



# City of Highland Park

## Board of Police and Fire Commissioners

Return to Excellence

Hubbert Yopp  
Mayor

### BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

#### Minutes of August 18, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by Chairman Ryan Johnson.

#### Roll Call:

**Present:** Chairman Ryan Johnson, Commissioner Michael Curis, Commissioner Brenda Hicks, Commissioner RJ Watkins, Commissioner/Secretary Erica George, Chief Erik Hollowell, Chief Kevin Coney, Director Charles Lackey

#### Open Remarks

#### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of July 21, 2021 were approved.

#### Fire Department

Chairman: For the chief, I would like to recognize any firefighters doing a great job. Please let us know those names.

Chief Hollowell: We are at 521 runs with 105 in the last month. We start our medical first responder class October 18 with 4 fire fighters and 3 police officers. We hired two full time. We had two house fires between yesterday and today. The storms have contributed to some of the fires.

Chairman: How are we coming with the emergency personnel?

Chief: We are working on it.

Commissioner Hicks: There was a live wire down, but the caller was rerouted. The person called Highland Park administration. This complaint came from a citizen.

Chief: I would like to know what number they called because 911 calls should not be rerouted. I can give you a number to the station.

Commissioner Hicks: The citizen stated they called 911.

Chairman: At times, during the storm if people use their cell phone, they are routed to Michigan State Police.

Chief: The number to the station is 3133523221.

Commissioner Curis: You said it was 521 runs this year, how does that compare to last year?

Chief: At this time last year, we are up more than one-hundred runs.

## **Police Department**

Chairman: For the chief, if you have any exemplary officers, please give me the name. I witnessed someone getting beaten up around 6:00am and the officers did a swift job at getting the matter handled. I would like to have the names to recognize them. By next meeting please give us those names.

Chief Coney: I am proud to be a police officer and proud of the department. National Night Out was a plus. I have gotten a great response and people wanting to volunteer next year. On August 29<sup>th</sup>, they are having something off Hamilton. I will give you all the information.

Commissioner Hicks: Who is sponsoring this?

Chief Coney: I would have to let you know. The police department is doing an excellent job. The arrest rate is kind of high. We have solved two homicides with assistance from the prosecuting office. On midnight shifts, they have been catching people doing crimes. Last week, we wrote 89 tickets for drag racing which we will continue to do. This issue is statewide and not just Highland Park. We are working with Detroit and Michigan State police. Once the weather changes then this will slow down. Our citizens complaints have gone down. Some of the complaints are because people do not want tickets for speeding. Our new building has been stagnant due to all the stuff. Deputy Chief Holcomb is at a mental health training. We will have someone be able to ride with her. Once she returns, we will be able to train other officers.

Commissioner Watkins: Can you talk about the homicides you had success with?

Chief: The one success was on Geneva and there was another one that I can give you an update.

Commissioner Watkins: Did you all solve the one behind my radio station?

Chief: We are waiting on a missing piece which should help us solve the case. We want to go on actual facts.

Commissioner Hicks: Who will train the officers in mental health?

Chief: The program will train the officers and they will receive a certificate.

Commissioner Curis: Thank you for everything you do. I was happy to see President Biden and Governor Whitmer increased the police funding. I am glad to see the officers have that training. I think this is one of the misunderstandings we have in policing.

Chief: I will look at officers being trained on how to handle a deaf citizen.

Chairman: Will that be sign language?

Chief: Yes.

Chairman: Will you let us know about role call?

Chief: Yes, you can attend at 7am or 7pm.

Chairman: Commissioner Watkins asked about us taking pictures to be posted. I have a person.

Chief: I have a lady as well and she can come here to take the pictures. We can get them hung up here.

Commissioner Hicks: We talked about the picture, but you stated it would be more than one shot? Will we have to frame the pictures?

Chairman: It will be at the main police and fire station, but it is up to the departments if they want to put them in other places. We will give the pictures to the city for framing but if we need framing, I will let you know.

## **Internal Affairs**

Director Lackey: I met with the city of Detroit 8.13.21. We spoke about more data sharing since we are integrated with them. They do this already with Wayne State and others. The idea is to get

the same number of capabilities that their officers have in Highland Park. We talked about integration with Blue Light as well.

Chairman: Can you talk about integration with the 911 system and sharing information?

Lackey: The Computed Aided Dispatch System is called, and the data will go there. This information will help officers by giving them more data in the field. They will help with calls.

### **Public Comments**

Chairman: Do we have any comments from the public?

Lorne McGee: I stay on Beresford Street. The group home create havoc. I wish the city and the Drum city would work together because I do not feel safe with my daughter walking to the store.

Chairman: I will follow up with the Chief and contact you with a follow up email with your phone number.

Lorne McGee: It did get better for a couple of months, but it is back to the same.

Chairman: Ms. Thomas, are you there today?

Angela Thomas: I am here but just listening.

Chairman: Have you seen a change?

Angela Thomas: Yes, my neighbors said they seen them sitting. Can we have road strips on the road? Or any signs for people to check their speed?

Chairman: This is a more government and city matter. I will check with the city. I will follow up with you by next week.

Commissioner Curis: Can we buy a speed sign?

Chairman: We can find out what they cost.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 6:00pm, Zoom

cc: City Clerk