



# CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

## BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Return to Excellence

Hubbert Yopp  
Mayor

### BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

#### Minutes of January 16, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 pm by Chairman Napoleon.

#### Roll Call:

**Present:** Chairman Napoleon, Commissioner Hicks, Commissioner Watkins; Secretary Erica George, Charles Lackey, Sgt. Payne

#### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of November 28, 2018, were approved.

#### Police Department

Chairman: "I am glad to see the new Deputy Chief Tolbert's position able to fit in the budget."

Commissioner Hicks: "They are getting raises as well, which is a good thing."

Lackey: "New Deputy Chief was in Flint. Lt. Edwards retired December 31<sup>st</sup> and part of an investigation of false imprisonment. She was off duty in a city owned vehicle and got into an incident with a van full of students. She originally stated the driver was doing reckless driving and stated the driver spit towards her out the window. She called for other cop cars and arrested 15 and 16 year olds for spitting out of the car as well as the driver."

Commissioner Hicks: "Were her body cameras on?"

Lackey: "Yes, she ordered the cops to arrest the kids."

Chairman Napoleon: "Was she drinking?"

Lackey: "Not sure."

Commissioner Hicks: "Does this has to do with her retirement?"

Lackey: "No she planned the retirement."

Chairman Napoleon: "Who is pursuing this matter?"

Lackey: "The kids' parents."

Chairman Napoleon: "Are there criminal charges?"

Lackey: "Yes."

Commissioner Hicks: "Will that affect her retirement?"

Lackey: "In an extreme case yes but in this case no."

Commissioner Watkins: "Do cops have to follow lieutenant orders if right or wrong?"

Lackey: "The officers have the right to challenge but the officers did not know what happened so they followed Lt. Edward's order. The officers did not witness the incident. If they were there they could refuse but in this case they have to follow the supervisors' orders."

Lackey: "Lt. Edwards entered the ACE Academy School to get the kids which the teacher is upset at the lieutenant for going in and using her authority to come in the school. The description she gave of the kid did not match the kid she arrested."

Commissioner Watkins: "Did the lady flee?"

Lackey: "The lady did not know she was an officer. She did not show a badge and in plain clothes. At the most, she had a lane change violation so nothing warranted the lieutenant to stop her. Right now, she plead down to an impeding traffic violation and we are learning more parts of the story are false. We have another incident where someone was fleeing and the officer used a Taser which we found to be over use of force. Originally, the officer held a gun to his head but did not give the guy a chance to respond to his commands before using his Taser, he was in his car and had his hands up. We have another administrative investigation against him. There was a case where a guy had cocaine and weed on him and arrested but the case was not submitted to a prosecutor by the officer."

Chairman Napoleon: "You have to have file reviews and go over every case the officer has and ask questions. Do you all have anyone over the detective unit?"

Lackey: "Lt. Edwards was over the unit and others."

Chairman Napoleon: "So, she was not reviewing the cases. They were not getting warrants on anyone?"

Lackey: "Just on the one officer's case no warrants were issued. Chief Deputy Tolbert has implemented daily meetings and then weekly meetings until this is sorted."

Chairman Napoleon: "How many officers in unit?"

Lackey: "There are four officers."

Chairman Napoleon: "Some of this deals with training but mainly it is no follow-up. Does he know how to do warrants?"

Lackey: "Yes. He was completing warrants in his first year. Also, the officers received raises between \$21.00 to \$23.00. We were not notified until after Lt. Edwards left. The prosecutor called asking about a case and found others."

Commissioner Hicks: "Does he know he is being investigated?"

Lackey: "Yes."

Commissioner Hicks: "Any other complaints?"

Lackey: "We had one complaint on Officer Jackson."

Commissioner Hicks: "He just got back on, right?"

Lackey: "Yes, Lt. Edwards put them back before her retirement."

Chairman Napoleon: "I do not think he should be in traffic. You can reinstruct people. As officers, we have to use discretion."

Lackey: "Jackson is going under a conduct review."

Commissioner Hicks: "Complaints came in after he got on the road?"

Lackey: "Yes, four or five tickets but he did have on his body camera."

Chairman Napoleon: "Body cameras cut out all disputes."

Commissioner Watkins: "What about rev. Bullock?"

Lackey: "He plead guilty to the offense and had 30 days."

Commissioner Hicks: "Anything about the blue van at George Washington Carver?"

Lackey: "The officer did find the van not long ago and pulled him over but he denied trying to abduct the young girl. It is still under investigation."

Commissioner Hicks: "His van was spotted outside the school."

Chairman Napoleon: "What made the officer pull the van over?"

Lackey: "I am not sure why he was outside the school. The girl gave a good description and it was specific. He is not in custody because his story seemed to be true by the Chief but we are still investigating."

## **Fire Department**

Sgt. Payne: "I am passing out the statistics for 2018. On the 2018 total runs the mutual aid is 388 runs and majority were runs in Detroit. The other runs were in Hamtramck. We had 10 service calls and 1 car fire."

Commissioner Hicks: "What is going on with Geneva Street?"

Sgt. Payne: "A couple houses were close together. The other fire started in a lot but we still count this fire because it was by a home. One of the fires we have a suspect and we found out he is a substance abuse user and he has mental health issues. Also, his feet were frost bitten so we are not sure if he was squatting or intentionally caused the fire."

Chairman Napoleon: "Are there any Warming Centers?"

Sgt. Payne: "We do have DRMM and Oasis which I believe one of them are closing."

Secretary: "Cass Community Social Services has a Warming Center and Rotating Shelter off Woodrow Wilson."

Commissioner Watkins: "Did they catch the burglar for the fire station?"

Sgt. Payne: "I am not sure."

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, February 27, 2019, 6:00pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, City Hall

cc: City Clerk