilcullen said they are putting together a Judiciary Summit with the Judiciary Committee in September to address these types of concerns.

Pat Garcia discussed the situation on Baxter Street following recent events at 76 Baxter Street. She also asked about what can be done to stop the fireworks after 11 pm post July 4. Chief Kilcullen said the Herald recently reported on a decline in fireworks this year but to continue to report them.

Commanders' Report

Commander Delpha said Alexander Root, a level 2 officer, has been hired and starts this week. He will be in the full-time class in February. Another recently hired officer will be in the August class. There are four applicants currently in background and it is the hope for 2-3 of them to attend the September part-time class and eventually the February

Academy. Probationary Officer St. John graduates on Friday to be followed by field training and then on the road. Sgt. Lorman added that there are three applicants testing tomorrow morning for the entrance exam. Commander Delpha said the applicant numbers are creeping back up. He added the B.C.I. has been busy dealing with the recent homicide and working with the N.H. authorities, as well as, the background work. Commander Delpha thanked the officers from both Rutland Town and Pittsford who assisted Cpl. Rose in the early morning arrests at 158 Adams Street. Chief Kilcullen added that there has definitely been an uptick in applications from the Police App and things are being fast tracked for the out of state applicants. Chairman Sargeant asked if modification of the physical test criteria for the Academy resulted in the increase of applicants. Commander Delpha said it has helped that the written test was suspended and the rowing test is less difficult.

Commander Sheldon said the next Project VISION meeting is July 14 from noon-1:30 pm at Calvary Church on Grove Street with a night meeting planned in September at RIS. Officer Root will start training this week with Sgt. Plemmons and Officer St. John will start training with Sgt. Dickerson. New Officer Carapezza is doing well at the part-time academy. There was a great neighborhood walk on June 30 with Turning Point as the sponsor. Commander Sheldon said the sponsorship of the walks has been a benefit to the community and neighborhoods. Commissioner Hedlam said Project VISION is currently looking for someone to organize the neighborhood walks and there has been discussion with Karim for a walk in the hotels. There will a town hall meeting at the hotels at the end of the month and Karim has invited Project VISION members as an off shoot of the neighborhood walks. Commander Sheldon said the town hall meeting will be held in the ballroom at the Cortina Inn for all four hotels on July 29. Chairman Sargeant volunteered to attend this meeting and asked to be sent the information. Chris Ghio, Rutland City Patrol, has been tapped for taking over the Neighborhood Watch, a program that was started a year ago. The syllabus for the Citizens' Academy has been completed. Commander Sheldon said the recruitment team is planning a July 29 Coffee with a Cop at Starbucks with two tables; one for Community Response Team/Project VISION and one for recruitment. Additionally, there will be a recruitment booth at National Night Out on August 2 at Meadow Street. Lastly, Commander Sheldon has asked the Peer Support Team to put together ideas for a wellness program specific to the RPD, and Officer Rice is spearheading a social media proposal for recruitment due at the end of July.

Mapping Update

Nate Thibodeau presented the 2022 Crime Comparison for January – June. He reported there was 1 homicide in 2021, 5-year average is 0 and 1 in 2022 on 6/12/22. Robbery 2021- 11, five-year avg.-5, 2022-6, Aggravated Assault 2021-20 five-year avg.-22 2022-30, Burglary 2021-41 five-year avg.-31 2022-32 with a potential decrease after reading through cases. Larceny automobile 2021-15 five-year avg.-8 2022-36 which is a 140% increase from last year, larceny from motor vehicle 2021-66 five-year avg.-34 2022-153 up 132%, larceny from buildings 2021-18 five-year avg.-20 2022-59 up 128%. Retail

theft 2021-61 five-year avg.-55 2022-140 up 130% from last year. Larceny from motor vehicle 73% were unlocked, 11% were broken into and 14% unknown. Nate reported that 4 guns were stolen in June with 60% from an unlocked vehicle and 30% from homes and 10% were an individual. Auto thefts there were 5 in June, 55% no relation, 38% related or associated and out of the no relations 68% were unlocked with keys in car. Auto theft recovery in Rutland is 67% with the national average at 56%. Chairman Sargeant asked if there was a Vermont statute that addresses irresponsible behavior of leaving a weapon in an unlocked car. Chief Kilcullen said no.

Nate continued reporting that hotel/motel calls were 53 in June with the highest in April at 56. Total calls between all 6 hotel/motels were 258 or 5% of the total call volume with Econolodge seeing the most calls of 64 followed by the Quality Inn with 58. He reported that there have been 51 overdoses which is a 28% increase over last year with 44 non-fatal, 5 fatal and two suspected fatal. Commission Hedlam asked if drug mixtures are reviewed. Nate said yes and it is most likely heroine and fentanyl but only a toxicology report can confirm. He continued with seizure information reporting that to date 240 grams have been seized with 48 grams of heroin, 191 grams of crack/cocaine, \$21,000 and 3 pistols. There have been 30 total arrests, 27 were Vermont residents and 3 were out-of-state. Total referrals have been 41.

