



# CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

## BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Return to Excellence

Glenda McDonald  
Mayor

### BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

#### Minutes of August 7, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Johnson.

#### **Roll Call:**

**Present:** Chairman Ryan Johnson, Commissioner Michael Curis, Commissioner Erica George, Commissioner Hicks, Chief Hollowell, Chief McMahan, Dir. Charles Lackey

#### **Opening Remarks**

Commissioner George, Watkins and Curis thanked everyone for their services

#### **Police Department**

Chief: Recent increase in citizens complaints due to making it very accessible. It appears not many are substantiated. I am glad we are getting the feedback. The National Night Out will be rescheduled to August 13<sup>th</sup> at Massachusetts park. We will have a lot of events and the goal is to bring the community and police department together. We want to do something positive and continue looking for ways to do this. Our team is reaching out to the public and donors to gain partnerships as well as donations. We have some t shirts we care selling to help raise money for the community events since we do not have a budget for these activities. The jail funding we did not get. We did not get funding for our jail and fire truck.

Commissioner Watkins: Shiri voted down on our projects?

Chief: Yes, it is disappointing, and we are a community in need. We had him out and he visited our sites. I thought our projects met the requirements and we are in a critical need. I think some of the other projects were not has in need as us. We had an interest in people wanting to be the police and hopefully we get some good candidates to become fully staffed.

Commissioner Curis: You mentioned complaints, what are the top complaints?

Chief: Customer Service is the main complaint. I know it is an area we need to work on but I know our team is frustrated. There is nothing that raises to the level of violence.

Commissioner Curis: I like that phrase customer service. I think that is important and there are different ways to do it.

Chief: I don't think it is nothing that can not be fixed. I think the climate is a factor right now in our community. They are working overtime as well.

Commissioner Watkins: How much are you short?

Chief: We are short almost 40%.

Commissioner Watkins: What would you be comfortable at?

Chief: I would be comfortable at 20%. We have 3 people coming out of the academy. WE have an up tick in applicants. WE are not lower our hiring standards.

Commissioner Watkins: What would you compare your standards to? For example Detroit?

Chief: I am not sure of their standards but I do not want people with extensive backgrounds, etc.

Chairman: Are we doing psychological evaluations.

Chief: Yes, we use Concentra. There is another level but it is costly.

Chairman: What triggers are we looking for through these evaluations?

Chief: We look at the responses to the questions. We are trying to seek out violence, people who suffer from emotional balance due to trauma, etc. They look for biases in cultural and racial as well as domestic violence victims due to a past history of participating in a domestic violence.

Commissioner George:

Chief: Explicit Bias training is one training. We are in the process of switching to a new training base that meet MCOL standards and our current policies. Many of this stuff can be done with monitoring as well. I like tactical training being hands on. Virtual academy meets the needs for some but much of this work is about mindset.

Chairman: I am still getting complaints, 7/27 at 11:54pm, regarding the Woodward Grill and his music.

Chief: This is the first time I am hearing about it.

Chairman: We talked about it before and we went up there. What are the other options if he is just paying them and still doing the same thing?

Chief: I would have them call 313.852.7338 to make a complaint or they can call 911 and let them know it is not an emergency.

Chairman: He has put a lot of money into it and he has a walk way that he lifts up.

Chief: I think to open up the building in the back to help with ventilation. Honestly, we did not get a lot of cooperation. I assumed this was resolved. I need input and I need to put that data in the base. We can go after the business. We have to have mutual respect. I was in a restaurant before and they had a decibel meter to make an effort to be in compliance.

Chairman: Is there a time he has to turn down the music?

Chief: He can go until 11:30 at night. There is disturbing the peace if we get more people calling.

Commissioner George: What have we put in place?

Chairman: He has been cited and residents have been there to try and talk with him.

Chief: Eventually we would have to go to a judge.

Commissioner Curis: Can we bring him in?

Chairman: To my understanding he does not care. The people have known him and asked him to cut the music down.

Chief: I would like to see him stay.

Commissioner George: I think we know what type of business this is and we hate to see business go.

Commissioner Curis: Can we invite him here?

Commissioner George: I am happy to invite him to the next meeting.

## **Fire Department**

Chief: We have started school and eight guys have come. WE won a grant to get fire gear. The old trucks are now gone.

Commissioner Watkins: The grant award?

Chief: The grant was 89k for fire gear. For the data reported today we had an uptick in structural fires from last year.

## **Internal Affairs**

Dir. Lackey: We do have a 20% uptick in citizen complaints. There are 94% complaints that are about customer services. All the other issues have been dealt with and the staff involved in those incidents are no longer with us.

Chairman: Is this in the last month?

Dir. Lackey: This is in the last 60 days.

Commissioner Curis: Are officers notified?

Dir. Lackey: Officers are always notified when there is a complaint.

Chairman: Out of the 94%, were the officers that are no longer here apart of those complaints?

Dir. Lackey: Yes, there has been a decrease in complaints.

Chairman: How is our zoom link set up?

Dir. Lackey: The commission does have their own zoom link like the Mayor's office.

Commissioner Watkins: How is blue light going?

Dir. Lackey: There were some changes in management. We do have two sites we want to go up.

Chairman: how many businesses do you have?

Dir. Lackey: We have 10 businesses.

Commissioners Watkins: Is it monitors?

Dir/ Lackey: We have several monitoring sites and multiple officers can monitor it. Business owners can monitor the cameras.

Chairman: Are we going to enroll business again?

Dir/ Lackey: We are. We have added multiple technology. Recently, we have solved crimes quickly due to the multitude of technology. We have access to technology that are reserved for government entities.

## **Public Comments**

Chairman: No one is here from the public.

## **Commissioner Affairs:**

Commissioner George: Confirm our next meeting around Labor Day. We are all here and able to attend.

Chairman: Can we be apart of notifications for community event?

Chief: Yes, we can add you to the text.

## **Closing Remarks:**

Commissioner Curis: I suggested a drone to Detroit so they can assist with following vehicles instead of chasing.

Dir. Lackey: I agree with you. The drone cost 30k for one drone.

Chief: A drone can not keep up with 130 miles per hour.

Dir. Lackey: We do have an ultimate drone. We also have access to several helicopters and they are up already. One incident we had was a pursuit and we apprehended a person 3-4 days later based on that technology.

Chief: When we find a car we go to other agencies and cities to arrest you and take your car. WE will prosecute and pursue forfeiture.

Chairman: I know the justice department had some grants.

Dir. Lackey: We have one out there now that I proposed getting a drone. As you know, we need a license. There is a particular drone that streams and can go 3-5 miles.

Chief: We can save life's by having this technology. If someone was in a burning building, hiding in a tall bush, etc. it will help. We have some of the best technology and that is something to be proud of especially from a struggling city.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 pm

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, September 4, 2024, 6:00 pm, In-person and Zoom  
cc: City Clerk