

POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
OPEN SESSION
July 10, 2013 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Richard Meehan, Council President Lloyd Martin, Commission Chairperson Doug Cymek, City Manager David Recor, Council Member Dennis Dare, City Solicitor Guy Ayres, Director of Emergency Services Joe Theobald, Chief Ross Buzzuro, Captain Gregory Guiton, Captain Michel Colbert, Lt. Scott Kirkpatrick, Lt. Scott Harner, PIO Michael Levy

ABSENT: Captain Kevin Kirstein

1. Call to Order 9:03 a.m.
2. The June 10, 2013 Minutes unanimously approved as written.
3. No Old Business.
4. New Business
 - a. Review of Crime Statistics Report – CFS (Calls for Service) and down by 6.3% over same time period 2012. In January 2013, criminal citation law was expanded. In 2013, we have issued 437 criminal citations. In the same time period, we issued 304 drug citations. These would have been custodial arrests in 2012 before the expansion of the criminal citation law. Discussion of total number of calls skews the actual numbers of incidents since it includes business checks. Business checks are a routine part of patrol's job, but are they a call for service? Good to track it, but not necessarily counted in the total number of calls for service.

Action Item – Break down officer initiated calls; break down assaults by first and/or second degree; assure tracking within U.C.R. (Uniform Crime Report) regulations.

Action Item – On monthly statistics report – compare to last year at the same time.
 - b. Review of Walk Smart Campaign – a joint effort between OCPD, State Highway Administration, Maryland Highway Safety Office, local community, local businesses, Chamber of Commerce. This campaign combines engineering, education and enforcement that have made changes to the timing of traffic lights and crosswalk markings. This campaign has been a success with a reduction in pedestrian accidents. There have been 500 pedestrian violations this year and we are educating people on how to Walk Smart. There are instances of citations being given, however, the focus is on education and staying safe in Ocean City.
 - c. Highway Safety Administration is doing a speed study and will have a recommendation on lowering speed limit or other ways to promote safety on Coastal Highway sometime in the fall of 2013.
 - d. Review report on ECD/Taser Usage. Last month there were 17 incidents with 3 actual deployments. Chief Buzzuro believes ECD use can quell a situation – it reduces officer injury, physical confrontation and less lethal force is needed when dealing with a suspect.

Since February 2012, there have been 93 uses of ECD's with 22 deployments. The OCPD currently has 34 devices and 7 additional have just been ordered. Training will be instituted for seven additional police officers as soon as the new ECD's are received.

- e. Discussion of 4 wheel scoot coupes being introduced into Ocean City. OCPD sent photos and specifications to MVA, SHA with the application. The vehicle was found to not meet the specifications for a vehicle to on the road in Maryland. The owners of the vehicle are looking to have legislation passed that would allow this vehicle.
- f. Review of Uniform Crime Report comparing criminal activity in Ocean City over the past 15 years. Assaults have been on the rise since 2003. Burglaries are lower. OCPD wants to look into this closer – UCR is strict in how assaults are reported.
- g. Update on skateboard incidents on the boardwalk – There have been no reports through the Fire Department or the Police Department of injuries on the boardwalk caused by skateboards or bicycles. Skateboards are now allowed on the boardwalk at the same time as bicycles.
- h. Discussion of the new Cale parking machine installation. All are installed except Public Safety Building. They will be installed as soon as the machines arrive. The lining and sign posting can begin now.

Parking tickets are \$15.00 if paid within the first 48 hours, \$25.00 after that time period. Visitors wanting to pay their ticket on line are having problems. It sometimes takes 2 days to have a parking ticket uploaded, and it cannot be paid until it is uploaded. Mayor would like this to be addressed now so it is easier for our visitors to pay their ticket and move on with the vacation. The Town's website is a bit confusing; it is being corrected so that persons are redirected to the OCPD website to pay their ticket once it is on-line.

Parking enforcement is mostly done by PSA's. There are 2 assigned per shift. The northern end PSA's spend most of their time on pedestrian safety. Most shifts will get into residential areas 2-3 times per day for parking enforcement.

Action Item – Look into new technology available through Complus, Cale to make paying a ticket easier on-line.

Action Item – Continue to report on enforcement of Cale parking throughout the summer.

5. Other Business

- a. Discussion of what is included on CAD reports. CAD is not a reporting technique; it is a way to get information out to the emergency personnel. Director Theobald explained that a CAD report is not complete if the incident is not over and therefore is not entirely accurate. There is comprehensive, real time information available on the police department portal.

Action Item – Calls for Service – Police/Fire/EMS

- b. On the State Highway Administration Chart website there are good cameras that show real time traffic – good site for traffic information.

- c. Correspondence and phone call received from local business owner concerning taxi parking on 64th / 65th Street and the Public Safety Parking Lot.

Question of whether one of the conditions of having a taxi medallion could be that the owner of the taxi must have their own parking. Guy Ayres, City Solicitor will look into this.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

The next meeting of the Police Commission will be Monday, August 12, 2013 at 9:00 AM at the Public Safety Building, 6501 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842