

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 14, 2009

The December 2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on December 14, 2009 at 7:00 P.M., as advertised, pursuant to law. Commissioner Dodaro called the meeting to order promptly at 7:00 P.M. and then led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with the following members of the Police Commission being present; namely, William Dodaro, Rose Hejl, and Donald Farris. Also present was Chief Fred Frego. Commissioners Robert Long and Ronald Vale, and Town Council Liaison Jerri Teibel were not present. Town Council Vice-President Michael Forbes arrived at approximately 7:08 P.M. No legal representation was present at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

November 9, 2009 Regular Meeting - Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the November 9, 2009 Regular Meeting. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously (3-0).

CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS

Chief Frego advised he had two (2) items of correspondence that were received by the Police Department. Commissioner Hejl read a letter from Samantha Zorbas, Asset Protection Leader at the St. John Target Store, which was addressed to Chief Fred Frego. Said letter advised that on Friday, November 27, 2009, also known as "Black Friday", the St. John Target requested police assistance on short notice due to a crowd size of over 500 guests that were awaiting the opening of the store. The letter states that within five (5) minutes of Target's call, an officer arrived at the store and with his assistance; they were able to manage the large crowd with ease. Target stated that the partnership, professionalism and dedication exhibited by the St. John officers is exceptional. St. John officers display the highest level of commitment, integrity and collaboration while representing the Police Department to highest standards. Target wished to extend their appreciation and gratitude for the dedication and often unrecognized efforts of the members of the St. John Police Department. In addition to this piece of correspondence, the Target store also sent a large tray of Subway sandwiches to the Police Department on Saturday, December 5, 2009 in appreciation for the Department's assistance on Black Friday.

Commissioner Hejl read a second letter from St. John residents Amy and Jim Monihan. Said letter thanked the Police Department for the phone call they received during the night advising that they had left their garage door open. The Monihan's stated they truly appreciated the call and this fantastic service. They stated that although making a phone call seems like a small task, it has a very large benefit – family security. The Monihan's wished to thank the Department for their time and effort and for the wonderful job that the Department does. In response to Commissioner Dodaro's question, Chief Frego advised that the officers who responded in these incidents have been identified.

POLICE DEPARTMENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

Chief Frego read the monthly report for November 2009. Chief Frego stated that from November 1, 2009 through November 30, 2009, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 18,202 miles and responded to 461 incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 24 adult arrests with 34 charges being filed, and 4 juvenile arrests with 4 charges being filed. There were 223 traffic citations issued along with 41 written warnings for a total of 264 citations being issued during the month of November 2009 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of November, vehicle thefts totaled \$25,000.00, and all other thefts totaled \$4,597.00. The total value of recovered property was \$20,000.00. Regarding grant activity, the officers of the St. John Police Department, while working the OPO / BCC / OSS / DUI Taskforce Grants, issued 4 traffic citations and 6 written warnings for a total of 10 citations being issued on the grants during the month of November 2009. The investigation of these violations resulted in 6 adult arrests with 6 charges being filed and 0 juvenile arrests with 0 charges being filed on the grants for the month of November, 2009.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items of "Old Business" for tonight's meeting.

REPORTS

Budget – Chief Frego stated the 2010 budget is scheduled to be adopted by the Town Council Meeting at their meeting on Thursday, December 17, 2009.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Police Officer Eligibility List – Commissioner Dodaro stated the Commission has completed the interviews of the 35 eligible applicants. Of the 35 applicants, 33 were interviewed, and there were 2 no-shows. The Commission will call an Executive Session sometime after the Holidays to finalize the Eligibility List. Commissioner Dodaro stated he believes they will have a list of fine, highly qualified candidates as there are a lot of excellent candidates who have applied. Commissioner Dodaro also commented that all five (5) Police Commissioners were present both weeks for the interviews, which gave them a lot of insight into different perspectives of the interviews.

Commissioner Dodaro advised the Commission was in receipt of correspondence from Chief Frego to the Clerk Treasurer advising of Departmental Restructuring. Said memorandum stated effective at 0001 hours on Saturday, December 19, 2009, Michael Fryzel will relinquish the rank of Commander and will return to his previous rank of Sergeant, and to adjust his pay accordingly. In response to Commissioner Dodaro's question, Chief Frego advised that the position of Commander was being eliminated at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items brought up under "New Business."

CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Chief Frego thanked the Commission for all their time and effort they have put forth during the interview process. Chief Frego stated there has been a lot of hard work done by the Commissioners, and he wanted them to know it is appreciated.

ANY AND ALL

Town Council Vice President M. Forbes inquired as to how many applicants are on the Police Officer Eligibility List. Commissioner Dodaro advised that the final list is not complete yet, but he anticipates there will be between 23-28 applicants on the final list. There are a lot of really good, excellent, qualified candidates. He stated it will be tough to put them in order from top to bottom, but the end result will be a very good list.

Commissioner Dodaro advised that the President of the Schererville Town Council, Perry Ferrini, passed away Sunday evening, December 13, 2009. Commissioner Dodaro stated he has known Mr. Ferrini for a very long time, and he was an absolutely wonderful human being and a great family man. Mr. Ferrini's wake will be on Friday, December 18, 2009, from 2-9 PM, but it was not known for sure as to which funeral home will be handling the arrangements. Burial will be on Saturday. At this time, all the arrangements have not been finalized. Chief Frego stated he has been in contact with the Schererville Police Department regarding this matter, and he has advised them the St. John Police Department will be available to them for Mr. Ferrini's funeral.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no "Public Comment" at tonight's meeting.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, January 11, 2010. The Regular Public Meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M. There will be a Work Study Session only if deemed necessary. An Executive Session will be scheduled sometime after the Holidays for the purpose of completing the Police Officer Eligibility List. Any and all Executive Sessions will be advertised pursuant to law.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hejl made a motion for adjournment. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:13 P.M.

Town of St. John, Lake County
Indiana, Board of Metropolitan
Police Commissioners

Rose Hejl, Secretary

ATTEST:

Joan M. Gorcos, Recording Secretary