

LADUE BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Ladue Board of Fire and Police Commissioners was held on Monday, November 9, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., at Ladue City Hall, 9345 Clayton Road and via Zoom.

Present:

Col. William Francis Jr., Chairman
Mr. L. Shepley Hermann (via Zoom)
Mr. John Schaperkotter
Mr. John Stupp

Absent:

Ms. Carol D. Gaskin
Mr. Stephen Jones

Also present were Mayor Nancy Spewak, Police Chief Ken Andreski, Jr., Fire Chief Steven Lynn and Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Johnson.

Chairman Francis called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

The agenda was approved upon motion by Commissioner Stupp and second by Commissioner Schaperkotter.

During an opportunity for public comment none was offered.

Chief Andreski presented the monthly NIBRS report, the new reporting style, and YTD June through October report. Percentage of clearances was over 33%, YTD percentage was 35%. Discussion ensued regarding the timing of clearance of incidents. The Chief explained that if a case occurs in March and it is cleared in November, the case will go back to March. The department is working on a method to go back and show a month to month comparison to see the clearances.

Chief Andreski reported on the status of the recommendation to transition police dispatching services to West County Dispatch Center (WCDC). The Chief reported that the City Council adopted a resolution declaring the City's intent to join the WCDC as an equal participant at their October meeting and that the department had been working on preparations for the transition and were on track for a January start date with WCDC, the WCDC participation agreement would be presented to Council for approval at their November meeting. The Chief reported that the City's personnel attorney had prepared retention agreements for the dispatchers offering additional compensation to incentivize them to remain employed (in good standing) with the City through the end of the year through the transition to WCDC. The Chief reported that dispatchers will be offered employment with WCDC. Although there would be a decrease in salary with WCDC, there are some improvements in benefits such as LAGERS retirement and SLAIT for insurance, which keeps premium increases low and a merit system for compensation which allows for opportunity for greater earnings over time.

The Chief next presented a report on staffing changes noting one recent retirement, one pending retirement early next year, one officer on military duty and two new officers beginning employment next week. Discussion ensued regarding the officer on military duty and the timing of his return home and acclamation period before returning to work.

Chief Andreski requested a special meeting in December, if necessary, for approval of a promotion to Lieutenant, to fill the vacancy created by Lieutenant Hahs' retirement. The Chief noted that there are two

candidates for the Lieutenant position and the promotional process is currently underway.

Chief Andreski presented three letters of commendation, with the first presented to Detective Johnny Dunn for exceptional performance of duty on August 6, 2020 by participating in the investigation of the BP Amoco Service Station robbery and assault of an employee. Detective Dunn's investigation resulted in the identification, confession of the suspect and the organized crime ring that committed 40 robberies in the St. Louis area and was turned over to the Eastern District of Missouri to be prosecuted federally.

The second letter of commendation was presented to Patrol Officer Roland DeGregorio for exceptional performance of duty on July 29, 2020 when he responded to the 9200 block of Clayton Road for a medical case involving a victim with serious injuries, including a severe arm laceration, with arterial bleeding. Officer DeGregorio was the first person on scene where he immediately evaluated the injured person and began life saving measures by placing a tourniquet on the victim's arm. His actions were successful in stopping the arterial bleeding which ultimately led to the victim surviving.

The third letter of commendation was presented to Detective James Gehm for exceptional performance of duty on March 15, 2020 when he participated in the investigation of the Ladue Pharmacy burglary which resulted in the identification of three suspects, which revealed that these suspects burglarized pharmacies in Illinois, Ohio and Missouri. One suspect was listed as a most wanted fugitive by the U.S. Marshall Service.

Upon conclusion of the presentation Commissioner Schaperkotter asked if the commendations could be posted on the City's website so that residents would be informed of the exceptional police work performed by these individuals. Chief Andreski responded that the request would be taken under consideration. Discussion ensued regarding the budget and if any funding for awards was included. Chief Andreski indicated the budget includes service and retirement awards but nothing specific for commendations, but he would look in to adding funds for that purpose.

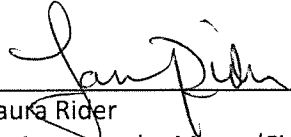
Fire Chief Lynn presented the monthly report and reported on recent significant fires where Ladue assisted Olivette, and the next day assisted Glendale with an explosion in a basement. Two individuals were stripping and staining a basement floor and failed to turn off ignition sources such as the furnace and water heater. The two individuals survived a significant blast. The Chief went on to report that overall call volume is down by 250 for the year, primarily EMS calls and attributed the decrease to the pandemic and the fear some people have of going to the hospital.

Chief Lynn reported on the situation in area fire departments due to the pandemic and indicated they were having a tough time because of positive cases or exposures. Ladue Fire Department had its first positive case and as of the meeting date everyone was cleared and back to work. The Chief reported that all training was being conducted at the fire houses. The Chief further reported on the hospitalizations, number of positive cases and death rate. Discussion began regarding the status of restrictions in place due to the pandemic and potential for a vaccine being available soon.

Chief Lynn reported that two firefighters recently left the department for districts and that the testing process had been conducted and two new firefighters had been hired with start dates of November 23rd and November 27th. The Chief planned to introduce the new firefighters at the next board meeting. Exit interviews were conducted with the two departing firefighters and revealed that they left for better benefit packages and better opportunity for growth, expansion and advancement as the districts have five to six houses. The Chief indicated that the Ladue Department works hard to create a family environment and was certain the departures were not indicative of issues regarding management.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM upon motion by Commissioner Schaperkotter and second by Commissioner Stupp.

William Francis, Jr.
Chairman



Laura Rider
Assistant to the Mayor/City Clerk