



Andy Schor, Mayor

LANSING POLICE DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

120 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE
LANSING, MI 48933
PHONE: (517) 483-4800
FAX: (517) 483-4617



Ellery Sosebee, Interim Chief

**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 20th, 2021**

Location: Lansing Police Department Headquarters, 120 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933

The Board of Police Commissioners met in regular session and meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairperson Patty Farhat.

PRESENT: Commission Members Farhat, Brewster, Carnegie, Jones, and Lopez

EXCUSED: Commissioner McDermitt.

Also Present: Chief Ellery Sosebee, Director Linda Sanchez-Gazella, Assistant City Attorney Mary Bowen, CI Delvata Moses, Det. Shannon Thielen and Ruth Grant.

Roll call was taken and quorum was present.

Chairperson Farhat asked for a moment of silence in memory for Cashad Pops and Jemaris Leek Jr., recent homicide victims.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Carnegie.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Moved by Chairperson Farhat to approve the June 15th, 2021 minutes of meeting. Motion carried by Commissioner Brewster and place on file; Commissioner Jones seconding the motion.

Yeas: Commission Members: Farhat, Brewster, Carnegie, Jones, and Lopez

Nays: None

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EDUCATION PRESENTATION: Shannon Thielen, Cold Case Detective

- 80-85 are assigned to Det. Thielen. Some cases have not fully been determined to be homicide, some have been reclassified as “missing” or “attempted homicide” and able to be closed.
- Involved with the Detroit Crime Commission who raised \$15, 000 of funds to contribute to the Cold Case Unit (CCU) for additional resources. The CCU hopes to soon have volunteers consisting of retired detectives, judges, prosecutors to review cold cases and hopefully provide fresh insight. Two have been vetted to assist the unit; one is a retired prosecutor with the Attorney General’s office and the other a retired FBI agent.
- An updated list of all unsolved homicides is planned to be posted on the city website. This list will provide more case details with a photo of the victim.
- Focus over the past months has been transferring case information and records from an old database into the new record management software (SRMS) for retention.

Question by Farhat: Is there any grants available to help?

Det. Thielen: The only grants to be found are for DNA and many of the cases are not at that stage. There needs to be evidence and samples to compare the DNA extracted to. All evidence is in cold storage and a determination would need to be made what could be extracted and submitted to a laboratory for testing. Genealogy plays a big part in this comparison.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – Chief Ellery Sosebee

- Chief thanked everyone for welcoming to his first Board meeting.
- Condolences were extended the families of the homicide victims mentioned earlier.
- ALPACT – Chief will continue as retired Chief Green did as LPD’s representative.
- The lobbies at Headquarters and Operations Center are now open to the public for operations.
- Staff Updates: Officer Jenn Pung will be promoted to rank of detective on July 30th. Officer Chad Frazier retired on July 12th after 25 years of service. Payroll Technician, Angie Smith as accepted a new position with the city of Lansing Human Resources. Retired auditor, Jim Deline will be covering Angie’s duties with LPD until that position is permanently filled.
- The procedure software, Power-DMS, will soon be able to link designated policies to the city website for transparency.
- The city and LPD Central Records has transitioned to a new online software, GovQA to streamline FOIA requests.
- Training: Training will be offered for county-wide police agencies for Critical Skill focusing on national best practices, content and consistency among agencies. LPD will continue with the established training for diversity and special needs population.
- A new radio system for Ingham County will go live on September 1. LPD is currently providing training for the new radio systems.

Carnegie: Would like to see the department monthly reports reflect any improvements by the training per sector.

Linda Gazella: Mayor Schor’ administration has looked at gun violence and there is a current task force to address some of the violence.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

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LEGAL AND ADVISOR REPORT: Assistant City Attorney Mary Bowen

- The courts and juries are open and resuming
- The new GovQA for FOIA: LPD processes their own FOIA requests and Office of City Attorney (OCA) does the remainder of the city FOIA requests. This GovQA went live on July 19th and the new software will allow to streamline requests faster, respond, make payments online, and track by calendars automatically for completion.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMUNITY SERVICES: Delvata Moses.

- No report.

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT: Director Linda Sanchez-Gazella

- Commissioners signed the Recruit Status Report nine candidates to start the fall academy.
- Certified Certifiables – one fully vetted. Five are pending. Commissioners signed for the new certified certifiables.
- Currently working with Chief and Mayor Schor to streamline the hiring process for officers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

CORRESPONDANCE SENT AND RECEIVED: None.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- Moved by Chairperson Farhat to accept and place on file. Motion carried by Commissioner Lopez and seconded by Commissioner Carnegie.

