



Public Safety Committee
Chaired by Council Member Victor Jones
Committee Members: Jones, Moore, Williams, and Johnson
January 15, 2020 - 3:00 p.m.
3rd Floor Lobby Conference Room

Minutes

Present:

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

Also Present:

Council Members Cyril Jefferson and Michael Holmes

Staff Present:

Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager; Greg Ferguson, Assistant City Manager; Eric Olmedo, Assistant City Manager; Meghan Maguire, Assistant City Attorney; Police Chief Kenneth Shultz; Assistant Chief Travis Stroud; Assistant Chief Ken Steele; Assistant Chief James McNeill; Brian Beasley, Police Attorney; Fire Chief Thomas Reid; Deputy Chief Brian Evans (Operations); Deputy Chief Tim Wright (Administration); Assistant Chief Michael Levins (GIS/IS); Laura Altizer, Senior Budget Analyst; Roslyn McNeill, Budget Analyst; Linda Price, Budget Analyst; Michael McNair, Director of Community Development & Housing; Michelle McNair, Community Resources Manager; Lori Loosemore, Local Codes Enforcement Manager; Tom Tricot, GIS Manager; Angela Kirkwood, Human Resources Director; Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk, and Lisa Vierling, City Clerk

News Media Present:

Pat Kimbrough, *High Point Enterprise*

Daniel Pierce, *Fox 8 News (WGHP)*

Joe McClasky, *Fox 8 News (WGHP)*

Note: The following handouts were distributed during the meeting and will be attached as a permanent part of these proceedings.

- ✓ PowerPoint Presentation- HPPD: Police Operations, Organization and Current Points of Focus
- ✓ PowerPoint Presentation- High Point Fire Department
- ✓ 2019 Annual Report- High Point Fire Department

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Victor Jones called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENTATION**2020-22****Presentation: Departmental Overviews from the Police & Fire Departments**

Staff will present an overview of departmental operations from the Police & Fire Departments.

High Point Police Department

Police Chief Kenneth Shultz introduced members of his staff that were present: Assistant Chief Ken Steele (Field Operations South); Assistant Chief James McNeill (Field Operations North); Assistant Chief Travis Stroud (Major Crimes Deterrence and Prevention); and Brian Beasley, Police Attorney.

Chief Shultz provided a brief overview about police operations, deployment, etc.... and highlighted some concerns and on-going efforts in the city. The High Point Police Department currently consists of 300 positions (255 sworn and 45 civilian); they operate in six (6) patrol teams/beats throughout the city. Each team consists of a Captain, three Lieutenants, and an allocation of 19 officers with a mandated minimum staffing of 13 or more officers.

The Chief stressed that everything the Police Department does is data driven and provided some 2019 statistics for the number of calls for service by hour of day that showed the lowest number of calls on Sunday and Saturday with the highest number of calls Monday through Thursday. The Chief spoke to how this information is used to determine officer deployment within the six beats, which are broken down into geographical sections of the city and spoke to the criticalness of the response times. Beats 2 and 3 are the smallest beats and have the highest percentage of calls. Approximately 97,613 calls were dispatched in 2019 with the priority average response at 2 minutes 48 seconds and the non-priority response time at 5 minutes 24 seconds. The Chief then provided a summary of the statistical breakdown by beats for 2019.

At this time, Chief Shultz introduced Major Ken Steele, who is the Assistant Police Chief over Field Operations South. Major Steele provided a brief overview of his responsibilities. He is responsible for:

- ✓ Personnel & Training
- ✓ Patrol
- ✓ Records
- ✓ Animal Control
- ✓ K-9 Unit
- ✓ IT

Major Steele spoke to how recruiting officers is a challenge and shared the qualifications for officers. He solicited assistance from the council members to send qualified applicants their way. He also solicited help from council members to serve on an oral interview panel and the need for volunteers to interview internal applicants within the department who are seeking promotions.

Committee Member Williams suggested posting the information on the qualifications and standards on social media. Chief Shultz pointed out the job market as a whole is really good right now and spoke to how no one wants to be a police officer because of the police officer shootings and dangerous situations they are involved with.

Major Steele encouraged involvement in community events and issued a personal invitation to the Police Department's next Promotional and Swearing-In Ceremony that will be held on March 2nd @ 3:00 p.m. at the High Point Theatre.

