

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 17, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Chairman Johnson.

Roll Call:

Present: Commissioner Michael Curis, Commissioner Brenda Hicks, Commissioner RJ Watkins, Commissioner/Secretary Erica George, Chief J. Thomas

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of July 20, 2022 were approved.

Open Remarks

Commissioner Curis: We are having a problem at the shopping centers with people begging for money, coming up to their cars and people are feeling uncomfortable. We pay the city taxes and we are asking for help.

Chairman: We have a mini police station and I have witnessed this happening. Can we ticket people and what happens after so many tickets?

Chief Thomas: We do go into these complexes to run out these people. The issue is these people make purchases in buildings which changes the dynamics.

Chairman: I know these people are there. It would seem that they are no longer patriates.

Chief Thomas: Many of these people are coming from DRMM. The problem is people are let out during the day. I talked to Dr. Audi who owns DRMM and he was supposed to create a community room.

Commissioner Curis: In two months, no one has been picked up. We were told after two citations they would be arrested. I have no problem prosecuting.

Commissioner Hicks: It seems like there would be a log. If we are logging the individuals then why is there no logging?

Chief Thomas: People have been given citations and people will have to go to court.

Commissioner Hicks: Do you have any documentation for anyone that went to court?

Chairman: We should have documentation. It is the same person there every other day. The person should be taken into custody each and every time until he stops coming on the property.

Commissioner Curis has no problem prosecuting.

Chief Thomas: It depends on the person. If a person is charged with trespassing and Commissioner Curis signs off then I can take him.

Commissioner Curis: I want the ticket numbers and names of these individuals.

Chief Thomas: I can not provide the names publically.

Commissioner Hicks: We can receive names of people receiving tickets so I am not understanding why we could not receive these names.

Chairman: As chief, if you do not want to provide the names publically then we can receive them via email privately. I am giving the chief until next month's meeting to provide this information.

Police Department

Chief Thomas: We have two possible candidates to bring on and waiting on reference checks. We did a couple traffic details to deal with traffic on Oakland and Hamilton.

Chairman: Did you get with the Mayor on the speed bumps?

Chief Thomas: A study has to be done then a proposal submitted to finance. The police department would not be over this process. I will try to bring the Director on to the next meeting. I did bring him to a community meeting previously to discuss topics such as speed bumps.

Commissioner Watkins: Do we have equipment for any mass shootings in our community?

Chief Thomas: We have connection with Wayne County and others to contact for support, we have body armor and rifles to use in these situations.

Commissioner Watkins: Will Detroit be prepared for small planes attacking the city or any type of attacks?

Chief Thomas: We have mutual aid agreements that would be contacted in the case of these matters. There are trainings done at certain buildings to be prepared.

Internal Affairs

Monroe: We had one citizen's complaint. The complaint was unsubstantiated. It alleges that the officer handled the citizen in an irate manner. I reviewed the cameras and the officer handled the situation by the text book.

Commissioner

Commissioner George: I received a complaint regarding the response of 911/EMS. The citizen contacted 911 three times and put on hold. The citizen went to the fire station to get help and went back to wait with the citizen. Highland Park did arrive.

Monroe: Dispatch has been slammed and working sixteen hours.

Commissioner George: I understand but customer service plays a part.

Chairman: I know the fire chief had problems before and Lackey was looking into this matter. Let us know the date and time of this incident.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 19, 2022, 6:00 pm, Zoom
cc: City Clerk