Andy Schor, Mayor

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Daryl Green, Chief

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, October 15th, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABESENT	PUBLIC and GUESTS PRESENT
Commissioner Clyde Carnegie	Chairperson Drew Macon	Ruth Grant, Administrative Specialist II
Commissioner Patty Farhat		Chief Daryl Green
Vice-Chair Sandra Kowalk-Thompson		Mary Bowen, City Attorney's Office
Commissioner Aaron I. Milton		Dr. Joan Jackson-Johnson, HRCS Director
Commissioner Robert Noordhoek		Bernard Brantley, Commission Investigator
Commissioner William Renfrew		Regina Wilson, HR Specialist
Commissioner Julee Rodocker		Daniel Arnold

CALL TO ORDER After establishing a quorum, Vice-Chairperson Kowalk-Thompson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Patty Farhat.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS None.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Board members reviewed the September 17th, 2019, Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Commissioner Noordhoek to approve the September 17th, 2019, Meeting Minutes; supported by Commissioner Renfrew; motion approved unanimously; (7-0).

EDUCATION PRESENTATION Sgt. Sean Mills conducted an informational educational segment of the K-9 Unit. Sgt. Mills has been with Lansing Police for 17 years, 8½ of those with the K-9 unit. In 1983 the K-9 unit started with the dogs riding in minivans and other vehicles until some police vehicles were modified to hold the K-9's. The number of dogs with the department has fluctuated over the years. Currently the K-9 staffing is 6 handlers and 6 German Shepherds. Three German Shepherds are trained for narcotic detections and the other three are trained for explosives. The K-9's also assist in covering large social events such as: Silver Bells, State-of-the-State events, political events and another event needing extra security.

The dogs assigned to explosives are trained to recognize fifteen various types of explosives. The narcotic dogs are typically trained for methamphetamines, crack cocaine, cocaine, ecstasy and marijuana. Now with the laws of marijuana shifting the newer dogs are not being trained so much in detecting marijuana. However, there still is the need for detecting marijuana within schools and the jails.

The K-9 unit currently has two positions for tactical trainer's open. The dogs train with the S.T.A.R.T. team as tactical dogs. The S.T.A.R.T. K-9's must meet stringent requirements and standards than the patrol K-9's. The dogs are trained

to work with the entry team with and near the heavy equipment and also to be able to adapt to confusing, crowded areas and sometimes tense escalating environments.

Currently, there are thirteen teams from the surrounding agencies training K-9's at the Operations Center. The K-9's typically train either in narcotics or explosives but nation-wide K-9's are also being trained to assist with human trafficking by using the body smell, sweat and hair scents.

The K-9's have fun in their job until their handler is hurt then they are extremely protective of them.

Over the years, the K-9's have come from all over the United States however the handlers have noticed a decline in the quality of breeding and pre-training. This change in breeding conditions has been noticed in German Shepherds showing an increase of hip conditions and thyroid issues. The European German Shepherds have stronger blood lines for breeding and are better in performance. The costs of a German shepherd ranges from the initial school of $5,000 to $8,500. The cost for a fully trained K-9 is estimated to be $13,000.

Sgt. Mills explained each K-9 has a different personality and training is adjusted to fit that personality. The handlers observe and test the skills of the dogs before buying. The dogs are trained for officer safety and every dog should be approachable by citizens/children as this helps the dogs adjust to larger crowd events.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT - Chief Daryl Green Lansing Police welcomed and sworn in Police Officer Meykale Fomby on Monday, October 14th. Officer Fomby is a Lansing native and served for two years with the Detroit Police Force before relocating to Lansing. Officer Josh Oldham resigned to relocate closer to family. He will join the Grandville Police Department. Tamara Underwood, the new FOIA Coordinator/Central Records Supervisor, started this week and will be training with Laura Dixon. Tamara Underwood is a paralegal assistant and comes from the Lansing City Attorney's office.

Chief Green extended his sympathy to the families of the five souls lost as a result of the small engine airplane accident that occurred on October 3rd at the Capital Regional International Airport. The incident occurred approximately 350 yards away from the LPD Range where approximately fifty people were in training that day and were unharmed. Chief Green is working with Airport Chief Eric Patrick to review incident and how the response was handled.

Currently incident planning is being conducted for Silver Belles scheduled to occur on November 22nd.

Chief Green reported a good meeting with Commissioners Carnegie and Macon as they begin the 2020 budget review. Chief also reported Lansing's push for the "Priority Based Budgeting Process" to assist in planning for the city, public safety and preparedness.

Community Events: The Chief attended the Boys and Girls Club event and the NAACP dinner. Chief mentioned an upcoming event on October 19th, Basketball Skill and Drills Clinic with Coach Carlton Valentine. This is a good event and already 75 children have signed up to attend.

Chief Green expressed gratitude for the Board's support and leadership. Mayor Schor has suggested having three Board meetings in 2020 held in three different locations. Those locations will be determined.

LEGAL ADVISOR REPORT - Mary Bowen, Assistant City Attorney – Ms. Bowen reported gratitude with Officers Zuber and Tocco's testimony last month in an OUIL case in court. The courts have experienced a quick turnaround when officers make sure all information for cases are prepared and ready for the courts. Ms. Bowen expressed new FOIA Coordinator Underwood will be a great addition to Lansing Police. An update on the public hearing on Marijuana issue is that changes have passed through City Council allowing for twenty-eight dispensaries in Lansing and will be effective November 1st.