Yeas: Commission Members: Farhat, Brewster, Carnegie, Jones and Lopez.

Nays: None

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Budget Committee: Carnegie - The books close on July 30th and new cycle starts in August. Vice-Chair Jones will be actively involved in next budget planning process. Will schedule a budget meeting with Chief Sosebee, Chair Farhat, Vice-chair Jones and Carnegie to discuss next budget.
- Government/Community Liaison Committee: Lopez – Recently met with Chair Farhat and Commissioner Carnegie and developed some point of topic: on how to improve race relations, working with City Council, some issues facing students when interacting with LPD, LPD contract language and role if any by Board, board authority not advisory, suggestions for outside venues for board meeting was discussed. Meeting with Chief is upcoming on July 28th.

Future meeting venue locations for 2021. Chair Farhat entertained a motion for 2021 locations. Vice-Chair Jones made a motion to accept as proposed with Brewster seconding.

Yeas: Farhat, Carnegie, Jones, Lopez, and Brewster.

Nays: None.

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- Awards & Incentives Committee: Brewster – The awards ceremony was taped but has not been released yet for public viewing.
- Ad Hoc Committee on Board Policies and Rules: Lopez asked how policy reviews are determined. Per Chief and Ms. Bowen, procedure/policies review are determined when terminologies, tactics and the change in laws require policy to be updated. Also, LPD is currently in the accreditation process which requires policies to be reviewed. Before policies come before the sub-committee for review designed LPD, OCA, Chief and field experts review content of policies. Policies are given 7 days for the sub-committee to review.

Carnegie requested sub-committee review policy 200.04 to address attendance of board members.

- Complaint Committee: The sub-committee and Ms. Moses are scheduled to meet with Internal Affairs on July 27th to review cases from May and June.
- Recruitment and Hiring Committee: None.
- Commission Investigator: Ms. Moses presented the stats for June 2021 – police complaints – 11, five were formal complaints, 6 informational, no violations. 11 complaints investigated and closed by Internal Affairs, 3 were formal and 8 were informational with no policy violations.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

- Commissioner McDermitt: Excused.
- Commissioner Lopez: Thanked Secretary Grant for LPD updates provided. He welcomed Chief Sosebee and thanked Commissioner Renfrew for his service.
- Commissioner Brewster: Attended Community Services June Event at Baker/Donora neighborhood. This was a well-attended event of close to 200 neighborhood citizens. He appreciated the CSU, Chief Sosebee, Ms. Moses and all LPD for all they did for this event.
- Chairperson Farhat: Reminded the board about National Night Out on August 10th at Lewton-Rich Neighborhood. Chair Farhat thanked CSU Officer VandeVoorde for his great work on Neighborhood Watch and all the community events.
- Commissioner Carnegie: Appreciates and thanked Commissioner Renfrew for his years of service to the Board of Commissioners and looks forward to Vice Chair Jones on the Budget process. Would like yearly schedule of events be given to commissioners. Looking forward to Chief Sosebee carrying out similar goals and programs as that of Chief Green and would like to know how LPD is moving forward with critical issues and carrying out policies in the city.
- Commissioner Jones: Congratulated Chief Sosebee in his first official board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Daniel Arnold – It's good to be together again in person for the Board meetings. He believes diversity is key and important for the city. He will continue to communicate with LPD on diversity of the vulnerable community. He shared how his positive involvement with LPD has changed his personality and believes this can happen to others too.

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- John Morin – Twenty years ago he moved to Lansing. There has been three occasions where his life was endangered and believed police were slow to respond and tended to protect the defendant/criminals. The police never solved the crime in the neighborhood and feels there is no accountability. Mr. Morin had copies of documentations of his complaints and these were provided to Ms. Moses for further investigation and review.
- Maria Koutsankos – gave greeting to the Board and thanked them.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairperson Farhat concluded by thanking everyone for attending. Farhat moved that the board meeting be adjourned. Motion to adjourn placed by Commissioner Lopez and 2nd by Commissioner Jones.

Yeas: Commission Members: Farhat, Brewster, Carnegie, Jones, and Lopez.

Nays: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Submitted by Ruth Grant, Recording Secretary, Lansing Board of Police Commissioners

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