

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 16, 2026 MEETING

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

Buzz Scherr, Chair
Francesca Fernald, Commissioner
Jay Lieberman, Commissioner

The following people were present for the public session: Commissioners Scherr, Fernald, and Lieberman, Chief Mark Newport, Deputy Chief Michael Maloney, Business Ops. Manager Karen Senecal, Executive Assistant Jackie Burnett and members of the public.

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Scherr called the meeting to order.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Commissioner Fernald.

III. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE 5/19/26 MEETING MINUTES:**

Motion: Commissioner Fernald moved to accept the minutes from the May 19, 2026 Police Commission meeting.

Seconded: Commissioner Lieberman.

Vote: Unanimously approved (3-0).

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Vicki Haskell (Portsmouth, NH): Ms. Haskell addressed comments made during her public comment at the previous meeting, stating they could be heard on the meeting's YouTube recording. Chair Scherr advised Ms. Haskell to review her email for a response regarding her previously submitted complaint.

Kathleen Logan (Portsmouth, NH): Ms. Logan spoke regarding ongoing concerns involving a neighbor, citing a long-standing issue and frustration with police response.

V. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. POLICE COMMISSION

1. Facilities Update

a. Municipal Building Blue Ribbon Committee Update

Chair Scherr encouraged members of the public to attend the next Municipal Building Blue Ribbon Committee meeting, scheduled for June 17, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in Conference Room A at City Hall.

b. Dispatch Remediation Update

The Chief reported that the project completion timeline remains uncertain due to delays in receiving HVAC equipment. The delayed equipment is not specific to the dispatch center.

B. CHIEF OF POLICE

1. Renewal of Employment Agreement - Deputy Police Chief Mike Maloney

Motion: Commissioner Fernald moved to approve the Deputy Police Chief's employment agreement as presented and forward to the City Council for its action.

Seconded: Commissioner Lieberman.

Vote: Unanimously approved (3-0).

2. Grant Award

The Chief presented a grant award of \$7,408.23 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance's Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program to reimburse 50% of the cost of 15 replacement ballistic vests.

Motion: Commissioner Lieberman moved to accept the Bureau of Justice Assistance's Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership grant award in the amount of \$7,408.23 and forward to the City Council for its action.

Seconded: Commissioner Fernald.

Vote: Unanimously approved (3-0).

3. Crime Analyst Report

The Chief presented crime statistics for January 1 through May 31, comparing the 2026 reporting period to the average of 2023-2025:

Calls for Service: ↓ -29.7%	Reportable MV Accidents: ↓ -18.0%
Arrests: ↓ -22.6%	Motor Vehicle Stops/Offenses: ↓ -38.0%
Reports Taken: ↓ -10.6%	DUI Arrests: ↓ -18.9

The Chair noted that the original report incorrectly listed the change in Calls for service as -2.7%. The correct figure is -29.7% (amended on 6/22/26).

The Commission discussed the decline in calls for service. Deputy Chief Maloney stated that proactive outreach by the department's social worker, Brooke, may be contributing to the reduction in recurring calls for service. It was also noted that calls made directly to the social worker are not included in the department's traditional calls-for-service statistics.

4. Monthly Traffic Stats (May 2026)

- Motor Vehicle Stops: 456 (36 more than in April)
- Summonses Issued: 17 (7 more than in April)
- Reportable Motor Vehicle Crashes: 31 (1 more than in April)

5. Financial Report

The department is currently tracking well financially as the fiscal year nears its close, remaining 4% below the cap. The department anticipates returning unused funds at the end of the fiscal year. A preliminary year-end financial report is expected at the next Commission meeting.

a. Grant Application Update

- Grant documentation for Representative Pappas's IT infrastructure funding for the new police facility has been received and is being prepared for a mid-July submission deadline.
- The department is awaiting notification regarding the ICAC grant through Senator Shaheen's office.
- No update is expected on the Real Time Crime Center project for several months.
- The department is awaiting a decision on the JAG grant for rifle updates.
- An application has been submitted for the New Hampshire Highway Safety Grant.

b. Strategic Plan Update

Documentation has been received from division and program managers and is being compiled and organized.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER BUSINESS: None.

VII. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, July 14, 2026. Please check the municipal meetings calendar on the city's website for any important meeting updates.

VIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Motion: Commissioner Lieberman moved to adjourn at 5:50 PM.

Seconded by Commissioner Fernald.

Vote: Unanimously approved (3-0).

END OF MEETING

Respectfully Submitted by Jacqueline Burnett, Executive Assistant
Commissioner Francesca Fernald, Recording Clerk of the Commission