He alluded to the importance of training and noted that the State requires 24 hours of annual/mandatory training for an officer to keep their certification, while High Point goes way beyond by providing an average of 74 hours of training annually. Committee Member Holmes inquired about the breakdown of what the 74 hours of training looks like. Chief Shultz replied it includes a wide variety of issues the department has to deal with and he could provide this information to the committee.

At this time, Chief Shultz introduced Major James McNeill, the Assistant Police Chief over Field Operations North.

Major McNeill is responsible for the following areas in the department.

- ✓ Traffic (enforcement and motor vehicle collisions). Speeding is the number one cause for fatalities in NC; DWI is second.
- ✓ Property Crimes (larceny, burglary, financial crimes)
- ✓ School Resource Officers (SROs in all high schools and middle schools inside the city). He spoke to how recent legislation raised the age for charging children as an adult from age 16 to age 18.
- ✓ Community Engagement (community connection, awareness, downtown beat). Officers do visit churches, elementary schools, etc...

Council Member Jefferson pointed out the SROs are only in the middle and high schools and asked about plans for school safety in the elementary schools. Chief Shultz replied there are 17 elementary schools in High Point and funding is an issue. He noted the role of the SROs in the schools are to build rapport with the students.

There are two outreach officers in the city that engage with the youth to create a positive impact and encourage growth for their future. Major McNeill spoke to how this mission is accomplished because police officers are dedicated to helping students reach their maximum potential by providing one-on-one mentoring and hands-on life skill training. These officers created what is now known as Operation REACH (Respect, Engaging, Accountability, Character, Higher Standards).

Chief Shultz then introduced Major Travis Stroud who is responsible for the Major Crimes Deterrence and Prevention section of the department. The Major Crimes Deterrence and Prevention consists of the following:

- ✓ Major Crimes Detectives (homicides, robberies, aggravated assaults, kidnapping, missing persons).
- ✓ Special Victims Unit (domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, elder abuse). These detectives are located at the Family Justice Center.
- ✓ Strategic Intelligence Unit (Violent Crimes Task Force coordinator, gang detective, crime analysts, crimestoppers)
- ✓ Federal Task Force Officers (ATF, DEA, FBI, and US Marshal Service)
- ✓ Vice and Narcotics (drug offenses, prostitution, ABC)
- ✓ Street Crimes (multi-purpose unit- responsive to all significant impact crimes)
- ✓ Housing Authority (police all High Point Housing Authority properties)
- ✓ Forensics Unit (crime scene techs, property and evidence, latent print examiner)

Major Stroud spoke to how the clearance rate for crimes is 68.7%; how the department does not like open cases; and how their goal and desire is to clear every one of the cases. He pointed out that violent crime is the type of crime that is most impactful to the city but only makes up 7.11% of all crime in High Point. In 2019, there were 599 impact crimes and 19 homicides, all of which were investigated by five detectives assigned to major crimes. He stressed that everything the police officers do has to be done within the parameters as established by the law.

He elaborated that the department's 2020 approach to violent crime is to:

1. Prevent and deter crime (before the bullet leaves the gun)
2. When crime occurs (solve the case)

He spoke to the importance of attacking gun crime by the seizure of illegal firearms; aggressive prosecution of notified offenders in coordination with the Guilford County District Attorney and the US Attorney's office; using the NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistics Information Network); and gun team investigative follow-ups. The department will continue focus on the few offenders who are driving the violent crime; will continue with the VCTF Notifications and SIU Custom Notifications (with community support); enhanced partnerships with HPCAV and other community groups.

Major Stroud then reported on the department's deterrence and prevention efforts which include:

- ✓ Social Media Monitoring (HPPD, Crimestoppers, and the community).
- ✓ Organization, participation, and promotion of youth programs that are designed to stop violence before it begins.
- ✓ Involvement in Community Watch groups.
- ✓ P.A.L.S (Police Assisting Little Schools). Currently partner with two schools: Kirkman Park and Oakview Elementary.
- ✓ Collaboration with High Point Community Against Violence (this is the personal connection that the department cannot provide; a tremendous asset to the city).

Committee Member Holmes asked about the percentage increase that would make the department feel comfortable in stronger crime fighting efforts. Chief Shultz explained

there is not a formatted look as far as what a police department should look like and pointed out High Point does not look like any of the other police departments from nearby jurisdictions. He spoke to how the Major Crimes section is structured very differently in High Point than other departments and how the department has been restructured to ensure accountability in all the executive staff. He stated the department would welcome and could use any additional officers that are approved.

