



Andy Schor, Mayor

LANSING POLICE DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

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Daryl Green, Chief

**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, July 21, 2020
Via Zoom Virtual Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABESENT	PUBLIC and GUESTS PRESENT
Commissioner Patty Farhat	Commissioner William Renfrew	Daryl Green, Chief of Police
Commissioner Clyde Carnegie		Ruth Grant, Administrative Specialist
Commissioner Julee Rodocker		Mary Bowen, City Attorney's Office
Commissioner Bishop Aaron I. Milton		Kim Coleman, HRCS
		Teresa Bingman, Attorney and Consultant
		Daniel Arnold
		Drew Macon

CALL TO ORDER After establishing a quorum by roll call, Commissioner Farhat welcomed everyone and called the Zoom Virtual meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Board members reviewed and approved the June 16th, 2020 Board meeting minutes. A motion was made by Commissioner Farhat to approve these minutes; supported by the Commissioners; motion approved in favor (4-0) by roll call.

EDUCATION PRESENTATION: Kim Coleman and Teresa Bingman on Racial Justice and the Community.

- Attorney Teresa Bingman is the consultant and will be providing the leadership for the Mayor's Racial Justice Equity Alliance (MRJEA). The purpose of the MRJEA is to obtain input from the community as it relates to racial and social justice issues relating to police reform and systemic racism in the City of Lansing.
- Individuals serving on this committee will be appointed by the Mayor and will develop a plan and to provide input that the Commissioners may be interested in. The alliance will be co-led by Chief Green and Director Kim Coleman.
- MREJA will also work with the Board of Commissioners as a listening mode, available to provide any type of input, as needed, as various police reforms are considered.
- A town hall meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 23rd of July from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. This will be one of the first efforts of MRJEA to obtain input from the community. Laurie Adam Simon, who is a member of the Mayor's diversity committee, will also facilitate along with Director Coleman. Both have an understanding of the Commission's authority and will follow the directive of this Commission and Chief Green in terms of how this MRJEA will interact as a police reform.

"Capital City's Finest"

- Commissioner Rodocker stated she appreciates the MRJEA group keeping the board informed in a timely manner. She and Commissioner Farhat would like to be involved in this alliance moving forward and please keep the Board involved and in the forefront of this process as well.
- A steering committee will also be formed consisting of the Mayor's cabinet, Chief Green, Director Coleman, as well as Commissioners from the Police and Fire Boards and the HRCS. Ms. Bingman believes those are the entities who are best suited to provide high level input in this alliance.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – Chief Daryl Green:

- Chief Green thanked Commissioner Farhat for her leadership and echoed the sentiments of Ms. Bingman and Director Coleman of the vital role the Board of Police Commissioners have in the entire MREJA process and he looks forward to their input and leadership.
- Violent crime increased in City of Lansing:
 - On July 10th a homicide of a 59-year-old male occurred. A 33-year-old male was taken into custody. As of this date, there have been a total of five homicides for 2020.
 - The most recent shooting occurred in the 4900 blk of Dunckel where five people were shot while attending an early morning party. Those five people sustained non-life threatening gunshot wounds.
 - Statistics of Increase of Crime – 2020 compared to 2019:
 - Homicides: 2020 has had five homicides compared to a total of 13 in 2019.
 - Shootings: 2020 has shown an increase of 205 shootings compared to 197 in 2019.
 - A “shooting” is defined as, whenever shots fired occurs and it can be determined and supported by a person, a property or other type of evidence.
 - Other Crimes:
 - Felonious Assaults – 14.4% increase.
 - Arsons – 27.3% increase.
 - Burglaries – 1.9 % increase.
 - Larcenies – 6% increase.
 - Rapes/Criminal Sexual Conduct – 14% increase.
 - LPD is actively interacting with the community on tips and information about violent crimes. LPD receives on the average 300+ calls for service daily and although there are staffing challenges, they are striving to answer each call.
 - COVID-19: The first positive case was reported this month and unfortunately a total of two patrol officers have tested positive. The officers are doing well and have been asymptomatic.
 - Retirees: Officer David Lowndes, crime scene investigator, retired after 25 years. His experience and skill will be greatly missed. Officer Sam Fearnow has resumed the CSI responsibilities.
 - Recruits: All have reported to be doing well at the police academy. The police academy was extended two months due to COVID and the recruits are expected to graduate this Friday. Chief Green expects all to be successful with the Michigan Council on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) testing.
 - Promotions: Officer Randall Hon was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and will be working the night shift in patrol division in the south end.
 - Detention: One new detention officer, Taniesha Anderson. She previously worked with East Lansing Police Department Detention as a Detention Officer.
 - Chief Green wishes to express his sympathy to Shirley Mitchner for the loss of her son, Brandon Mitchner in June of 2014. Recently, Lt. Baldwin (Investigations Division), Mayor Schor, Deputy Mayor Nicholas Tate, and Chief Green met with Mrs. Mitchner regarding her concerns on the investigation of her son's death. Detective Hogan started the death investigation in 2014 until his retirement and then it was reassigned to Detective Tracy Jones until 2017 when he also retired. Both Det. Jones and Det. Hogan were two of our best and very experienced death investigators. During 2014 – 2017, LPD requested the case be reviewed by Michigan State Police Detective/First Lt Thomas

