

**POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**OPEN SESSION**  
**June 13, 2014**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Richard Meehan, Commission Chairperson Doug Cymek, Council President Lloyd Martin, Council Member Dennis Dare, City Manager David Recor, Chief Ross Buzzuro, Captain Michael Colbert, Director of Emergency Services Joe Theobald, City Engineer Terry McGean, Lt. Scott Harner

**ABSENT:** City Solicitor Guy Ayers, Captain Kevin Kirstein

1. Call to Order at 9:08 a.m.
2. The May 12, 2014 Minutes were unanimously approved as written.
3. Chief Buzzuro gave an update on crime statistics for the months of May which shows that Officer Initiated Calls for Service had a 4.0% increase; Citizen Initiated Calls for Service had a 6.2% increase with the total Calls of Service having an overall 4.9% increase compared to May 2013. Through Week 22 there has been an overall reduction in crime by 2.6%. Chief Buzzuro noted that there has been a 33.3% increase in weapon arrests this year.
4. Chief Buzzuro advised the Commission that there were 4 CEW/Taser incidents during the month of May – all suspects were rendered under control with no actual deployment of the CEW, and there were no serious injuries to suspects or officers.
5. Bryant Hungerford returned to the Police Commission to request approval of his proposal to rent Trikke, three wheel electric scooters on the Boardwalk and Northside Park.

<http://www.trikke.com/product/trikke-ev-48v/>

He has put a speed inhibitor on the Trikke which only allows 9 mph as the top speed. He presented a video to the Police Commission showing the Trikke riding at 9 mph alongside of a bicycle. City Solicitor, Guy Ayres, although not in attendance, had reviewed the information Mr. Hungerford provided in May and sent his concerns with the CFR used by Mr. Hungerford. Lt. Harner met with Mr. Hungerford on the Boardwalk earlier this month and had a chance to get instruction and ride the Trikke and agreed that the Trikke was easy to learn. Mr. Hungerford stated that he would rent the Trikkes for \$20 - \$30 per hour. Discussion was held as to how many motorized vehicles are on the boardwalk. Mr. Hungerford asked for a trial period with 10 Trikkes being available for rent this summer. The current Ordinance would make Trikkes illegal and therefore, the Ordinance would have to be changed. A Motion was made by Council Member Dare and Seconded by Council President Martin for a comprehensive review of motorized vehicles on the boardwalk.

6. Peck Miller, speaking for Dead Freddie's and 64<sup>th</sup> Street Shopping Center came before the Police Commission to request 2 hour parking along 64<sup>th</sup> Street and also in the alley behind the Shopping Center. City Engineer Terry McGean and the Chief Ross Buzzuro are in favor of the 2 hour limit. The shopping center stores and the patrons at Dead Freddie's need the parking for their businesses. At this time, the majority of the parking is taken up by taxicabs. Mayor Meehan believes that the taxi franchise ordinance needs to be looked at and possibly

some changes made. Council President Martin wants to be aware of restricting parking for residential property owners. A two part motion was unanimously passed:

- To install 2 hour parking on 64<sup>th</sup> Street from the alley eastward and on the alley between 64<sup>th</sup> and 65<sup>th</sup> Street through September 30, 2014; and
- Police Department will consult with the City Solicitor and bring back proposed taxi franchise changes to the next Police Commission meeting on July 14, 2014.

Manager of Dead Freddie's queried whether there could be no overnight parking as well on 64<sup>th</sup> Street. It was decided to move forward with one issue at a time. There is already an Ordinance that limits cars to being parked on the street for no longer than 48 hours so if taxis are being parked in the same place for days at a time, an Ordinance to correct that issue is already in place.

7. Mr. George Thornes of the Transportation Department came before the Police Commission to request additional parking spaces to be used at the North End Transit Center. There is not enough room for the Ocean City busses, DART busses for turn-a-rounds. The swing of the new busses is larger than the older busses – The old busses were 96 feet in length and the new are 102 feet in length; the old busses had a 10 inch mirror overhang and the new ones have 12 inches overhang. Discussion was held about removing parking spaces from the public, but the police commission was in agreement that safety for maneuvering of the busses is key. City Engineer Terry McGean is in support of this request. He agreed that his department can stripe the lanes. If it doesn't work, it can always be repainted. Mayor Meehan made a motion to accept the recommendation which was seconded by Council President Martin. Council Member Dare was opposed due to the loss of public parking.
8. Ron Strickler of the Recreation & Parks Department explained to the Police Commission the need for partial closure of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street from St. Louis to Dayton Lane during the Ocean Bowl Bash. The south side would remain accessible to emergency vehicles. Council Member Dare made a motion to accept the recommendation. Motion was passed unanimously.
9. Chief Buzzuro reviewed the statistics from the last Cruiser weekend. Officer Calls for Service were up 20%, traffic citations were up and traffic warnings were down. Accidents that weekend were in line with the previous four years and arrests were higher than 2013. This event started almost 25 years ago and had about 190 cars entered. Things have changed over the last 25 years and it was agreed that there needs to be more discussion concerning this event moving forward. Mayor Meehan recommended that a meeting between the Commission and the promoter be scheduled after this season. Council Member Dare requested the Cruiser's Event be placed on the July 14, 2014 Police Commission Agenda to begin discussions so that some issues may be addressed by October when the fall Cruiser's event is scheduled.
10. Mayor Meehan spoke of the College Beach Takeover Weekend. This was an event promulgated by social media and all the red flags were up. The Police Department reacted very responsibly and kept the town safe. Mayor Meehan has received many compliments from community thanking the Town and the Police Department for making them feel safe. Mayor Meehan thanked the Chief for putting together a great program. Chief Buzzuro told the Commission that through the intelligence efforts of Captain Colbert and the CID staff, we heard of this College Beach Takeover Weekend well in advance. The entire department

worked together to get a plan in order. Our allied law enforcement agencies were of great assistance during the weekend. We now have a great model to be used in the future.

11. On May 19, 2014 the two Ordinances outlawing Assisted Opening Knives and Laser Pointers were passed by City Council. Since that date, there have been eighteen arrests for possession of an assisted opening knife and one call for a laser pointer complaint.
12. Terry McGean updated the Police Commission on the City Watch program. The cameras are working better and staying on line with some slowing of the images until connected to the fiber system. Comcast is scheduled to switch to the fiber connection today. The bad news is that the fiber cable on the Boardwalk between 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Streets is broken. It will have to be repaired which will take until sometime next week. Captain Colbert stated that the cameras were very useful during last weekend's College Beach Weekend event, as the cameras could be watched in the Emergency Operations Center for situational awareness.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

The next meeting of the Police Commission will be held on Monday, July 14, 2014 at 9:00 AM at the Public Safety Building, 6501 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842