

**POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**OPEN SESSION**  
May 12, 2014

PRESENT: Mayor Richard Meehan, Commission Chairperson Doug Cymek, Council Member Dennis Dare, City Manager David Recor, Chief Ross Buzzuro, Captain Kevin Kirstein, Captain Michael Colbert, Lt. Scott Harner, Lt. Ray Austin, Director of Emergency Services Joe Theobald, City Engineer Terry McGean and Crime Analyst Brandon Reim

ABSENT: Council President Lloyd Martin, City Solicitor Guy Ayers

1. Call to Order at 9:03 a.m.
2. The March 10, 2014 Minutes were unanimously approved as written.
3. Chief Buzzuro gave an update on crime statistics for the months of March and April which showed that all Officer Initiated Calls for Service had a 15% decrease; Citizen Initiated Calls for Service had a 7.3% decrease with the total Calls of Service having an overall 13.1% decrease over 2013. The three types of calls for service that have seen noticeable decreases are; Assist Citizen, Assist EMS and Disorderly.
4. Chief Buzzuro advised the Commission that there were two CEW/Taser incidents during the month of March, one was a display only and the second was a target. In April, one use resulted in a deployment. An officer was flagged by a taxi driver in regards to a fight in progress. Upon his arrival, the officer observed the subject attacking the victim as well as swinging a metal pipe. The officer ran over and shouted for the suspect to drop the pipe, the suspect did not and the officer deployed his CEW, discharging it into the suspect's torso, causing the pipe to immediately drop and the suspect to be arrested without further incident.
5. Mr. Randy Davis of R and B Ranch came back for further discussion and seeking approval of carriage 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 three carriages, starting at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and the Boardwalk, traveling west through the controlled intersections at Philadelphia and Baltimore Avenues continuing westward across 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.
  - Mayor Meehan informed Mr. Davis that Chicago Ave. would be closed the month of August due to the tall ships coming to town and them being docked there.
  - Lt. Scott Harner stated he had ridden the proposed route with Mr. Davis and that carriage meets all the requirements for riding on the roadways.
  - Lt. Scott Harner also presented the statistical data relating to accidents that have occurred along the proposed route. Over the past eight years, there have been at least 50 crashes each at the Baltimore and Philadelphia Avenue intersections along the

- route (an average of 6 per year at each intersection) without the introduction of a horse and carriage.
- Chief Buzzuro raised the Police Department’s concern that on some of the streets on the route have been problematic with the number of accidents. Possibly, with a change in the route this may be feasible.
  - Police Commission Chairman Cymek questioned if an alternate route had been looked into. Mr. Davis stated that the focus of the route was sunset carriage rides at the water’s edge. Mr. Davis remarked that he would like the rides to be from 5 until 10 pm and further commented that the carriages be off the street by 11pm. Mayor Meehan stated that maybe they could end at 9pm. Mr. Davis questioned if he could be allowed this on a trial basis. Mayor Meehan would like to see it given a try if the issues are addressed and acceptable to all.
  - Police Commission Chairman Cymek asked Mr. Davis to provide a certificate of insurance listing the Mayor and City Council as an “Additional Insured” for his current use of the Boardwalk.
  - Councilman Dare stated he thinks it is a great idea and it would add to the town. However, he believes we are at a franchise point now, he also felt amusement tax should be paid. He does not like the route and that we should look at the stats more closely. June is already so busy and this would be one more thing that taxes the Police Department resources.
  - A motion was made by Mayor Meehan to approve giving it a trial run to start Memorial Day and run on weekends. Mr. Davis stated he would not run on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Commission Chairperson Cymek questioned the route choice. No second was made and the motion died for the lack of a second. Mayor Meehan stated at this point there is no favorable recommendation.
6. Bryant Hungerford presented a proposal of rental of Trikes on the Boardwalk and at Northside Park. He is introducing a low power electronically driven (similar to a Segway) Trike. He cited that Federal code, and in his opinion, that it classifies a Trike as a bicycle. He would like to rent these during the bicycle hours on the boardwalk and at Northside Park. They are built to go 16mph but he will put a speed inhibitor on that would limit the speed to a maximum of 9mph.
- Commission Chairperson Cymek stated that the commission was at a disadvantage since the City Solicitor is not present to address the legal issues presented by Mr. Hungerford. He also questioned Mr. Hungerford as to how many of these he is looking to have on the Boardwalk to rent. Mr. Hungerford responded “10 to start.” Chairperson Cymek would also like to have the Commission review the statistics on the number of collisions between pedestrians and bikes, surreys etc., on the Boardwalk over the last few years.

- Mayor Meehan questioned whether there are any age/height restrictions. Mr. Hungerford stated that in Florida, the age restriction is 14 and the height is by judgment.
- Chief Buzzuro said the 9mph does not seem fast – but is concerned with it. At that speed, an operator of a Trike could go from one end of the Boardwalk to the other in 15 minutes.
- Commission Chairperson Cymek stated he would like the City Solicitor to have the opportunity to review the information presented by Mr. Hungerford and requested Lt. Harner to forward the information to him. The matter will be placed on the agenda for the next Police Commission meeting scheduled for June 9, 2014 for further discussion.
- Mayor Meehan requested Lt. Harner test ride the Trike on the Boardwalk in the interim.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

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