deClercq, who reviewed the report and concluded there was not enough evidence to support the bringing of criminal charges.

Since this death occurred to now, Lt Baldwin has followed up on the case and has remained in direct contact with Mrs. Mitchner. In spring 2020 all investigative reports, photographs, video footage and autopsy reports were forwarded to the Ingham County Prosecutor Office (ICPO) for review. Assistant prosecutor Bill Crino and other ICPO officers reviewed the entire case and found no information/evidence to support a finding of homicide. ICPO concluded it was a tragedy and this was most likely accidental.

Within the first month of being in his new position, Chief Green met with Mrs. Mitchner. The conversation resulted in another request for MSP to review for any potential holes or gaps in the initial investigations. First Lieutenant Eric Darling and his team reviewed the entire case and also reached a conclusion that the death was a tragedy but there was not enough evidence to support the findings of a homicide.

Essentially LPD never closes a homicide case. If someone walked in the door that has evidence to support a homicide, we would review the associated evidence and further investigate. Even though a case is never really closed, LPD does reach a point in some investigations whereas we have nothing else to draw from, as in the Mitchner case.

Chief Green stated that the conversation with Mrs. Mitchner was tough and the entire situation is a tragedy and our hearts go out to the Mitchner family and again, that investigation will remain open in the capacity whereas, if any new evidence develops we will follow up on it as we have done since 2014.

LEGAL AND ADVISOR REPORT: Mary Bowen, Assistant City Attorney

- Reminder to LPD that the court is scheduling final pre-trials. This might have been mentioned previously but the courts do require appearances by officers via Zoom. Thanks go out to the three officers that appeared yesterday by Zoom.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMUNITY SERVICES: Director Kim Coleman

- The job description for the position of commission investigator is still being finalized.

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT Director Linda Sanchez-Gazella – No Human Resources representative in attendance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

CORRESPONDANCE SENT AND RECEIVED: Commissioner Rodocker placed a motion on file.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Commissioner Rodocker motioned and placed on file.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Government / Community Liaison Committee –
- Awards & Incentives Committee – Commissioner Farhat: No report.
- Budget Committee – Commissioner Carnegie: No report.
- Recruitment / Hiring Task Force -
- Ad Hoc Committee on Board Policies and Rules – No report.
- Complaint Committee - Commissioner Farhat: No report. Due to COVID the committees has not been able to get together and meet.
- Commission Investigator Report: No report

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

- Commissioner Carnegie: No comments.
- Commissioner Rodocker: No comments.
- Commissioner Milton:
- Commissioner Farhat: Thank you to all who came today. Regarding, National Night Out, the committee has decided to cancel the event this year due to COVID19. The committee felt big neighborhoods could not safely get together and maintain social distancing. Anyone who has a small neighborhood watch group and would like to have a dinner or whatever, they are welcome to do so as long as they social distance and wear a mask. Thank you to Mayor Schor as with the grant money he has provided for these events and hope for better times in 2021.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Daniel Arnold: Big supporter of Lansing and is an active advocate for Lansing Police. He recently met with Community Policing Officer Dillon Reust discussing distressing and meditation. Mr. Arnold reported more resource brochures are needed in the Lobby area of headquarters. He also desires to attend police training courses and lend his perspectives or be involved in a training scenarios, interested in the Operations front desk and also serving in the detention center in some capacity with the chaplains. Mr. Arnold stated Chief Green is stepping up as a great spokesperson for the City of Lansing and is Chief of Police at the right time.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairperson Farhat adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.