



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, August 17th, 2021**

Location: Letts Community Center, 1220 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48915

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, Lopez and McDermitt.

EXCUSED: Commissioner Damon Milton.

Also Present: Chief Ellery Sosebee, Assistant City Attorney Mary Bowen, Commission Investigator Delvata Moses, Delisa Fountain and Ruth Grant.

Roll call was taken and quorum was present.

Chairperson Farhat asked for a moment of silence in memory for Chief Sosebee's grandfather, Mary Bowen's Great Aunt who recently passed, and for Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department Deputy Ryan Proxmire, killed in the line of duty.

Chairperson Farhat announced Damon Milton was approved by City Council for the Board of Commissioners and he will be joining the meetings next month.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Moved by Chairperson Farhat to approve the July 20th, 2021 minutes of meeting. Motion carried by Commissioner Brewster to accept and place on file with Commissioner Jones seconding the motion.

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

Nays: None

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EDUCATION PRESENTATION: Delisa Fountain, Director of Neighborhood and Citizen Engagement for the city of Lansing.

- The Neighborhood and Citizen Engagement office was founded in 2018 by Mayor Schor where they have the Neighborhood and Citizen Engagement, Citizen Empowerment, and soon will handle the 311 Call Center for the city.
- Some future goals to engage citizens:
 - Citizens Academy: a 12-week course to educate processes of city government and how decisions are made. This is the fourth year of the Academy and through this program three participants have ran for political office, and four have joined boards and commissions.
 - Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Board – Meet to discuss concerns, grants, and neighborhood projects.
 - Financial Empowerment Center – Financial education for budgeting, saving, and investing for citizens free of charge.
 - Lansing Save Program – A program to teach students how to save money for the future. All kindergarteners are enrolled at MSU Credit Union with \$5.00 to start the account. Parents and students can contribute to the accounts. Additionally, the 5th Sunday offering of many churches is going directly to the Save Program. Students will get notified of a deposit to their account. This encourages them in saving and parents into participating.
 - Offender Success Program – gives every offender released from prison the tools to be successful in society. Over three hundred clients have enrolled in the program and has shown fewer parolees return to prison which effects a decline in crimes.
 - Focus Initiative – Focus is placed in neighborhoods experiencing higher issues and crime.
- Newsletters: Approximately 7,000 residents are signed up to receive department newsletters that provides updates to community services they provide. They assist in various trainings to advance citizens skills for employment. They also walk the neighborhoods talking to citizens on ways to improve the neighborhood being lowering crime or appearance.
- Upcoming events: 9/10/2021 Expungement of records an all-day event with office of the City Attorney and other offices to resolve records at one time. 9/14/2021 is the Citizens Academy kick off. Citizens must complete an application to attend this academy.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – Chief Ellery Sosebee

- Updates from last meeting:
 - Business cards referencing the complaint process and other resource information is on order and will be out soon.
 - A tri-fold pamphlet, Police Contact Information, will be in the schools when school begins.
 - Chief met with Superintendent Ben Shuldiner to discuss goals between LSD and LPD. There will be no resource officers being assigned to the schools however there may be a room assigned where officers, parents, students can meet with CPS, probation, etc. in a more confidential safe-space setting.
 - Working on a different format for departmental monthly reporting to include training information.
 - An LPD officer has resigned following being arrested by Shiawassee County. He is looking at four federal felonies. This is an ongoing criminal investigation.

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NEW BUSINESS: None.

LEGAL AND ADVISOR REPORT: Assistant City Attorney Mary Bowen

- No report from OCA.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

CORRESPONDANCE SENT AND RECEIVED: None.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

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

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

Nays: None.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Budget Committee: Commissioner Carnegie – \$80,000 from overage was sent to the youth program in the city. Commissioner Jones is very involved in this program that was initially denied in FY2022 then approved as a response to increased gun violence. Objectives are: 1) to build self-esteem, self-meaning and value; 2) supporting programs for young citizens; 3) better LPD engagement with youth in community in hopes to draw them away from any gun violence. This program will be incorporated into future budget plans.
Chief Sosebee commented he supports this youth program and to be written in future LPD budgets.
- Government/Community Liaison Committee: Commissioner Lopez shared items discussed at the July 28th meeting of this sub-committee: to meet with Lansing Schools to let students know rights and responsibilities when in contact with police, ongoing LPD de-escalation training for officers, suggestion of a change in LPD logo to return to “Lansing’s Finest” from “Neighborhood Strong”, to provide all officers with business cards; to meet with Peter Spadafore, City Council President about this sub-committee.
Carnegie: Questions the mayor’s MRJEA and a proposed citizen oversight group. This item will be put on the agenda for next month.
- Awards & Incentives Committee: Commissioner Brewster - no updates.
- Ad Hoc Committee on Board Policies and Rules: Commissioner McDermitt – the committee reviewed a policy needing to be updated. She does like to have deadline dates and time for reviewing policies.
- Complaint Committee: Commissioner Farhat – The committee met July 27th to review complaints. Commissioner Jones commented on the surprisingly low number of formal and informational complaints at LPD.
- Recruitment and Hiring Committee: Commissioner McDermitt – No updates.
- Commission Investigator: For month of July, 8 complaints received, 3 were formal and 5 informational, 7 were investigated and cleared, 3 were formal complaints and 4 informational.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

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- Commissioner McDermitt: Appreciates Chief Sosebee and Commissioner Jones work with the importance of the youth programs. She also appreciates being back out in the community since COVID.
- Commissioner Lopez: Asked if the Board meeting agenda is put on the website. Secretary Grant explained per OMA, the agenda is posted on website and on the front door of Headquarters. He also wondered if LPD should explore programs and partnerships for kids for after school and on the weekends.
- Commissioner Brewster: No comment.
- Chairperson Farhat: Thanked Mayor Schor, Chief Sosebee, Ms. Moses, Commissioners Lopez and Milton and the police officers who attended her block party during National Night Out.
- Commissioner Carnegie: Discussed the process of Commissioners absent from meetings and if a policy needs to be revised to accommodate this. Per Attorney Bowen, any policy amendments need to go through the Ad Hoc sub-committee. Asks for Board to send a letter to the school crossing guards for great service they provide.
- Commissioner Jones: Thanked Chief Sosebee for participating in the Football in the City camp. He also mentioned one of the youth training programs for wrestling which occurred simultaneously with the board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Daniel Arnold: Appreciates and advocates for Lansing Police and public safety. He aims to give voice to people and is devoted to the city.

John Morin – Follow-up to the July Board meeting and information he provided, per Mr. Morin CI Moses indicated all events occurred in the past before she assumed the position as commission investigator and there is nothing to do. He feels there is no accountability with LPD.

Diane Shorter – Speaks for the homeless and works with Daniel Arnold to improve neighborhoods. She looks forward to working with the community more.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairperson Farhat concluded by thanking everyone and wishing good health to each. 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, Lopez, and McDermitt.
Nays: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

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

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