

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF
THE HONORABLE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, September 17, 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 **6:02 PM**.

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

Also in attendance: Chief Roderick Porter, Lieutenant Stacey Lyons (Administrative Lieutenant), Lieutenant Adam Rozum, Delores Burrell

- a. Pledge of Allegiance – none (no flag on Zoom)
- b. On a motion by Commissioner Lyons and seconded by Commissioner Cruz, the Board voted unanimously to approve item 1b.

2. Reports:

- a. **Chief of Police:** Chief Porter stated that he attended a department head retreat and discussed the uptick in motor vehicle accidents that the officers have been in. Chief Porter stated that he has attempted to address this issue with discipline, retraining, and motor vehicle safety messaging. Chief Porter stated that the crime statistics are even with last years and that the homicide rate is considerably lower than last year with 9 so far. 6 of the 9 homicides have been solved already and Chief Porter anticipates the remaining to be solved as well. Chief Porter shared with the Board that the department will be holding symposiums in October. On October 1, 2024, there will be a domestic violence symposium. Guest speakers will include the Center for Family Justice and the Domestic Violence Unit. They will discuss the importance of domestic violence and recognizing the signs. Chief Porter stated that later in October there will be a symposium on the Police Accountability Bill. The Inspector Generals Office and Lieutenant Rozum from Internal Affairs will speak on this subject. Chief Porter mentioned that on October 9, 2024, is the Center for Family Justice annual Domestic Violence Vigil at the amphitheater to recognize and honor victims of domestic violence. Chief Porter stated that there are 26 recruits in the academy and three laterals have been hired. The recruit class that graduated in May has completed training and are on the road now. Chief Porter mentioned that Civil Service is currently testing for the police department and there is another lateral that is interviewing to become an officer. Chief Porter stated that there are 3

discipline hearings scheduled, and he is happy with the turn around on the discipline hearings. Chief Porter states that there will be a sergeant promotional ceremony by October and that he is proud of the list. He mentioned that a woman's symposium that was held in the Spring to talk about women in leadership and that he is proud that one of the results of it is that there are 5 women in the top 15 on the Sergeant list, Chief Porter mentioned that the Assistant Chief is ready to start on September 30 and that the City has budgeted for a second Assistant Chief. Chief Porter feels that upper leadership helps create the future for the department while anticipating the changes in CMERS in 2025. Chief Porter believes that the drop plan is a good option to maintain senior officers in the department. He mentioned that the police department is working with communities to address the uptick in break ins. Commissioner Roach and Commissioner Cruz congratulated the Chief on attracting lateral transfers and the selection of the Assistant Chief. Commissioner Cruz also asked for clarification on the accidents which Chief Porter mentioned to which he clarified that he was speaking about the ones in which the Officers are in and at fault for. Commissioner Roach thanked Chief Porter for focusing on the break ins and mentioned how the communities are responding and grateful for the assistance from the police department.

b. Union: None

c. Internal Affairs: Lieutenant Rozum presented the Board with the quarterly report for the Office of Internal Affairs. Lieutenant Rozum stated that this year there has been 161 investigations with 64 being citizen complaints. Last year at this time there were about 80 citizen complaints meaning there is an approximate 20% decrease. Lieutenant Rozum stated that there have been 63 entry level police and 4 certified background investigations. Lieutenant Rozum stated that they are currently processing 4 background investigations for tele safety communication dispatchers and the next investigations will be detention officer and more entry level police officer background investigations. Lieutenant Rozum stated that there has been 6 Baros Hearings this year and more that need to be scheduled. There have been 6 Chief internal investigations that led to Loudermill Hearings with 5 pending. Lieutenant Rozum mentioned that Internal Affairs currently has 3 sergeants and 1 detective, and they are looking to add more to them. Sergeant Mike Carter assisted in background investigations to help efficiency. Lieutenant Rozum stated that since he was assigned to Internal Affairs in 2022 there was 402 open cases and it is down to 102, resulting in a decrease of 69%. Lieutenant Rozum thanked the Commissioners for their support. Commissioner Roach congratulated Lieutenant Rozum with the numbers and how much they have decreased the case volume. Lieutenant Rozum stated that they are closing out cases, but the investigators face burn out. He also mentioned that with the number of cases coming in he is unsure if they can maintain the numbers given.

d. Clerks Report:

- i. Lieutenant Lyons addressed the Board to schedule 1 Baros Hearing. The Board voted to schedule the Baros Hearing on October 8, 2024.

3. New Business: None

4. Old Business:

- a. On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Lyons, the Board unanimously voted to table item 4a
- b. On a motion from Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner Cruz, the Board unanimously voted to table item 4b

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.-iii On a motion by Commissioner Farrow and seconded by Commissioner Lyons the Board voted unanimously to combine and approve items 8ai-iii

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

- i. No action necessary for item 8bi
- ii. On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Lyons, the Board voted unanimously to approve item 8bii

On a motion by Commissioner Farrow and seconded by Commissioner Lyons, the Board voted unanimously to add a request for a four way stop at Claremont and Summerfield Avenue due to insufficient sight to the agenda. This request was recommended for approval by the City Traffic Engineer. On a motion by Commissioner Farrow and seconded by Commissioner Lyons, the Board voted unanimously to approve this item.

Adjournment: On a motion by Commissioner Lyons and seconded by Commissioner Farrow, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at **6:47 PM**

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