Judge Kristen D. Simmons is a new 54-A District Court judge and has held her first docket already.

The Domestic Violence Court by Judge Cynthia Ward has moved forward and will be starting in January 2020.

HUMAN RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES LIAISON REPORT - HRCS Director Joan Jackson-Johnson The mobile food pantry will be at Friendship Baptist Church on October 19th. Dr. Jackson reported many concerns and challenges ahead with the cold weather approaching and the need for warmer equipment in the shelters. On November 15th Community Connect is providing flu shots and coats for children. The community is still fighting for safe affordable housing and is working with HUD and MSHDA to make this better.

Dr. Jackson expressed her gratitude to Investigator Bernard Brantley for his years of service, the excellent job he performed each day and professionalism he brought to the city. It is bittersweet but she wishes the best in his retirement.

Dr. Carnegie asked if the hours on special events will be adjusted due to the cold weather so they are not standing in that environment very long. Dr. Jackson indicated some people do arrive early to events and they are trying to accommodate this.

Dr. Jackson also reported receiving assistance through United Way for $40,000 which will help about thirty people, UAW, and sub suppliers. They are also trying to educate the public under assistance with better money management skills.

HUMAN RESOURCES - Human Resource specialist, Regina Wilson reported the FOIA Coordinator has started her new position. From the Detention job posting from 08/20/2019 – 9/23/2019, one male and one female was hired.

Human Resources is moving towards a shadowing job experience prior to an actual hire. The applicants shadowing must meet all requirements before hire to shadow. This gives the applicant a chance to evaluate the job as well as they will provide an evaluation of the lead detention officers. In this new process HR will be reviewing the types of questions and comments made from the evaluations.

The Sponsorship program had twenty candidates interviewed. Eight of those have moved forward, one had to be released due to an unfavorable background check. HR has granted an extension to Mr. Thelen who was injured after the interview. He has until November 1st to take the MCOLES test to move forward.

Along with the hire of Officer Fomby, there are two pending hires in the August academy and will move from a recruit to an officer. Applications for cadet positions closes on November 1st.

For police technicians, no positions.

Human Resources routinely conducts exit interviews for all positions held and reviews any comments and/or suggestions that would help in hiring in the future.

Dr. Carnegie expressed his thanks to Director Linda Sanchez-Gazella for the excellent work in HR is doing and having great representatives to the Board meetings. He appreciates them and the information they provide to the Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None.

CORRESPONDENCE SENT AND RECEIVED None.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS Commissioner Renfrew made a motion to receive and place on file department reports for the month September; supported by Commissioner Noordhoek; motion carried unanimously; (7-0).

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Government/Community Liaison Committee Vice-Chairperson Kowalk-Thompson would like to compile a training/workshop document to assist getting information to the Board in a timely manner.
- Awards & Incentives Committee Commissioner Farhat – still waiting to hear.
- Budget Committee Commissioner Carnegie – a pre-meeting with Chief Green, Commissioner Macon and Budget Director Joe McCabe was conducted to get acquainted with procedures and topics for the 2020-2021 budget. Commissioner Carnegie was pleased with the meeting and feels good progress is underway. He will be working with Mr. McCabe also in the months to follow.
- Recruitment/Hiring Task Force Chairperson Macon was not present but reported to Commissioner Kowalk-Thompson there was no report.
- Ad Hoc Committee on Board Policies and Rules Commissioner Noordhoek stated no report.
- Complaint Committee Commissioner Farhat stated the next Complaint Committee meeting is scheduled for October 21st at 9:00 a.m.
- Investigator Reports – Investigator Bernard Brantley had no additional reports. Mr. Brantley expressed his gratitude for working with the Board over the past twenty years and feels the police has made great strides in how police review complaints. He thanked Chief Green and the Board for their support over the years and extended his hand to assist as needed in the future.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Farhat – None.
Commissioner Rodocker – Thank you to all for thorough reporting.
Commissioner Milton – Thanked everyone and is trying to determine which committee he can best serve in.
Commissioner Carnegie – Thank you for representatives of the City Attorney's office being present at the Board meetings and giving good updates. He also thanked Secretary Ruth Grant, for exceptional work to keep the Board on track and for attending the NAACP dinner event.
Commissioner Kowalk-Thompson thanked Chief Green for attending the Boys and Girls Club event. She thanked Mr. Brantley for his honorable and professional work with Detroit Police Department and with the City of Lansing through the years and his great contributions to better the police department. He will be greatly missed. Commissioner Kowalk-Thompson also welcomed Judge Kristin Simmons and congratulated her judgeship.

OTHER BUSINESS None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Arnold suggested having another push of the Mobile App to the public and suggested having brochures in the lobbies at Headquarters and the Operations Center to promote the Mobile App. He also suggested a brochure of the Community Policing Officers and for human trafficking be placed in the lobbies.

ADJOURNMENT A motion was made by Commissioner Noordhoek to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.; motion supported by Commissioner Renfrew; motion carried unanimously; 7-0.