

**POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**OPEN SESSION**  
**February 10, 2014**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Richard Meehan, Council President Lloyd Martin, Commission Chairperson Doug Cymek, Council Member Dennis Dare, City Manager David Recor, Chief Ross Buzzuro, Captain Greg Guiton, Captain Kevin Kirstein, Captain Michael Colbert, Lt. Scott Harner

**ABSENT:** City Solicitor Guy Ayres, Director of Emergency Services Joseph Theobald

1. Call to Order at 9:08 a.m.
2. The January 13, 2013 Minutes were unanimously approved as written.
3. John Donahue of Nite Club Taxi and Charles Stooksbury of American Veterans Taxi requested the Police Commission's recommendation to increase the per mile rate from \$2.20 per mile to \$3.00 per mile. The current rate has been in existence since 2010.
  - The per mile rate is split 50/50 between company and taxi driver.
  - The taxi driver must pay for their own gas out of this rate.
  - Gas prices about the same as in 2010; however, cost of living has risen since 2010.
  - Owners supply vehicles and advertising.
  - Present cost is \$9.80 for the first 3 miles – includes loading charge + \$2.20 per mile.
  - Average fare length in Ocean City is approximately 25 blocks, which is less than 2 miles.

A motion was made by Councilman Dare and seconded by Mayor Meehan to have Mr. Donahue and Mr. Stooksbury analyze their costs over the past four years and return to the March Police Commission meeting. The Police Commission believes it might be time for some sort of increase, preferably an incremental increase and supports further discussion. The Police Commission will review the comparative information from the taxi cab owners that they present at the March 10, 2014 meeting and then will make a recommendation to the Mayor & City Council if a change to the Ordinance is recommended.

4. Chief Buzzuro gave an update on crime statistics for the Month of January which shows that all Calls for Service are down slightly ( .4% ) from 2013. The police department's assists to the Fire Department are up – most of these calls were because of weather/freezing calls. Chief Buzzuro noted that burglaries are up compared to January 2013, but through coordinated efforts with CID and patrol officers, we are seeing progress toward solving these incidents.

5. Chief Buzzuro advised the Commission that there were two CEW/Taser incidents during the month of January. On January 1, a police officer was able to gain control of an intoxicated individual; on January 24 a police officer was able to subdue an argumentative individual by displaying his CEW. No injuries to either suspects or officers during these incidents.
6. The Police Commission is in favor of using “No Profanity” signs on the boardwalk. The goal is to have sign verbiage alternatives at March 10, 2014 Police Commission meeting. Also suggested to contact downtown merchants to see what their interests are in the signs’ design.
7. Captain Gregory Guiton gave an update on testing of seasonal applicants for the 2014 summer. In 2012, the OCPD tested 601 applicants, in 2013 we tested 703 applicants and in 2014 we tested 803 applicants. Out of the 803 applicants, 646 were for seasonal police officer and 157 were for public safety aide. Captain Guiton explained the testing process which includes answering questions about drug/alcohol usage; a written test and a physical abilities test for officers. There is also an interview component to the testing process. The failure rate has remained consistent with 2013 with under 50% failing the applicant testing process. OCPD also tracks demographics of our applicants which helps us determine where to do our recruiting in following years. This year 84.44% of our applicants are male, 15.56% are female; 85.18% are Caucasian; 14.82% African-American, Hispanic or Asian.

There are two seasonal police officer academies with graduation dates of May 10 and May 31, 2014.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

The next meeting of the Police Commission will be held on Monday, March 10, 2014 at 9:00 AM at the Public Safety Building, 6501 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842