

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF
THE HONORABLE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, July 16, 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 **6:04 PM**.

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

Also in attendance: Chief Roderick Porter, Lieutenant Stacey Lyons, Councilmember Enida Martinez

- a. Pledge of Allegiance – none (no flag on Zoom)
- b. A moment of Silence was observed for retired Sergeant Kenneth Kubel who passed away on June 19, 2024.
- c. On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Diaz, the Board voted unanimously to approve item 1c.
- d. On a motion by Commissioner Diaz and seconded by Commissioner Williams, the Board voted unanimously to approve item 1d.

2. Reports:

- a. **Chief of Police** – Chief Porter reported that the six (6) month crime statistics show that the overall part 1 crimes are down from 2023. Chief Porter stated that the homicide rates and shooting incidents are both down while sex assaults and felony assaults are up. Chief Porter stated that there is an increase in stabbings which he attributes to gun control laws causing people to use other means to assault each other. Chief Porter believes that the sex assaults are up due to transparency and encouragement to report. He also believes having a DCF worker stationed with the detective bureau encourages the reporting of these types of crimes. Chief Porter stated that he is trying to come up with a way to address quality of life issues such as noise ordinance violations, speeders, and tractor trailer parking. Chief Porter stated that four laterals will start by the end of the month. He stated that they will complete a one-week academy and two weeks riding with other officers. Chief Porter stated that the FTO program for 15 officers should be completed by the end of the month. He stated that an invitation should be given to the Commissioners for the swearing in of a class of approximately 30 recruits on July 25 or 29. Chief Porter stated that the department is recruiting again to hopefully have another class in the fall. Chief Porter stated he did a joint recruiting effort with Chief Edwards of the fire department.

Chief Porter stated that 70-80 officers took the Sergeant test and that results should be out soon followed by promotions. Chief Porter stated that the department is looking at certain priority 2 calls to have residents complete a form online and be able to make a report without a police officer necessarily having to respond. He stated that other cities have portals that allow this to be implemented. Chief Porter stated that the Juneteenth parade, Barnum festival fireworks, Barnum parade, and the Puerto Rican parade were completed without incident other than traffic issues. Chief Porter stated that the warm weather is causing our parks, especially Seaside Park, to be inundated with people. He stated that the State parks have been closing early which impacts our parks. On occasion, this has led to the parks having to close early due to overcrowding. The checkpoints have been staying open until 5 PM which has helped manage the out of state visitors. Commissioner Cruz asked if motorcycles are allowed in the parks on a regular basis. Chief Porter stated that they are not allowed but that they are hard to control. Commissioner Cruz mentioned loud fireworks that she heard recently. Chief Porter stated that he put out a public announcement with Chief Edwards on illegal fireworks. Commissioner Williams mentioned that she was at a gas station on Huntington Tpke and observed approximately 20 ATV's and dirt bikes. She stated that she spoke with the attendant who stated he is aware it is illegal for them to fill up at the pumps, however he cannot stop them from using their card at the pumps. Commissioner Williams asked what towns the lateral transfers are coming from. Chief Porter stated Waterbury, Norwalk, and New London. Commissioner Roach mentioned the possibility of Bridgeport officers who transferred to other towns and now want to come back. Chief Porter stated that there is a law that prevents officers from leaving a town under their two-year anniversary. Commissioner Williams asked if there will be a cost associated with aforementioned portal. Chief Porter stated that there would be a cost but it is meant to free up officers and to prevent citizens from having to wait long periods of time for an officer to respond. Chief Porter and Commissioner Roach spoke about the Cherry Street apartments and some issues in the area.

b. Union: None

c. Internal Affairs: None

d. Clerks Report:

i. Lieutenant Lyons invited the Honorable Commissioners to the 2nd annual Awards Ceremony that will be held on August 1st, 2024 at 6:15 PM.

3. New Business:

a. i-ix On a motion by Commissioner Farrow and seconded by Commissioner Cruz the Board unanimously voted to combine and approve items 3a i-ix

4. Old Business: None

5. Correspondence: None

6. **Letters of Appreciation:** None

7. **Widows Pension:** None

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

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

i-x On a motion by Commissioner Diaz and seconded by Commissioner Farrow the Board unanimously voted to combine and approve items 8ai-x

b. **Request of the City Traffic Engineer's Office Not to Approve the Following:**

i. On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Diaz the Board unanimously voted not to approve item 8bi.

ii. On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Farrow the Board unanimously voted not to approve item 8bii.

iii. On a motion by Commissioner Farrow and seconded by Commissioner Diaz the Board unanimously voted to table item 8biii.

iv. On a motion by Commissioner Diaz and seconded by Commissioner Williams the Board unanimously voted to approve item 8biv.

Councilwoman Martinez wanted to acknowledge the police officers who worked the Puerto Rican Day Parade for their professionalism. She suggests that the police officers should be shown appreciation immediately after good deeds, either at the council suite or in the Board of Police Commissioners meetings.

Adjournment: On a motion by Commissioner Curz and seconded by Commissioner Williams, the Board voted unanimously voted to adjourn at **6:57 PM**

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