

**POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**OPEN SESSION**  
**July 14, 2014**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Richard Meehan, Commission Chairperson Doug Cymek, Council Member Dennis Dare, Chief Ross Buzzuro, Captain Michael Colbert, Captain Kevin Kirstein, City Engineer Terry McGean, Lt. Scott Harner

**ABSENT:** City Manager David Recor, Council President Lloyd Martin, Director of Emergency Services Joe Theobald

1. Call to Order at 9:02 a.m.
2. Chief Buzzuro gave an update on crime statistics for the month of June which shows that Officer Initiated Calls for Service had a slight increase of 0.3%; Citizen Initiated Calls for Service had a 3.4% decrease with the total Calls of Service having an overall 0.7% decrease compared to June 2013. Through Week 26 there has been an overall reduction in crime by 2.7%. Chief Buzzuro went on to note that there has been a reduction in automobile collisions and also in alcohol violations. Disorderly Conduct complaints saw a decrease from 1,313 to 1,206 as well as Malicious Destruction of Property and Noise Complaint or Violation also showing marked decreases.
3. Chief Buzzuro advised the Commission that there were 23 CEW/Taser incidents during the month of June with 10 actual deployments of the CEW/Taser. Chief Buzzuro described certain incidents, while noting alcohol was a contributing factor in most and that there were virtually no injuries to the suspects or officers. Most of the time when a CEW/Taser is shown, the suspect will submit before it ever has to be deployed.
4. City Engineer Terry McGean updated the Commission that the entire City Watch system is operational. There was one issue with the camera at 7<sup>th</sup> street and it is being replaced this week. Two other cameras are being refurbished and will be installed once that is complete. Mr. McGean suggested being prepared for FY16 for going forward with the City Watch system, i.e., where should new cameras be installed, who will perform the maintenance on the cameras. Cleaning of the cameras needs to be done twice per year, with the possibility of certain cameras needing to be cleaned more often. It was also suggested that the City Watch Operators become part of the needs assessment group going forward. Mr. McGean advised that the fiber optic is connected, both the Town's and Comcast's. There are some issues with a slight pause of the video image which may be a connection issue between the raw feed and Ocularis. The IT Department is working on this issue.
5. Mr. Bob Knudson approached the Commission looking for a parking resolution for condo unit owners on Wight Street and 136<sup>th</sup> Street. There are 2 two-story units, each housing 4 condo units. There is no parking for the building. Mr. Knudson was hoping to lease 6 spaces in front of the building to be permitted parking for this condominium. After much discussion, it was agreed that it is not permitted for town to lease parking to residents on a city street. It was agreed that this is a difficult situation for the residents of these two condo buildings. City Engineer McGean mentioned that changes to parking needs to go through the zoning department. Caine Keys II has parking permits, however, they are only in effect from 3:00 a.m. – 6:00 a.m. – they don't restrict parking on the city streets during daylight hours.

The Police Commission agreed that there is no easy solution but that legally we cannot restrict a city street to parking for a special condo. The Police Commission will keep this situation on its radar to see if another solution arises.

6. Lt. Harner updated the Police Commission on citizen concerns of taxi parking on residential streets. The Mayor and the Police Department have both received complaints of taxi's taking up entire blocks and not moving the vehicles for extended periods of time. City Solicitor Ayres recommended that it might be in the best interests of everyone to amend the taxi ordinance to require anyone who applies for a taxi permit that they must provide evident of parking and to also require that a taxi cannot be left unattended for a certain number of hours, that number to be decided by the City Council. Mayor Meehan believes the taxi ordinance needs to be amended and that the taxi franchises are granted by the Town of Ocean City so making a parking requirement part of the franchise agreement is a way to prove the existence of parking for said vehicle. It was recommended that this issue be moved forward for a Comprehensive Review so that this can be implemented next year.

Lt. Harner explained that he has received some recommendations from Michelle Monico explaining certain issues with the taxi process and Lt. Harner will be scheduling a meeting with City Solicitor Ayres in the near future to begin discussions. It was requested that Lt. Harner return to the Police Commission in September, 2014 with recommendations.

7. Bob Rothermel and Jack Hennen attended the meeting to discuss the upcoming fall Cruiser's event which will be held in Ocean City on Columbus Day weekend. The spring car cruise had some issues, not with the participants of the event, but with the spectators who come to watch. The spring car cruise had approximately 3300 registered vehicles, the fall cruise will have approximately 2800 cars registered. The application, correspondence sent to registered participants all mention that the police take an active role in the event for public safety and they will not allow spinning wheels, excessive speed, etc. Majority of the participants are AARP members, who have much invested in their vehicles and are not out there to cause trouble. Mr. Rothermel will provide the Police Commission with copies of the documents they send to participants. This event started in Ocean City over 25 years ago with less than 250 participants; it has now grown to close to 3000 registrants. The problems, however, are with the spectators, who take over parking lots, leave trash, incite drivers (not participants) to spin wheelies. It is the recommendation of the Police Commission that it is time to get the business community involved. The Police Department will contact HMRA to set up a meeting between itself, the Board of HMRA and members of the Chamber of Commerce and the event organizers to begin discussions on how the business community can assist by managing their properties. All of these entities need to work together for all of these motor events.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

The next meeting of the Police Commission will be held on Monday, August 11, 2014 at 9:00 AM at the Public Safety Building, 6501 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842

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