Budget Report

Chief Kilcullen reported that at 100% of the fiscal year June 30, expenses are at 80% of the budget due to staff openings. The \$1.4 million surplus will be used toward the retention bonuses \$130,000, new firearms \$40,000, new uniforms \$25,000 and potentially the HVAC system \$110,000 which is needed before the next heating season. Mayor Allaire said the tax rate will be set at a special meeting of the Aldermen at 5:30 pm on July 19 during which there will be significant discussion of the surplus funds. The Mayor said prior to that meeting he plans discussing setting aside some of the surplus for the issues discussed in addition to increases in heat, oil, insurance and to provide some tax relief.

Chief's Report

Chief Kilcullen said he has been attending, when possible, the Chief's Association meetings regarding candidates for the U.S. Congress seat and other candidates for endorsements by the Chiefs' Association. There was a Project Vision walk sponsored by BROCC on June 16 with 30 people attending. There was also a vicious dog hearing on June 16. The Board of Finance opened bids for RPD goods and services on June 23. A meeting with a council assigned by the League to represent the City in a 2019 human rights complaint was held on June 24. The investigator recommended that there were no legal grounds that the police had discriminated to the executive director who agreed with the findings. The Human Rights Commission rejected the findings despite no new facts presented. The next steps are to be determined. There was an open house on June 30 for the Housing Trust, as well as, another vicious dog hearing. The Charter & Ordinance Committee met on July 7 to discuss the City's noise ordinance prompted by

complaints of loud cars and music. The City Attorney will be summarizing the City's existing noise ordinances and bring that back to committee. On July 19, Chief Kilcullen will participate in Storytime at Camp Otter Creek. Effective July 16 Sgt. Anderson will resign to begin his new career and Sgt. Lorman will replace him.

Chairman Sargent stated, for the record, that Sgt. Anderson had approached him in March saying he was leaving the police department and was interested in real estate valuation. He asked if Sargeant Appraisal Service, owned by Sean and his wife, would hire him. Sean and his wife took two weeks to discuss it and came up with a list of conditions under which they would be willing to hire him. Sgt. Anderson agreed to the conditions and in July he met the conditions and he starts on Monday.

Chief Kilcullen continued saying that a candidate for the Community Resource Specialist has been identified and agreed to start on August 1. The candidate is Matt Prouty. Originally it was anticipated that this new employee would not have any experience working in a police department and a lengthy training would be needed but, Matt applied for the job. Chief Kilcullen said he believes there is a lot value in hiring Matt for this position as he will be responding to issues that he has responded to for the past 20 years just in a civilian capacity. Commissioner Romeo agreed that Matt will be a good fit for that position. Commissioner Hedlam said it will be important to get the message out to the community that Matt is the ideal candidate and highly qualified for the position with his goal to work with the community as a community member resource and not a police officer. Pat Hunter added that this is a great positive for the community.

Adjournment

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

Meeting called to a close at 7:29 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

Adams st issues summary

7/11/22

Justin and Danielle Allen moved into 158 Adams st 1/1/22

1. No cert of occupancy was issued. failure of city not to enforce Title 9
Building inspector does not seem to be able to police or enforce building codes
This allowed the allens to move into what I deem to be a house that does not meet any building codes or energy codes or safety codes
2. The previous owner George Barbash an absentee owner looks at properties that he owns as a commodity to be bought and sold (or rented) with no thought of the community or neighborhood that the property is in or the impact his decision and lack of vetting can cause .
Failure of city to get control of property sales and police ordinances and absentee landlords.
3. The Allens had no idea what it means to live in a neighborhood with neighbor and or how to take care of a home or property. They expected the neighborhood to tolerate them and to bend to them and their illegal activities.
4. Justin made a living stealing and robbing plan and simple. Although well known through the community police did not seem to be able to reign him in. He took pride in this fact. He could care less about city ordinance, laws, or his neighbor and police, courts, had no effect on him
5. From the day they moved in till the day he left was constant turmoil in the neighborhood

Vehicles with temporary tags and no mufflers

Came and went constantly throughout the night

People of all sorts coming and going buying drugs

All sorts of people living there besides family members

Trash, tires, all kinds of debris littering the front yard

Dogs running free

Erratic behavior: breaking their own windows, driving their car into the house

Driving around the house doing donuts in their yard, physically assaulting

Neighbors, verbally assaulting neighbors, verbally assaulting police, revving

Engines at all hrs of the day and night

Doing burn outs in the street, ect.....

6. Had to put up with a police action on my street because the court system failed to deal with these people. bail bond reform? Restorative justice ?

Take away:

The police have very little control over individuals that don't care

There is a lot of local people buying and using drugs of all ages and types
The city has no control over the neighborhood or the tools to control this type of activity
The state reps don't seem to care about Rutland. Rutland is a dumping ground
The police seem almost too dossal with people like this and still I heard tell that Rutland city cops
Are too aggressive???????? (I verbal dressed this person down)
Amazing how one person and his group can be so disruptive to a neighborhood, and a city
How much did this family and George Barbash cost me? The taxpayer? Besides all the disruptions
And anguish? 10,000.00/20,000.00 the operation on 7/5 must of cost 5000.00 with overtime
Most citizen feel that city hall and police are useless / "why bother calling them they won't do
Anything". I have come to the conclusion that with all these different government entities its set
Up to blame the other one and so nothing gets done.

Some of us get the impression we are on our own

To the people that did help us and showed interest thank you

Mayor Allaire, Sharon Davis, Senator Cullimore, Rutland City police, Rutland city Police commissioners

Kurt Matzke Adams st