



CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Return to Excellence

Glenda McDonald
Mayor

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of September 4, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Chairman Johnson.

Roll Call:

Present: Chairman Ryan Johnson, Commissioner Michael Curis, Commissioner Erica George, Commissioner Hicks, Detective Paul Thomas

Opening Remarks

Chairman: Welcome everyone and welcome to our guest.

Police Department

Detective Thomas: I have been with the city for 16 years and I am here to represent the chief tonight due to an emergency. We have graduation from the police academy on October 4th. We will have three new recruits which is a big boost for our department. We have increased traffic patrol in areas such as Hamilton. We have received a number of complaints regarding Hamilton and Oakland so we increased patrol to try and cut down on it. On Woodward, part of it is sectioned off and we are checking into it for traffic flow purposes. On September 21st we are having a mental health and first aid training. There are more unhoused and mental health so we are trying to get more training in that area. Additionally, we have one officer trained in mental health communication. Often we get calls to situations that need the trained officer to better handle these situations.

Chairman: For the last year, we had someone to be able to respond from a social work team?

Det. Thomas: Yes, we do.

Commissioner Watkins: What days does he work?

Det. Thomas: He works days and some weekends.

Commissioner Curis: Does the person get paid more money? Or, can we let other people on the team?

Det. Thomas: With us having more officers, we are constrained regarding our budget.

Commissioner Watkins: Do they live in the city?

Det. Thomas: No.

Commissioner Curis: How many times do we use this person?

Det. Thomas: At least once a day.

Commissioner Watkins: Can we meet him?

Det. Thomas: Yes. Officer Monroe is now trained.

Commissioner George: He is trained in another department as well, correct?

Det. Thomas: Yes, he is trained in IT.

Public Comments

Chairman: Can you state your name for the record.

Public: My name is Lawrence Johnson.

Chairman: We have received complaints from the community. The ordinance states we are to maintain quietness by 11 or 11:30p.

Public: I was just made aware and it has been inconsistent. Now, we turn off the music by 11:00p.

Chairman: We were told your response was just give me a ticket.

Public: At that time, I was told to turn the music down and we turned it off outside. She asked for us to turn it down inside and I refused because I knew you could not hear it. The officer went to her car and came back. This happened on May 11th.

Commissioner Curis: I wanted to bring you in because we do not want anyone's business closed.

Public: I did bring two letters of support from the woman behind me and a person mid-way down the block. Attached are the two letters of support.

Chairman: I know everyone that knows you supports you so we wanted to bring you in. I know we invited you and I appreciate that you were able to come today.

Commissioner Watkins: Have you been to court?

Public: I believe next week.

Chairman: Commissioner Erica requested for you to be here and invited you.

Public: I just ask if people have a problem with me to please come to talk to me.

Commissioner Hicks: You have been in business for six years.

Commissioner Curis: Has it been more than one person?

Chairman: Yes.

Commissioner George: I know you have a decibel machine so if we can communicate back to you that number then that will help as well. We can make your letters a part of the record.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 2, 2024, 6:00 pm, In-person and Zoom
cc: City Clerk