

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF
THE HONORABLE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, June 18, 2024**

Members of the public and media, please type in the following link into your web browser to access our YouTube channel where you may view the Bridgeport Board of Police Commissioners meeting:
<https://www.youtube.com/@bridgeportpolice9071/streams>

This meeting was called to order at **6:18 PM**.

1. **Roll Call of Commissioners:** Cruz, Williams, Farrow, Roach, Lyons, Diaz

Also in attendance: Chief Roderick Porter, Lieutenant Stacey Lyons, Councilmember Enida Martinez, Yolanda Ramos, April Gale

- a. Pledge of Allegiance – none (no flag on Zoom)
- b. A moment of Silence was observed for retired Captain John Basile who passed away on May 22, 2024, and retired Lieutenant John Flanagan, who passed away on June 12, 2024
- c. On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Williams, the Board voted unanimously to approve item 1c.

2. **Reports:**

- a. **Chief of Police** – Chief Porter reported that crime is down overall year to date with shooting incidents down 40%, non-fatal shootings down 12%, and fatal shootings down 50%. Chief Porter stated that felony assaults are up 23% and that he is working with state and federal departments to assist in this matter. Chief Porter stated that he ensures there is adequate staffing during the summer months, which includes having to order officers for four (4) hours shifts. Chief Porter stated that he believes there will be relief from ordering in July as the FTO program will end for the new officers. Chief Porter stated that there are three to five lateral officers coming on board and that there are plans on starting another recruit class of approximately 30 in August. Chief Porter stated that the Department is in the process of recruiting with plans for an entry level exam in the fall. Chief Porter stated that he is focusing on the crime hotspots, including the downtown area. He mentioned that the Hookah Lounges do cause issues and that he is working with the state, health department, liquor commission, and the fire department to assist in handling these issues. Chief Porter stated that he is up to date on his discipline hearings, and he is trying to complete all cases in an expediate manner. Chief Porter stated that when he attends community meetings the main issue brought up is that while Part 1 crime is down, there are more quality-of-life issues, and he is looking to address this concern. Chief Porter stated that on August 1, 2025, at 6:15 PM there will be an award ceremony in front of the police department to honor police officers, community groups, and legends of the department. Chief Porter requested thoughts prayers for retired sergeant Kenny Kubel,

who is in the hospital. Commissioner Cruz asked the Chief if the high rate in felony assaults is focused in one area of Bridgeport. Chief Porter stated that it is throughout Bridgeport but is isolated in some hot spot areas such as the Hollow and Stratford Ave. Commissioner Cruz asked how other town recruits join the new class in the academy. Chief Porter stated that Bridgeport is a satellite academy of POSTC in Meridian and though the focus is on Bridgeport recruits, other towns will send their recruits and provide instructors to assist.

- b. Union:** None
- c. Internal Affairs:** None
- d. Clerks Report:** None

3. New Business:

- a.** Councilmember Enida Martinez addressed the Board about parking issues on Stratford Avenue. Martinez stated that she sent photos of Wilmont Avenue and Orange Street to Lieutenant Lyons on the issues.
- b.** On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Diaz the Board unanimously voted to approve item 3b.
- c.** Yolanda Ramos, the president of the Seaside Village association, addressed the Board regarding an ongoing noise complaint from the PC Richards parking lot. Ramos stated that this issue continues to 3 or 4 am and that nothing is being done. Ramos stated that this is a quality-of-life issue and that she feels those playing the music should be arrested for Breach of Peace or Disorderly Conduct. Ramos stated that this is the fourth summer for this issue. Commissioner Roach stated that he has heard this noise in the past and understands the complaint. Commissioner Roach requested a conversation with Lieutenant Lyons regarding this complaint.
- d.** April Gale addressed the Board regarding a citizen's complaint she filed with the Office of Internal Affairs. Gale stated that she has not been contacted yet and would like to know what needs to be done for her complaint to be investigated. Commissioner Roach asked when the complaint was filed. Gale stated she received a letter on April 12 from Lieutenant Rozum stating that the issue would be handled by Labor Relations. Gale stated that she has contacted several people in the city but has not had a response. Gale stated that she is looking to hold Chief Porter accountable for malfeasance and abuse of power, which is what her complaint is about. Commissioner Roach stated that this is a unique complaint and that it was referred to Labor because it involves the Chief. Gale mentioned that the General Order states that the complaint should be handled by an outside attorney and presented to the Police Commission within 30 days. Commissioner Roach stated that he will investigate where the complaint is.

4. Old Business:

- a. Commissioner Cruz and Commissioner Farrow discussed how 196 Mourningside Ave. has a driveway, and that family members should not park their cars in the driveway to allow access for the handicap member. On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Williams the Board voted unanimously to approve item 4a.

5. **Correspondence:** None

6. **Letters of Appreciation:** None

7. **Widow's Pension:** None

8. **City Traffic Engineer's Request:**

- a. **Request of the City Traffic Engineer's Office to Approve the Following:**

- i. On a motion by Commissioner Diaz and seconded by Commissioner Farrow, the Board voted unanimously to approve item 8ai.

- b. **Request of the City Traffic Engineer's Office Not to Approve the Following:**
None

Adjournment: On a motion by Commissioner Diaz and seconded by Commissioner Cruz, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at **6:53 PM**

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