

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF  
THE HONORABLE BOARD OF THE HONORABLE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023**

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>

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 P.M.

**1. Roll call of Commissioners: Cruz, Lyons, Diaz, Williams, Roach**

Also in attendance: Lieutenant Stacey Lyons (Administrative Lieutenant), Chief Roderick Porter, Lieutenant Adam Rozum, Sergeant Joel Carley

- a. Pledge of Allegiance – none (no flag on Zoom)
- b. A moment of silence was observed for retired Officer Anthony Damato, who passed away on October 13, 2023, retired Officer John Dunn who passed away on October 20, 2023, and retired Officer Sam Cortello who passed away on October 29, 2023
- c. On motion by Commissioner Diaz and seconded by Commissioner Lyons, the Board unanimously voted to approve item 1c.
- d. On motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Diaz, the Board unanimously voted to approve item 2d.

**2. Reports:**

- a. **Chief Of Police** – Chief Roderick Porter presented the following to the board: Chief Porter is about to reach his one (1) year anniversary of being sworn in as Chief. Chief Porter will begin to implement policies to make the Police Department more efficient in 2024. Chief Porter requested a meeting with the Commissioners individually to go over his ideas for the Department. Chief Porter reported the following for the crime statistics: year to date shows an approximate 7% increase in crime. Week to date shows a 35% decrease in crime. The last 28-day period shows a 19% decrease in crime. For the year, shooting incidents shows a 13% decrease, shooting victims shows a 17% decrease, and our fatal shootings show a 7% decrease. Details were put in place to follow shooting trends especially in the area of Park Ave. and Wood Ave. and the Orchard St. area. At Park Ave. and Wood Ave, the Police Department met with public works to trim the trees and increase lighting in the area. In the area of Orchard St., the police department met with the health department, fire department and leasing companies of an apartment complex in the area to help improve security issues. Chief Porter spoke about how the recent graduation class from the academy has increased police visibility and proactiveness. Chief Porter touched on implementing Holiday strategies around

shopping plazas. Efforts continue Downtown and improvements have been seen. Chief Porter is up to date on discipline matters. Chief Porter has encouraged career development for officers through support from Lieutenant Lyons, Lieutenant Collazo, and Officer Campo (resume building, training classes, college support, etc.). The police department will begin taking on lateral transfers, which has already begun to show interest from outside officers. Commissioner Cruz asked about the process to improve lighting in certain areas. Commissioner Cruz requested Chief Porter to explain the efforts to collect items for the Homes for the Brave. The police department started collecting these items internally and it is now open to the public to donate. Officers also collected money to make a monetary donation. Commissioner Cruz and Commissioner Williams requested more information on lateral transfers. Chief Porter explained that policing in Bridgeport encompasses the full aspects of being a police officer, and that our contract, pay, and opportunities entice officers to want to come to Bridgeport. All lateral transfers will begin at the rank of police officer, go through a background process (polygraphs, psychological, etc.), complete a training process, and go through the FTO process as well. Commission Cruz asked about the reason for providing the recruits in the academy with their police badges during a recent ceremony. Chief Porter stated that he wanted to have the ceremony be more formal to make the officers feel welcomed and ensured the Board that steps are taken to protect against the recruits attempting to use their badge.

**b. Union – None**

**c. Internal Affairs -**

**Executive Session: None**

Lieutenant Adam Rozum provided a quarterly report for Internal Affairs. Lieutenant Rozum provided numbers and percentages with how many investigations, Barros Hearings, sustained complaints, etc. have been handled by Internal Affairs for the year. Lieutenant Rozum also mentioned staffing shortages in Internal Affairs.

**d. Clerks Report –**

- i. Two second step hearings are scheduled for November 30, 2023.
- ii. Three Barros hearings are scheduled for December 07, 2023.

**3. New Business: None**

**4. Old Business: None**

**5. Correspondence: None**

**6. Letters of Appreciation:**

a. Noted

7. **Widows Pension:**

a. On a motion by Commissioner Lyons and seconded by Commissioner Cruz, the board unanimously voted to approve item **7a**.

8. **A.** On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Diaz, the board unanimously voted to approve item **8A**.

**B.** On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Diaz the board unanimously voted to table item **8B**. The Commissioners expressed concern to deny this traffic request due to the building of Bassick Highschool, events at the arena, and Sunday church schedules. A formal letter regarding this matter will be sent by the Administrative Lieutenant to the City Traffic Engineer.

**Adjournment:**

On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Williams, the board unanimously voted to adjourn at **7:02 PM**.

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