



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chaired by Council Member Victor Jones

Members: Jones, Moore, Williams, and Johnson

JANUARY 19, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.

HIGH POINT POLICE DEPARTMENT-1730 WESTCHESTER DRIVE

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.; and thanked Chief Stroud for allowing the committee to host the meeting at the High Point Police Department.

Following a roll call by Chairman Jones, the following attendance by committee Members was duly noted.

Present:

Chairman Victor Jones, Committee Member Britt Moore, Committee Member Chris Williams, and Committee Member Tyrone Johnson

Staff Present:

Tasha Logan Ford, City Manager; Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager; Greg Ferguson, Deputy City Manager; Eric Olmedo, Assistant City Manager; Jeron Hollis, Managing Director; Tommy Reid, Fire Chief; Travis Stroud, Chief of Police; Peter Abernathy, Captain-Police Officer; Ryan Ferguson, Marketing Manager; Noelle Varga, Communication Specialist; Brandon Cook, Communication Specialist; Lisa Vierling, City Clerk; and Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk

The following documents associated with the presentations, are hereby attached as a permanent part of these proceedings:

1. *PowerPoint Presentation: High Point Police Department's 2021 Crime Review.*
2. *PowerPoint Presentation: Fire Inspections, Operation Permits, Hazardous Materials, and Standby Fees.*
3. *Handout: Fire Department existing fees assessed comparison & increase request.*

PRESENTATION OF ITEMS**2022-28 High Point Police Department- Year End Update**

Police Chief Stroud will provide a Year End Update on the High Point Police Department crime statistics.

Travis Stroud, Chief of Police, High Point Police Department (HPPD) made a PowerPoint Presentation on the HPPD 2021 Crime Review; discussed the changes to the HPPD's model for 2020-2021; and recognized his staff who will be presenting on different topics: Patrol Division-Assistant Chief Kevin Ray; Investigations Division-Assistant Chief Marc Kun; Community Division-Assistant Chief Petula Sellars; and Support Services Division-Deputy Chief Anthro Gable.

Assistant Chief Kevin Ray with the Patrol Division, said the Division had 6 patrol teams-no team is fully staffed at this time; provided a breakdown of traffic stops from the years 2019-2021 that included citations and written warnings; total crashes for the years 2019-2021 that included fatal and hit and run crashes; gave a breakdown for calls for service for the years 2019-2021 that included self-initiated calls by officers, and calls for services by Beats locations for the year 2021.

Chairman Jones voiced concerns about dangerous drivers.

Chief Stroud voiced the importance and appreciation for the Patrol Division; and spoke to the success with "traffic safety surge" campaign that began in 2021 where officers were located at the most heavily travelled roads in the city. The goal was to stop drivers who appear to be driving dangerously and educate them about why their driving was dangerous.

Assistant Chief Marc Kun with the Investigations Division said that his division is allotted 78 officers; currently staffed with 66 people (49 sworn officers-40 of those are detective, and 17 civilians); gave 2021 year in review breakdown on the total impact crimes -9%, total violent impact crimes -12%, and total gun related crimes -15%; breakdown for criminal homicides from the years 2017-2021 that included with firearms, domestic violence, and provided a number of cases that were cleared and closed; Firearm and shell casings review for the years 2017-2021 that included the number of firearms, firearms per month, shell casings collected, and total shell casings per month. In 2021 the HPPD had made 1222 charges for gun-related crimes. This included charges related to different types of assaults, carrying concealed guns, murder, possession of stolen property weapon offenses, etc...; and noted that there had been 210 arrests with firearms in 2021. Major Kun gave a breakdown regarding the frequency of occurrence for crimes committed that included violent crimes, property crimes, and impact crimes. He gave a summary of the Street Crime Unit; said the Unit was a six an team; provided numbers for vice and narcotics seized that included street value that included crack cocaine, cocaine (powder), methamphetamine, heroin, marijuana, fentanyl, and firearms; gave an overview of the heroin overdoses (Year 2020=261 and Year 2021=245), and deaths (Year 2020=12 and Year 2021=21), and noted that there were several pending autopsies that could change the numbers of deaths.

