

Rutland City Police Commission
May 8, 2023

Present: Chairman Sean Sargeant, Commissioners Tony Romeo and Alis Headlam.

Also attending: Chief Kilcullen, Commanders Matt Prouty and Sam Delpha, Det. Sgt. Charles Whitehead, Crime Analyst Nathan Thibodeau, Alderman Talbott, Officers Parker, Rice, Caravaggio, Plemmons, Rajda and Officer Whitehead's family Angela and Halie.

Call to order by Chairman Sargeant at 6 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Romeo moved to approve the minutes of April 19, 2023. Chairman Sargeant seconded. Commissioner Headlam recused herself having not been at the meeting. Motion failed.

Introduction/Recognition of Police Department Members

Chief Kilcullen administered the oath of commander to Det. Sgt. Charles Whitehead.

Communications from the Union

Officer Rice reported that the Department signed two MOUs; one with Killington Ski Resort and the second with VT Sport & Fitness. Chairman Sargeant said he is still waiting on a response from the City Attorney and Mayor regarding Directive 305.

Commanders' Report

Commander Whitehead reported that CO Crystal Murray had changed from records to dispatch. He said there are two applicants in background for the open positions. Commander Whitehead discussed the recent search warrant at the Bardwell House with good collaboration between Patrol, BCI and Homeland Security Investigations. He is organizing summer and fall trainings for the department and tomorrow they are conducting a Sgt. promotional process.

Commander Delpha discussed the upcoming Annual Awards and Memorial Service at 6 pm, refreshments at 5:30 pm, on May 16 at Mission City Church. Chairman Sargeant said Commissioner Romeo will be filling in for him at the event.

Commander Prouty said they have interviewed 3 applicants for the new CRS position with one in background. On April 13 he participated on a panel for the Howard Center event on the Ernie & Joe Crisis Cops documentary. The documentary follows two street cops who specialize in mental health response and travel around the country. Commander Prouty participated in the strategic planning for Companions in Wholeness facilitated by Joan Gamble on April 18, and on April 19 he and the Chief attended a presentation by author Maureen Cavanaugh at Turning Point. On April 20th, the second of two Combating Compassion Fatigue training was hosted by Kheya Ganguly which

received fantastic feedback from mostly nurses and social caregivers. Commissioner Headlam asked if there would be more trainings available. Commander Prouty Kheya has been stretched thin, but he hopes to do more in the future. Chairman Sargeant asked how to view the Howard Center video regarding the San Antonio officers. Commander Prouty said go to <https://www.hbo.com/movies/ernie-and-joe-crisis-cops>.

Mapping Update

Nate Thibodeau presented the January – April 30, 2023 report. The forecasted call volume has proven to be accurate, but the shopping plaza does not have enough data to accurately make predictions. April was forecasted at 995 calls and ended with 988. In May the forecast has been correct with 247 calls in the first week. At the end of the quarter 6,071 cases forecasted. The year to date comparison: 3,697 through May, a 13% increase from last year. The monthly call volume decreased for March 1,003, April 988; but April 2023 is higher than every previous year. The heat map shows concentration in the shopping plaza, Grove Street, the hotels, school and hospital. Nate continued with actual case volume which is 27% higher than last year at 4,204. The monthly calls were slightly lower in March with 1,161 and April 1,118 which is higher than previous years. There was a spike in larceny from vehicle last month. The initial calls in the 12 categories had the largest at NCI 24% followed by Traffic Related at 19% and Police Assist at 7%. Nate highlighted the categories requiring investigation by police while the others could be handled by the CRS or police.

He continued with the April 2023 5-year crime comparison saying: Homicide 5 year avg. 22, 2023 is 1, Robbery 2022 – 3, five-year avg. 3.8, 2023 is 1, Aggravated Assault 2022 -15, five-year avg. 14.6, 2023 - 27, Burglary 2022 – 13, five-year avg.- 19, 2023- 12. Commissioner Headlam asked about the increase in aggravated assaults and whether the political climate plays is affecting the increase. Commander Prouty said we need to break down the category to address the focus to turns model because the model calls for focusing on crimes against people. Nate said the increase is likely drug related or domestic violence. Commander Whitehead added that the increase could be related to the fact that a person convicted of a violent crime in the past could see the new charged increased to aggravated assault. Nate offered to provide the breakdown at the next meeting.

Larceny Comparison: Automobile 2022 – 29, five-year avg. 11.2, 2023 - 14, larceny from motor vehicle 2022- 127, five-year avg. 42.4, 2023- 68, larceny from buildings 2022-37, five-year avg.- 15.6, 2023- 35. Retail theft 2022 - 62, five-year avg.- 39.8, 2023-126. Weapon thefts total is 64 stolen in the past 3 years, Rutland Town had 8 stolen, 2023 – 10 and 2022 – 9. Gun theft from vehicles is where most are being stolen. The total cases of weapons stolen that were secured is 55% no and 45% yes. The catalytic converter thefts in the City total 105 for the past 3 years with 18 in 2023 and 19 in 2022. The locations from where they are stolen is 59% business, 45% state property, 8% church and 8% hotel/motel. The grand total for the past 5 years for larceny motor vehicle 663 with 2022 – 127 and 2023 – 68. There was a spike in April at

30. The total cases for retail theft for the past 5 years are 754 with 2023 – 126 and 2022 – 62 and April had 45 cases and March had 33 cases. Chief Kilcullen asked about number of arrests with retail thefts. Nate said there have been a few.

