

# POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

## OPEN SESSION

September 9, 2013 10:00 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, Chief Ross Buzzuro, Director of Emergency Services Joe Theobald, Captain Kevin Kirstein, Captain Michael Colbert and Lt. Scott Harner

1. Call to Order 10:06 a.m.
2. The August 12, 2013 Minutes unanimously approved as written.
3. Update on Highway Safety by Lt. Harner. Our Walk Smart program continues to show a vast reduction in pedestrian crashes. There will be a Pedestrian Safety meeting with the State Highway Administration on September 18, 2013 at 1:00 at the PSB to review items such as the speed study of Coastal Highway performed by the SHA; the road diet study and a review of the Walk Smart program. Funding for 2014 by the State of Maryland will be similar to that funded in 2013.
4. Lt. Harner spoke with Captain Don of the Judith M and Captain Lewis of the Duckaneer to see if changing the times for opening the Route 50 Bridge would affect them on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Both Captains said that they can work with the longer closure. Lt. Harner explained that the next step would be to decide the optimum time for the bridge to be kept closed. It was decided that the time would be 10:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. This would mean the opening would be 9:55 and then again at 11:25. This will allow cars to quickly get out of Ocean City after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks. Councilman Dare made a Motion to forward the change in bridge closure times to the full City Council, Seconded by Lloyd Martin.
5. Discussion held concerning taxicabs parking on public streets. City Solicitor Ayres recommends speaking directly with the taxi companies to work out a solution. The intent is not to hurt the taxi cab drivers, nor to hurt business. There have been complaints by certain business owners that there are too many cabs parking on public streets which take parking away from their clientele. One taxi company has approached the City inquiring where they could lease space for their drivers. More discussion needs to be held directly with the taxi companies.
6. Chief Buzzuro reviewed the August Crime Statistics. There has been an increase in Officer Initiated Calls for Service but that is a good sign of pro-active police work. We have positive indicators that crime in Ocean City is down compared to August 2012. Through Week 35, there has been a 12.7% reduction in crime. A discussion of creating a statistical analysis of crimes per 1,000 would be helpful. Brandon Reim will be asked to create such an analysis.
7. OCPD has had 9 ECD/Taser events during August with 3 of them being actual deployment. There were no injuries suffered by suspect or police officer during these incidents.

8. Chief Buzzuro explained that 22 additional officers have been trained in ECD/Taser and we are right on target for having all line officers in Patrol equipped with an ECD/Taser by the first of the year. The next stage will be to have all detectives and supervisors up through the rank of Sergeant trained as well. Captain Kirstein wants to thank the community for their financial assistance in purchasing the additional ECD/Tasers.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

The next meeting of the Police Commission will be held on Friday, October 11, 2013 at 9:00 AM at the Public Safety Building, 6501 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842