

**PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, POLICE COMMISSION**  
**MEETING**

**5:30 p.m. Public Session – Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers**

Kate Coyle, Chair  
Buzz Scherr, Commissioner  
Francesca Fernald, Commissioner

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Coyle called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

**The following people were present for the public session:** Commissioners Coyle, Scherr and Fernald, Deputy Chief Mike Maloney, Business Manager Karen Senecal, Executive Assistant Jackie Burnett and members of the police department and the public.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led collectively by the Commission.

III. **SUSPENSION OF THE AGENDA:**

Chair Coyle requested a motion to suspend the agenda to address:

1. Item #1(b) under the Police Commission's Report: *Community Policing Facility (CPF) Planning*
2. Item #1 under the Chief's Report: *Award/Recognition Ceremony*

**Action:** Commissioner Scherr moved to suspend the agenda as proposed.

**Seconded:** Commissioner Fernald

**Vote:** The motion passed unanimously:

- Commissioner Coyle: Aye
- Commissioner Scherr: Aye
- Commissioner Fernald: Aye

**POLICE COMMISSION REPORT**

**1(b) Community Policing Facility Planning**

Chair Coyle addressed the cancelled November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, status update meeting regarding the Community Policing Facility. The Mayor proposed a building committee to ensure transparency and public involvement. The Commission expressed its commitment to advancing plans for a new facility, emphasizing its

critical role in departmental operations and morale. Commission Scherr reaffirmed support for a modern facility to meet community and departmental needs.

## **CHIEF'S REPORT**

### **1 Award/Recognition Ceremony**

Deputy Chief Maloney hosted a ceremony to acknowledge the exemplary work of several detectives and officers. The following detectives were honored with a Letter of Commendation for their work on the Portsmouth High School Threat which resulted in the conviction of Kyle Hendrickson:

- **Det. Sgt. Kevin McCarthy**
- **Det. Michael Kotsonis**
- **Det. Adam Kozlowski**
- **Det. Bob Lukacz**
- **Det. Matthew Fredrickson**
- **Det. Erik Widerstrom**
- **Det. Thompson Potter**
- **School Resource Officer Lynn Thomas**

The following officers were honored with either a Life Saving Medal or a Letter of Commendation for their efforts involved in a medical call wherein CPR and an AED were administered to save a woman's life:

- **Officer Nicholas DiGaetano** (medal)
- **Officer Daniel Cattani** (medal)
- **Officer Megan McBride** (letter)

#### **IV. ACCEPTANCE OF THE 10/22/24 MEETING MINUTES:**

Chair Coyle requested a motion to accept the minutes of the October 22, 2024, Police Commission meeting.

**Action:** Commissioner Scherr moved to accept the minutes as presented.

**Seconded:** Commissioner Fernald.

**Vote:** The motion unanimously:

- Commissioner Coyle: Aye
- Commissioner Scherr: Aye
- Commissioner Fernald: Aye

#### **V. PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were made.**

#### **VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. POLICE COMMISSION:**

**2. Facilities Update**

**a. Restoration**

Deputy Chief Maloney reported that remediation of the Dispatch Center remains pending due to staffing constraints. The redundant dispatch center at Fire Station 2 will be utilized during future renovations.

**b. Community Policing Facility (CPF) Planning** [Details addressed during suspended agenda items]

**3. Community Priorities**

Chair Coyle highlighted progress on body-worn cameras (BWC), with hardware delivered and integration with Taser10 anticipated for Spring 2025.

**B. CHIEF OF POLICE:**

**1. Award/Recognition Ceremony** [Details addressed during suspended agenda items]

**2. Grants**

**a. NH Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force**

Grant amount: \$368,355 from the US DOJ

The Chair asked for a motion to accept the above grant.

**Action: Commissioner Scherr moved** to accept the \$368,355 grant from the US Department of Justice for the NH Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force and forward to the City Council for their action.

**Seconded: Commissioner Fernald.**

**Vote:** The motion passed unanimously:

- Commissioner Coyle: Aye
- Commissioner Scherr: Aye
- Commissioner Fernald: Aye

**Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership**

Grant amount: \$5,392.49 (50% funding for new and replacement vests).

The Chair asked for a motion to accept the above grant.

**Action: Commissioner Scherr moved** to accept the \$5,392.49 grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership and forward to the City Council for their action.

**Seconded: Commissioner Fernald.**

**Vote:** The motion passed unanimously:

- Commissioner Coyle: Aye
- Commissioner Scherr: Aye
- Commissioner Fernald: Aye

#### Body-Worn Camera Program

Grant amount: \$196,000 from the US DOJ.

The Chair asked for a motion to accept the above grant.

**Action: Commissioner Scherr moved** to accept the \$196,000 grant from the US Department of Justice for the Portsmouth Police Department's implementation of a Body-Worn Camera Program and forward to the City Council for their action.

**Seconded: Commissioner Fernald.**

**Vote:** The motion passed unanimously:

- Commissioner Coyle: Aye
- Commissioner Scherr: Aye
- Commissioner Fernald: Aye

#### Crime Analyst Report

Year-to-date comparisons (Jan 1-Oct 31)

- Calls for service: ↓ 11%
- Arrests: ↑ 3.52%
- DWI arrests: ↑ 20%
- Total reports taken: ↓ 5.5%
- Reportable motor vehicle accidents: ↓ 1.8%
- Motor vehicle stops: ↓ 8.25%
- Involuntary Emergency Admissions (IEA): ↑ 23%
- Mental health calls: ↓ 19%
- Juvenile matter calls: ↓ 19.58%

The department will conduct a DUI saturation patrol in the downtown area on Thanksgiving Eve.

#### 3. Monthly Traffic Stats

October 2024: 713 motor vehicle stops, 27 summonses issued, and 53 reportable motor vehicle crashes.

#### 4. Financial Report

FY25 budget tracking 2% below the cap. Planning for FY26 budget is ongoing, including integration of body-worn camera funding and the City's new Financial Plus software.

##### a. Grant Applications Update

- Awaiting the arrival of the JAG Grant to help fund department-wide training, nearly \$11,000.

- Working on the SERT Grant application, anticipating roughly \$11,000.
- b. Strategic Plan Update** – Finalization of the plan is anticipated by December 2024, per Business Operations Manager Karen Senecal.

**VII. PATROL DIVISION:**

- a. This report was included in the commission meeting packet.

**VIII. COURT OFFICE REPORT:**

- a. This confidential report was included in the meeting packet.

**IX. MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER BUSINESS:**

- a. Chief Newport was absent, attending a ceremony recognizing the department's community policing efforts.
- b. The Commission wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

**X. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, beginning at 5:30 pm.

**XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

**Action:** Commissioner Scherr moved to adjourn at 6:03 PM.

**Seconded:** Commissioner Fernald.

**Vote:** The motion passed 3-0.

END OF MEETING

*Respectfully Submitted, Jacqueline Burnett, Executive Assistant*  
**Commissioner Buzz Scherr, Recording Clerk of the Commission**