Chief Shultz also spoke to the following additional opportunities that the department is working on.

- ✓ Juvenile opportunities in juvenile detective areas
- ✓ Street crimes
- ✓ Gun crimes (technology)

The Chief noted historically the department has received great support from the City Council and reiterated that the most pressing need right now is to get more qualified applicants.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Tommy Reid introduced members of his senior staff who were present: Brian Evans, Deputy Chief; Tim Wright, Deputy Chief; and Mike Levins, Assistant Chief. He provided a general overview of the department's operations and reported that the HPFD is an ISO Class 1 agency and is one out of 87 departments in the United States out of 30,000 departments that has the ISO 1 rating and accredited status.

He proceeded to share the organizational chart for the department that includes 235 total personnel.

Chief Reid spoke to the Facilities/Fleet/Logistics Division which consists of 14 fire stations with a total of 19 facilities. He advised that the firemen maintain these facilities and do everything from mowing grass, repairing lawn mowers/weedeaters, maintenance on their fleet vehicles, etc.... He advised that although the number for them to be fully staffed is 70; their minimum staffing is currently at 58 with nine currently in training. He stressed the importance of having enough staff to cover the day-to-day operations of the department because of the impact it has on the ISO 1 rating.

The department covers 57 square miles in the city limits; serves a population of 114,183; contract areas 14 square miles with a population of 20,000. The primary response area consists of 71 square miles.

He advised the calls for service have been steadily increasing over the years with a total of 32,706 total responses and 16,035 total incidents in 2019 compared to only 19,359 total responses and 11,221 total incidents in 2009. The way things are trending, they expect the call volume to increase to 43,000. He then shared a heat map of the city with 2019 incident types identified. The bulk of these incidents is for medical and rescue at 68.7%. He spoke to how their goal is to be anywhere in the city when they get a call

coming into 911 to have a fire truck at the site within five minutes; on an average response, they meet the five minutes, however, at the 90th percentile, they are at 5:08.

He also shared a heat map identifying locations of homeless camps and narcan incidents throughout the city and talked about how the heroin overdoses continue to increase which is a national trend. The department responded to 180 narcan incidents in 2019 compared to 52 in 2015. He spoke to how they expend a lot of resources and how people want to try to help the homeless but are actually enabling them to stay in their camps in the woods. He spoke to the goal of getting the homeless out of the woods and getting them the help they need for them to be a part of society again and noted that mental health issues are a major concern.

Chief Reid spoke to how engaging the department is within the community and shared some of the other areas that the Fire Department is involved in such as medical and extraction; hazardous materials; technical rescue; bike team; dive team; community outreach; public education and fire prevention.

On the inspections/code enforcement side, the department is also responsible for making inspections and carrying out the Fire Code for commercial properties and public buildings. They have approximately 5,400 inspectable buildings in the city limits that are inspected on a one, two, or three- year rotation with an annual requirement of about 2,584 inspections. He spoke to how the department has six fire inspectors that do have to work overtime to get the inspections done and to the importance of being fully staffed.

Chairman Jones asked what the decreases are attributed to for fire code violations. Chief Reid explained it is attributal to the programs they are engaged in such as community outreach, risk reduction, fire prevention programs, reaching children in schools, code enforcement and reducing blight, as well as code and statute requirements help reduce the numbers.

Chief Reid spoke to how the community risk reduction also helps drive these numbers down. He reported on the following Fire Prevention Activities for 2019.

- ✓ 18,478 fire prevention education and training participants
- ✓ 195 smoke alarm and 388 battery installations
- ✓ Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program- enrolled 8 juveniles with 1,050 hours of instruction (255 juveniles since inception of the program in 2001 with only three repeat offenders).

The department also

- ✓ Conducts fire investigations for causes of fires
- ✓ Participates in the Red X Program
- ✓ Has its own Training Division

The Chief reported that in 2019, the Fire Department personnel completed 70,032 in-service training hours; the Training Division also facilitated 263 large scale classes and

spoke to how all training is done in-house and how they also provide training for fire personnel in other jurisdictions. All training and certifications comply with mandated standards/requirements from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) as well as the Insurance Services Office (ISO).

At the conclusion of the presentation, Assistant Chief Levins distributed copies of the Fire Department's 2019 Annual Report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m. upon motion duly made and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa B. Vierling, MMC
City Clerk

Victor Jones, Chairman
Public Safety Committee