

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

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

**ABSENT:** Director of Emergency Services Joseph Theobald

1. Call to Order at 9:04 a.m.
2. The February 10, 2014 Minutes were unanimously approved as written.
3. Sasha Motsko requested the Police Commission's approval of a traffic regulation requesting 2 parking spaces on Jacqueline Avenue and 2 parking spaces on 14<sup>th</sup> Street, facing east, directly after the exit to Harbour Island. Traffic Regulation No. 2014-01 was unanimously approved and sent to City Council for ratification.
4. Mr. Randy Davis gave a presentation on nightly carriages rides during summer evenings, Sunday through Thursday from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Mr. Davis' proposal would be to provide approximately 3 carriages, starting at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and the Boardwalk, then travel west through stop lights at Philadelphia and Baltimore Avenues and then crossing St. Louis Avenue to Chicago Avenue. The carriages would then proceed to the end of Chicago, make a right onto St. Louis and travel back to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. The ride would take approximately 15 minutes.
  - Mr. Davis has spoken to two of the neighbors, Plim Plaza and the Ocean Gallery and they are all for it.
  - Mr. Davis already provides carriage rides in Berlin, MD. He believes this can be done safely in Ocean City.
  - Mr. Davis has looked at 3 alternate routes, and the one he is proposing is the safest because of the traffic lights needed to cross intersections safely.
  - Police Commission members voiced concern over the safety of the animals and residents/visitors in such a highly congested area of town during the summer months.
  - Mayor Meehan supports this request. He was on the boardwalk and experienced first-hand how busy Mr. Davis is with the carriage rides now. We should discuss to see how we can make this work.
  - Mr. Davis will shut it down if it is not working and becomes a safety hazard.
  - Lt. Harner confirmed that Mr. Davis meets the regulations of Traffic Article 22-216.
  - Councilman Dare believes that the carriage rides can be a great asset to the town and if this proves to be the case, a formalized RFP may need to be done in the future.

- Police Commission Chairman Cymek requested the Police Department for statistical data on accidents at the above-mentioned intersections and the Commission will re-visit this next month at the April 14, 2014 meeting. The Mayor also suggested that the Police Department work with Mr. Davis and do a trial run.
  - A motion was made by Mayor Meehan and seconded by Councilman Dare, to have the Police Department research the statistical data on accidents at the listed intersections, to have the Police Department do a trial run and to come back to the April 14, 2014 Police Commission meeting with the results.
5. John Donahue of Nite Club Taxi returned to the Police Commission's to ask for their recommendation to increase the per mile rate from \$2.20 per mile to \$3.71 per mile. The current rate has been in existence since 2010.
- The rate per mile 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 (\$3.20) + \$2.20 per mile.
  - Mr. Donahue supplied documentation which he believes supports his position that a cost of living increase is justified.
  - Mr. Donahue believes there is a need to educate the public on the taxi situation.

The Police Commission believes that an incremental price increase may be justified. Motion was made by Mayor Meehan and seconded by Councilman Dare to send this subject to the full City Council.

6. Chief Buzzuro gave an update on crime statistics for the Month of February which shows that all Officer Initiated Calls for Service are had a 3.3% increase; Citizen Initiated Calls for Service had a 15.2% decrease with the total Calls of Service having an overall 0.2% decrease over 2013. The top 25 Calls for Service remain consistent with the previous year. Total Part 1 crimes are 21.6% below 2013. There has been an increase in burglaries this year. There are two separate cases, one seems to be vagrants looking for a place to sleep; the other is the targeting of large screen televisions. Through coordinated efforts with CID and patrol officers, we are seeing progress toward solving these incidents.
7. Chief Buzzuro advised the Commission that there were no CEW/Taser incidents during the month of February.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

The next meeting of the Police Commission will be held on Monday, April 7, 2014 at 9:00 AM at the Public Safety Building, 6501 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842