



# POLICE COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2025 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Manchester Police Department  
405 Valley Street  
Manchester, NH 03103

The Regular Monthly Meeting was held at the Manchester Police Department Community Room on January 8, 2025, at 9:00am, attended by:

**Commissioners:** Gene Brown, Eva Castillo, John Cronin, Paul Harrington, John Mercier

**Police Department Staff:** Chief Peter Marr, Assistant Chief Kenneth Loui, Captain Robert Bellenoit, Captain Robert Gravelle, Captain Matthew Larochelle, Captain Sean Leighton, Captain Brandon Murphy, Lieutenant Patrick Houghton, Sergeant Michael Caron, Heather Hamel (Public Information Officer), Emily Cleary (Crime Analyst), Jessa Roy (Crime Analyst), Diane Kingsbury (Administrative Assistant)

**Others attending the Public Session:** Manchester business owner and blogger Jeff Hastings, Irena Owens and Owen Westover of the Department of Housing Stability

### 1. COMMISSION CHAIRMAN OPENING COMMENTS

- Commissioner Cronin opened the meeting at 9:00am, welcoming all those present.

### 2. NOTICES POSTED / APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- The Commission confirmed with Diane Kingsbury that the notices had been posted at the City Library as well as on the Manchester Police website homepage, event calendar, and via social media.
- Commissioners present unanimously voted to approve the minutes from the 12/4/24 meeting.

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

### 4. DIVISIONAL REPORTS

#### Administrative Division – Captain Bellenoit

- Communications is currently at full complement with 16 dispatchers with 5 still in the training phase.
- The front counter is down 2 people. One person has been hired with a TBD start date and one is currently in the background process.
- Will be meeting to discuss the logistics of replacing the rug in Dispatch.
- One drone vehicle has been fixed and another drone vehicle should be up and running soon.
- Working on a 2024 Ford Explorer recall – we have 19 vehicles affected by the recall.

#### Investigative Division – Captain Leighton

- Officer Abbey Cowette will be assigned to DV and Detective Campbell will be going to Patrol.
- Lieutenant Georgoulis, Sergeant O'Meara and Sergeant Brandreth are at leadership training this week.
- Detective Pittman was selected as the November Officer of the Month due to his great work on a couple of recent cases. This is his 5<sup>th</sup> Officer of the Month recognition.
- We are losing our most senior Evidence Tech, Dave Dydo, who will be retiring at the end of January after 44 years of service – this will be a big hole to fill. An extensive audit will take place before he leaves which is already in process.

#### Community Affairs Division – Captain Larochelle

- Sergeant Macken was promoted to Lieutenant and has been assigned to the Patrol Division. His position in Community Affairs has been filled by Sergeant Megowen who has 20+ years experience, including several years as a K9 handler and K9 unit supervisor – he will be a good addition to the division.
- The Public safety barricades made by Meridian, in conjunction with the MFD Emergency Management Team and Department of Homeland Security, are in production and should be delivered at the end of February.
- The Traffic Unit is investigating a crash from 11/22 at Maple and Silver Streets where vehicles were traveling in excess of 70 mph. One of the operators is being charged with negligent homicide, reckless conduct and second degree assault. Charges are pending for the second operator who is a juvenile.
- Members of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and Office of Probation & Parole were recognized with a Unit Achievement Citation at an award ceremony held on Monday. Their collaborative efforts and partnership with Manchester Police since 2023 has helped to significantly mitigate violent crime in the city in addition to providing diversion and resources to drug related offenders to assist in their recovery.

#### Patrol Division – Sergeant Caron (for Captain Cunningham)

- The current allotted Patrol complement is 112, with 99 assigned and 96 available due to injuries, FMLA and military.
- Several officers are assigned to career development positions throughout the department.

- Several officers are out on various leave statuses.
- There were a total of 7,252 calls for service in December – 3,503 calls were reactive and 3,749 were proactive.
- Two non-certified officers finished their FTO phase and were released to solo status at the end of December. Three certified officers are scheduled to complete FTO by the end of January. One returning officer (Gould) is scheduled to begin FTO next week and complete by the end of January. Four non-certified officers are currently on FTO and scheduled to finish by the beginning of February.
- Mobil Field Force is ready to be deployed and equipment is staged.
- Officer Colburn graduated from the Boston Police K9 Academy for patrol work. He is scheduled to attend the EOD/Ballistics Detection School from 1/20 through 4/18 at the Boston Police K-9 Academy. Normal monthly K9 trainings scheduled.
- Mentor Program: all new employees have been assigned mentors.
- All drones are fully deployable. One patrol cruiser is in service – drone specific with charging stations, large monitor and fully functional for deployments. Another vehicle is currently undergoing repairs.
- The new command vehicle is in service – smaller than the Crime Scene van and able to be deployed quickly to developing and planned situations.
- Reassignments: Lieutenant Macken is the new 4-12 shift commander. Sergeant Donovan is assigned to the midnight shift as a street supervisor. Sergeant Megowen was reassigned to the Community Affairs Division and Lieutenant Cataldo was reassigned to the Special Enforcement Division.
- Officer Gould, who left the agency less than a year ago, has been rehired as a police officer.
- Trainee Cole Capano resigned during the FTO phase of training.

