

Rutland City Police Commission
September 9, 2024

Present: Acting Chairperson Peg Flory, Commissioners, Tony Romeo, Alis Headlam and Luther Brown.

Also attending: Chief Kilcullen, Commanders Delpha and Whitehead, Dave Allaire, Pat Hunter, Nate Thibodeau.

Acting Chairperson Flory called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Headlam moved to approve the minutes of August 12, 2024. Commissioner Romeo seconded. Motion was approved 3-0.

Public Comment

Dave Allaire, Church Street, Rutland – Dave spoke about the recent untimely death on Bellevue Avenue and his concerns about the welfare of the person who lives there. Dave also thanked the police for their focus on the property. Chief Kilcullen said the police have focused on this property since 2019 and have been working, not just from a criminal angle, with City departments on the issue. Search warrants have been executed by both the PD and State Police at the residence for a number of years in response to the neighborhood complaints, but it has not lead to the level of result needed. Commissioner Headlam asked if the building is still boarded up. Chief Kilcullen said following the untimely death, the building was boarded up and posted for no occupancy, between 9 am and 6 pm, due to health code violations, but those violations have since been corrected resulting in resumed occupancy of the property.

Commander's Reports

Commander Delpha said YTD numbers show that applications are significantly down from last year and less candidates have moved on to background. He said the PD is still hiring and in need of good people. Acting Chairperson Flory asked if advertising efforts are still active.

Commander Delpha said the Recruitment Team is still active at all public events and through other agencies. Commissioner Brown asked if the salaries are competitive. Chief Kilcullen said salaries were increased in January to be more competitive, but the question is what will bring people to this area. He discussed how Killington passes and gym passes were made part of the benefits package, but they may need to re-evaluate their effectiveness. Commissioner Headlam asked if there is the same need for the higher level of recruitment. Commander Delpha said the process is always revolving, but there are 7-8 open positions. Acting Chairperson Flory asked if there are a lot of officers approaching retirement. Commander Delpha said it's difficult to say as these are individual life choices. Chief Kilcullen discussed how potential retirements will affect the roster over the next five years. He added that currently there are 32 sworn officers with 33 budgeted. Chief Kilcullen said he will go back to the Aldermen for the additional committed funding for up to 41 positions if necessary.

Commander Whitehead said the Tunnel to Towers event has been postponed until next year. Annual rifle training will be held the first couple days in October for all patrol officers and the saturated/direct patrols continue in high crime areas. Commissioner Headlam asked for more information on the saturated patrols. Commander Whitehead said places that are identified either through public complaints or information the Police receive or notice have increased police visibility in those areas separate from what the drug enforcement detectives are doing. Additionally, patrol works with Jason and Ryan to set up speed carts in areas where there have been high complaints to collect raw data.

Mapping Update

Nate presented the daytime analysis report for August saying the busiest call times are Thursday and Friday. Total calls YTD are 10,242 with Downtown at 2,319, Sector 1 - 2,550, Sector 2 - 1,569, Sector 3 - 1,151 and Sector 4 - 995. The busiest calls times are noon to 2:59 pm and 9 am to 11:59 am. There is an increase of 923 calls over last year with Quality of Life calls being the largest call type followed by Assist, Patrol, Crash and Theft. Nate discussed how call types are listed by common call and secondary call type.

The violation analysis reported there were 36 total violations for August with Downtown at 8, Sector 1 - 10, Sector 2 - 6, Sector 3 - 10 and Sector 4 - 1. Nate is still working with the new software to be able to add old data. Crimes Against a Person data YTD are: Aggravated Assault 39, 2023 - 57 (-18), Murder/Manslaughter 0, 2023 - 1, Rape 7, 2023 - 1 (+6), Simple Assault 24, 2023 - 35 (-11) resulting in 70 violations crimes against a person this year, 2023 - 94. Commissioner Headlam asked if there was any correlation in location with the rapes. Nate explained how that mapping is not available. Acting Chairperson Flory asked for that information at the next meeting. Commissioner Headlam asked for the same information in regards to assaults. Nate explained the difficulty with extracting the location information in the software. He continued with the Arrest Report for August saying there were 76 total arrests: Downtown 27, Sector 1 - 14, Sector 2 - 16, Sector 3 - 7 and Sector 4 - 11. YTD arrests are 589, 2023 - 531 (+58). Unique individual arrested is 346, 2023 - 310 (+36). The largest type of arrests is warrants followed by citations, flash sites and 20% were lodged at the jail.