Committee Member Moore asked what formula was used for the allotments for each department; who set the allotments; how often were allotments completed; and inquired on the juveniles. Chief Stroud replied that staff set the allotments per 1,000 per capita formula; and adjustments would be made as needed depending on what force was needed.

Chairman Jones inquired on car jacks/versus keys left in car crimes committed. Assistant Chief Marc Kun replied that car-jacking was considered a robbery, whereas keys left in the car was considered motor vehicle theft.

Assistant Chief Petula Sellars with the Community Division spoke to the Division's mission that is based on building relationships; spoke to the three areas of focus that included youth, relationship building, and new projects; provided a list of new projects for 2021 that also included a new mascot for the HPPD that was still awaiting to be named to be voted on.

Deputy Chief Anthro Gable with the Support Services provided an overview of the HPPD's recruiting and hiring process that involved training, staffing uniforms and equipment, and building facilities; gave a breakdown of salary comparisons for officers with other cities; discussed the retention efforts; voiced the importance of retaining officers and being competitive; gave a breakdown of the HPPD's demographics that included race, gender, and the average age for officers; spoke to the education received by officers that ranged from High School, 2 year degree, Bachelor, and Master degrees; highlighted the mandatory training conducted annually; and provided a wish list for desired training.

Chief Stroud voiced the importance regarding retention and recruiting efforts that included having a competitive salary; and voiced appreciation for city leadership.

2022-29 Inspection Fees- High Point Fire Department

Staff will provide a presentation on inspection fees for the High Point Fire Department.

Tommy Reid, High Point Fire Chief made PPP on Fire Inspections, operational Permits, Hazardous Materials and Standby Fees; the objectives to consider are as followed:

- *to solve compliance issues*
- *hold people and businesses accountable for public safety*
- *recover the cost for noncompliance and repeated inspections*
- *create a revenue source to assist with the funding of additional inspectors*
- *currently 84.3%, our goal is to achieve 100% inspection completion rate*
- *presently our only avenue to gain compliance is through court action.*

Chief Reid gave an overview of the N. C. General Statutes that mandate fire inspections, and the Insurance Services Office (ISO) Community Risk Reduction (CRR) that mandates and requires fire prevention personnel to conduct inspections, building familiarizations, hazard mitigation and fire prevention in all properties in the city of High Point as part of the Class 1 ISO rating. provided handout that detailed the fire

department existing fees assess comparison and increase request. He gave a history of Code Enforcement Program; spoke to the present-day situation where inspector positions were reallocated during economic downturns and city growth and not replaced in the inspections division; provided a breakdown of staff that included 3 inspectors, and 1 Fire Prevention Education Officer; outlined the inspections, violations, reinspection's, and plan reviews; and time demand by inspection type. Explained the different inspection levels: Level 1-3800+ buildings, Level 2 1300+ buildings, and Level 3 300+ buildings. In summary the fire department is looking at accountability and compliance, revenue, and cost recovery for the city, and staffing and resources for service delivery to meet 100% of mandated inspections. A handout was also provided that included the Fire Department's existing fees assessed comparison & increase request; and discussed the challenges for recouping fees for inspection.

Tasha Logan Ford, City Manager spoke to beginning preliminary work in the Spring regarding an implementation policy to enact fees associated with inspections; if approved by council, staff would move forward; and time would be provided to individuals which would include education.

Discussion took place regarding concerns surrounding inspections to include safety, habitual offenders, cost to tax payers, and to having further discussions on recouping fees.

Committee Member Moore voiced appreciation and support for those who serve (Fire Department & Police Department); and thanked everyone for their hard work and effort.

Chairman Jones echoed appreciation and support for those who serve.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Jones asked if there were any additional comments/questions. Hearing none, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Victor Jones, Chairman

Attest:

Mary S. Brooks, CMC
City Clerk