Nate continued with Narcotics related information: substance use overdose total for the past 5 years is 341 with 2023 – 46 of which there were 39 non-fatal and 7 fatal. March had 14 and April had 14 with the age range 30-39, residents 35 and 10 non-residents, 56% received Narcan and 24% of individuals accepted transportation to hospital. Nate showed the heat layers of locations of overdoses with the hot spot on Grove Street. Chairman Sargeant asked if there has been an action there last week. Chief Kilcullen said that was at Kingsley Court. The 135 Grove Street location came up during the RUTSTAT meeting and the building inspector's office said it is nearing shut down due to several violations. CRS information included: officer cases average for March was 76, time spent 22 hours, CRS had 66 cases with 12 hours spent in field. The April officer average of cases was 72, time spent 30 and CRS cases 50, time spent 8.5. This includes all proactive work. There was discussion regarding when the CRS is the primary or secondary and 79% primary and 29% as secondary with 46% of cases NCI, 26% community outreach and 18% as secondary. Commissioner Headlam asked if only 3% of the cases were mental health. Nate said next time there will be more because there are other cases where mental health was involved. Commissioner Headlam said it would be helpful to know how many of the CRS cases are drug related and mental health, because the mental health component is significant considering the work being done by Commander Prouty.

Chairman Sargeant said there is a large houseless population that will be experiencing a dramatic change in their living conditions in the next 30-60 days. He asked Commander Prouty if the service providers are engaged in a comprehensive way to understand what this population will need in the next two months. Commander Prouty said this population has been living in crisis mode their whole life and many of them believe the program could continue. If the legislation passes, there will be an influx of homeless, but then they will start navigating their circles and leveraging friends and families. Chief Kilcullen mentioned that the Mayor is working with Adam Sancic, VT Agency of Human Services, to set up a resource fair for this population probably next month and potentially at the fairgrounds. Commissioner Romeo asked if there is an expectation for an increase in crime. Commander Prouty said if that becomes a reality, it will be addressed. Commissioner Headlam asked if an increase in panhandling is expected. Commander Prouty said crew currently out there are not homeless, but a lot of the groups are travelers and that is their lifestyle. Chief Kilcullen discussed moving the population into the public areas to help the police address their issues and provide resources. Commander Prouty suggested using the FEMA trailers from Irene and emulating the Community First Model in Austin.

Budget Report

Chief Kilcullen reported that at 83% through the budget, expenses are at 78.8%.

Chief's Report

Chief Kilcullen said on April 13 he attended Project VISION meeting, April 14 the hotel meeting with the Mayor and on April 18 RUTSTAT meeting. There was a vicious dog hearing on April 25 which was continued to May 9 at 5:30 pm, the Criminal Justice Council met on May 3 discussing legislative matters changing model from residential to another form. Upcoming meetings include Project VISION on May 11 at 9 am at Calvary Bible Church, the next hotel meeting is May 12 and the Award ceremony will be on May 16. Chief Kilcullen said there are two open communication operations positions, one created when Julie Fitzgibbons transitions to CRS and the other when Brianna Dyer left. There is an individual in background for the second CRS position. Probationary Officer Arun Dungal will graduate in June and Kelsey Parker is training and is assigned to the day shift.

Trainings

Completed – CRS Kyle Dawson and Tim Jones attended VIN training
Completed - CRS Kyle Dawson trained in fingerprinting certification
Completed - All sworn officers mandatory CPR and First Aid Training
Completed – Emily Leinoff online training responding to internet-based bomb threats and swatting calls.
Completed – Officer Blanchard attended Advanced Response Officer course in Mass.
Completed – Officer Rice finished police bicyclist course
Completed - Nora Moore and Crystal Murray attended Child Passenger Safety technician conference

Upcoming Trainings

Rescheduled – For all sworn officers, mandatory firearms qualification
May 15-19 – Officer Amber Hule will attend Homicide and Death Investigation Training
May 22 – 26 – Officer Dumas will attend a Patrol Rifle Instructor Course
June 5-9 – Cpl. Tavares will attend FBI LEEDA Supervisory Leadership Institute Training
Upcoming – Officers Lucia and Dumas will attend a Mechanical and Shotgun Breaching instructor class.

Chief Kilcullen said he has been in conversations regarding the mental health crisis capacity of experts. It has been suggested that the police not bring individuals in mental health crisis to the hospital, but bring them to the jail to be evaluated. Chief Kilcullen said we all have a role to solve these issues, but he told Ian Sullivan that this is not the way to go and it is problematic. He is waiting to hear back from Ian for a meeting. Chairman Sargeant said the VT Commission on Human Rights has been very critical of law enforcement response to mental health crisis calls, so it seems counterintuitive to now be asked by the State's Attorney's office to respond. Commander Prouty said it should concern the incoming CEO at the hospital that the VT Commission on Human Rights could pull every trespass notice for 160 Allen Street and verify that those involve people with substance abuse disorder to support the disparity

in healthcare. Chief Kilcullen said if there is probable cause for arrest there will be a response, but rarely does the RPC issue no trespass orders for public property. Commissioner Headlam asked if there was someone in the emergency room specific to aid in mental health issues. Commander Prouty said he is working with Adam Sancic to work on homeless healthcare without bringing them to the ED, by finding a provider who would be willing to do assessments in the field and by leveraging the CRS. The police could escort people to the hospital for follow up. He also discussed having the state increase Medicaid reimbursement to the hospital for housing insecure individuals. Commissioner Headlam said she is concerned with individuals who are out of control. Commander Prouty said they still have the Team II response with Alicia and Emilio or another patrol officer.

Executive Session

At 7:10 pm Commissioner Romeo moved to go into executive session under I VSA section 313 for the purpose of receiving advice from the City Attorney and invite all present with the exception of Barbara Spaulding. Commissioner Headlam seconded. Motion was approved 3-0.

Executive session exited at 7:28 pm.

Adjournment

Commissioner Romeo moved to adjourn. Commissioner Headlam seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting called to a close at 7:28 pm.

Submitted by: Barbara Spaulding

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