Total overdose information for August was 5 with zero fatal and occurring: Downtown 1, Sector 1 - 1, Sector 2 - 2, Sector 3 - 0 and Sector 4 - 0. One location was not provided. YTD overdose information is 62, 2023 - 107 (-45), unique individuals 52, 2023 - 91, open in public view 60% and behind closed doors 40%. Chief Kilcullen explained that Sector 1 no longer includes Downtown. Nate continued with the Hotel/Motel analysis saying there were no arrests or overdoses at the hotels for the month of August. YTD incidences are rising at the Econo Lodge, Quality Inn, Rodeway Inn and Travel Inn, and North Main Rodeway Inn and Extol Inn with 546, 2023 - 593 (-53). Commissioner Headlam asked about animal control and Nate said there were 17 instances YTD. The largest calls are under Quality of Life followed by Assists and Assaults. Commissioner Brown asked if the hotels have external cameras. Chief Kilcullen said the hotels do not typically have sophisticated, if any, camera systems.

Budget Report

Chief Kilcullen said that at 16% of the year, the budget is at 15.25%. He confirmed the health insurance had been paid for two months affecting the July report and discussed that the 10% increase in salaries was included in the budget, but negotiations for the full 18% will be settled this year. Commissioner Headlam asked about the canine stipend. Chief Kilcullen explained the amount was for the dog handler who has the dog 24/7 and this is paid weekly as part of the salary. It is not a separate appropriation.

Chief's Report

Chief Kilcullen reported that Project VISION met and on every second Tuesday Treatment Court is in session. He discussed the change in Treatment Court beginning Sept. 10 to one Treatment Court judge statewide. On Aug. 14 there was a Capital Improvement Plan meeting where departments were asked to identify projects for evaluation, Aug. 15 was a contract negotiations meeting, Aug. 16 a Traffic Safety meeting, Aug. 19 a Department Head meeting was held at BROCC, Aug. 26 meeting at City Hall regarding the water turnoff process, Sept. 4 continued contract negotiations meeting, Sept. 5 a Charter & Ordinance meeting during which new parking fines including the greenbelt parking fine of \$30 was discussed. Acting Chairperson Flory asked about greenbelt parking. Chief Kilcullen said the City is re-establishing the grassy area between the sidewalk and street as part of erosion control efforts. The City-wide ban has not been enacted yet and ticketing is only presently done on Woodstock Avenue. On Sept. 12 there will be a Public Safety Community Town Hall at the Fire Academy to discuss ending the staffing of state police dispatchers, on Sept. 18 there will be a Concerning Canine Behavior hearing and on Sept. 20 there will be both a Traffic Safety and Union Negotiations meeting. Chief Kilcullen discussed the status of Noah Sweeney transitioning to the ACO position. Acting Chairperson Flory said Noah has done a good job at the dog hearings.

Trainings Completed

August – Officer Morgano attended Emersion Camp to work on different techniques for control and restraint moves to minimize both the force needed and risk of injury.

Upcoming Trainings

Sept. 20 – Use of Force, Firearms and Taser training at the range
Sept. 23-27 - FBI LEEDA Command Leadership Institute Training for Cpl. Maquire and Tavares
Sept. 26 – Rifle familiarization training for Officers Montana, Falco, Olsen and Parker
Sept. 26-27 - ARIDE required for Officer Parker
Oct 1 -3 – Patrol Rifle Qualification for all sworn officers
Oct. 2 – Team 2 Training for Crisis Clinician, Mental Health and Police for Cpls. Heter, Caravaggio, Tavares and Maguire, Officer Rajda, Detective Menjivar and Officer Blanchard
Oct. 21-25 – Use of Force and Tactics for Level 2 certification - Officer Gaiotti
Oct. 29-30 – De-escalation Techniques Training for the Community Response Team
Nov. 4-8 - FBI LEEDA Executive Leadership Institute Training - Commander Whitehead
November – Train the Trainer De-escalation Technique Training in Rhode Island for Cpl. Caravaggio, Cpl. Morgano and Officer Ducharme

Commissioner Headlam asked if Officer LaGuardia has been reassigned to the schools. Chief Kilcullen said not at this time.

Issues and Comments from the Commissioners

Commissioner Romeo suggested keeping Officer Blanchard in their prayers following the untimely death of his mother.

Adjournment

Commissioner Romeo moved to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Meeting called to close at 7:10 pm.

Submitted by Barbara Spaulding

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