#### **Legal and Professional Standards Division – Captain Gravelle**

- Training & Recruitment continues their efforts to fill our vacancies. There are currently 8 applicants (5 non-certified and 3 certified) in various stages of the background process. Our authorized complement is 268 and we still have 21 vacancies.
- The 3 certified applicants who are currently at various stages in the hiring process are from different areas – Massachusetts, Utah and Colorado.
- There are 8 officers currently at the 199<sup>th</sup> state academy class which started on 1/6/25. Officer Esposito is a cadre in that academy. The department is holding a police test on 1/18/25 at the state academy. This will be for the 200<sup>th</sup> academy class which starts in early May.
- The Records Unit is currently down 2 people. They have moved to different positions/jobs in the building and we are looking to fill those vacancies.
- There is a new bail process through the state which uses magistrates under certain circumstances. If the arrestee is charged with at least one of 12 serious offenses, they must see either a judge or a magistrate within 24 hours. This applies on weekends and holidays as well.

#### **Special Enforcement Division – Captain Murphy**

- Monthly SWAT training will be held on 1/14 and 1/22.
- SWAT supervisors recently completed NTOA command level school where valuable debriefs from across the country were shared with the team.
- Officer Adam Beland has retired from SWAT after 9 years of service.
- Notes of Interest requests for Career Development in the Street Crime Unit and Anti-Crime Unit will be put out in upcoming days.
- With the promotion of Captain Bellenoit, Lieutenant Cataldo has been selected as the unit lieutenant.
- **The Special Investigations Unit (SIU)** has been actively engaged in targeting individuals and locations involved in the illicit drug trade. This month a warrant service at 340 Maplehurst resulted in the arrest of the source level target and the recovery of firearms to include an AR-15 as well as large sums of US currency. Drug activity at that location negatively impacted the quality of life in the neighborhood.
- **Street Crime Unit** – Supported members of the Anti-Crime Unit with warrant service at Village Circle Way for wanted party, Tahron Watson. Members also focused on additional problem locations making arrests of individuals who are now cooperating in ongoing investigations.
- **Anti-Crime Unit** – Unit detectives conducted several warrant service and arrest operations leading to the recovery of a firearm, ammunition and illegal drugs.

#### **Questions/Comments/Discussion:**

- Commissioner Castillo asked how a replacement is selected when someone retires from SWAT. Captain Murphy advised that an eligibility test is conducted for potential new members.
- Commissioner Cronin asked about the difference between the old and new Tasers and was advised that the old Taser 7 carried 2 darts and was capable of one shot delivering the 2 darts. The new Taser 10 has 10 darts which can each be shot separately – the probes are longer and are delivered with more velocity than the older

Taser and is much more effective. Another feature of the new Taser is that the Body Camera automatically turns on when the Taser is activated.

#### **5. COMMENTS FROM ASSISTANT CHIEF LOUI**

- Milestones for 2024:
  - 2 new pieces of technology – Taser and Body Camera
  - Evidence.com by Axon – digital evidence management system – saves footage from Body Camera
  - 83 in-service training days
  - 42 certified in CPR and use of AED
  - 4 recruit classes – 195<sup>th</sup> through 198<sup>th</sup>
  - Hosted 7 courses in specialized training
  - Recruitment & retention – significant increase over previous years – recruited 20 in 2022, 24 in 2023 and 29 in 2024. To further improve our recruitment – we will be working with SNHU business and marketing students to try to increase our recruitment rate through improved marketing and branding.

#### **Questions/Comments/Discussion:**

- Commissioner Castillo shared how she enjoyed the videos posted on social media at Christmas time.

#### **6. COMMENTS FROM CHIEF MARR**

- It is budget season – will be meeting with the Mayor at the end of next week.
- The Mayor announced overdoses are down 23% and fatalities are down 21%.
- Current goals and objectives are covered by our 5-year Strategic Plan but we will add more.
- Power Engage (a system we use to follow up with people who utilize our public services) has had a 93.9% satisfaction score. We are very pleased with this result – it is a testament to everyone working hard and doing a great job.
- We are at full complement in Dispatch, however out of our full complement of 16 dispatchers, only 4 have more than one year of experience, so we are working through challenges stemming from inexperience.
- Ultimately, we would like to increase our complement by 4-5 dispatchers along with a few more civilian positions.

#### **7. TENTATIVE DATE OF THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING**

- Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

#### **8. END OF PUBLIC SESSION**

- The Public Session ended at 9:26 a.m.