

POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

October 7, 2022

2:00 PM

IN ATTENDANCE: William Poling – Police Commissioner Chairman
Petar Dragojevic – Police Commissioner Vice Chairman/Secretary
Michael Rich – Police Commissioner
Thomas Pawlak – Police Commissioner
Gene Ward – Police Commissioner
Konstantinos Nuses – Assistant Chief
W. Luther Cuttino– Chief of Police

Commissioner Poling asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ITEM I NONE

ITEM II STATISTICS REPORT

The Chief of Police presented the August 2022 Monthly Statistical Calls for Service; 2,728; 345 Total Citations.

ITEM III LETTERS OF CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioner Poling read a letter of commendation from Commander Bunnell.

I was writing this memo to you in reference to some excellent police work that was done by Officer Solis #398 on September 5, 2022 which began as a routine traffic stop and resulted in a recovery of a stolen weapon along with the suspect being a convicted felon who was in possession of Narcotics.

Officer Solis was on patrol in the area of US 30 & Mississippi St. facing southbound when a tan Ford pulled up into the right turn lane on westbound US 30 and when the light turned green the suspect vehicle continued westbound on US 30 instead of turning right.

Officer Solis conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle which the registration plate was expired and the registration status of the plate was suspended. During his investigation while speaking with the driver and passenger, Solis noticed an odor of Marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. Once the driver and passenger were identified, Solis returned to his vehicle and ran record checks on both occupants. Officer Reid #400 arrived on scene to back up Solis on his traffic stop. Solis returned to the suspect vehicle and had both occupants exit the vehicle and asked both occupants if there was any more marijuana or weapons in the vehicle. Both suspects denied any items were inside the vehicle. Solis began his probable cause search and located a black semi-automatic pistol on the floor under the passenger seat. The gun was a black Glock 22, 40 caliber pistol. Central dispatch ran the serial number on the gun and received a hit through Ramsey County Minnesota that the gun was stolen. Solis continued his search and located a Louis Vuitton satchel where another magazine for the gun was located along with an unopened commercial bag of marijuana that was marked as 3.5 grams of marijuana. In the front pouch of the satchel Officer Solis located a small clear bag of a white rock substance which appeared to be cocaine. Inside the bag was a debit card and an inhaler that belonged to the passenger inside the vehicle. Solis then asked if the bag was his and he confirmed it was. Nothing else was located inside the vehicle. He was placed into custody and a pat down located a small bag of a leafy green substance that was later tested positive for marijuana. During the investigation he admitted that he was a convicted felon from a 2013 arrest and conviction for a weapons and narcotics charges. He advised he did a seven-year term in prison. Detectives were contacted to assist with the investigation and the suspect was transported to the station. After interviews were conducted by the detective, all the evidence was brought to station. The substances were tested and the results were the white substance tested positive as cocaine 8.4 grams. The green leafy substance found in the bag and on the suspect tested positive as marijuana a total of 5.0 grams. The suspect was transported to the Lake County Jail and the suspect vehicle was impounded. The other occupant was released from the scene. I believe that Solis did an outstanding job of investigation and the outcome was the recovery of a stolen handgun off the street along with the confiscation of the narcotics and getting a felon off of the streets where he will be heading back to Prison.

Commissioner Dragojevic made motion to accept the letter of commendation awarding a Level II Commendation and was seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Commissioner Poling asked if there were any discussion.

Commissioner Poling stated all in favor signify by saying, "Aye."

All replied, "Aye."

Commissioner Poling stated, "Opposed, same sign."

Hearing none Commissioner Poling stated, "Motion carries."

Commissioner Poling read a letter of commendation from Commander Bunnell.

On September 17, 2022 at 5:00 a.m., Officer Wright #408 was dispatched to W 58th Place in reference to a suspicious incident. Central Dispatch advised that a male white and two females were looking into car windows on the property.

Officer Wright arrived on scene and located a light blue Chevy Malibu parked in the 5800 block of Jefferson St. where he observed three subjects standing around this vehicle.

The subjects were identified and one of the females initially lied and gave false information about her identity but with persistent questioning. Officer Wright was able to obtain her correct information which led to the discovery of an active burglary warrant through Monroe County Sheriff.

The subjects were uncooperative and refused to let Officer Wright search the vehicle, so with the assistance of Sgt. Schmidt #294 and his K-9 partner Goose, the dog indicated an odor of narcotics on both sides of the vehicle.

Officer Wright conducted a search of the vehicle and discovered several bags containing a crystal-like substance that he believed to be methamphetamine. The total weight of the suspected narcotics weighed 158.2 grams.

Due to the large quantity of narcotics, Officer Wright made contact with Det. Lt. Bogner #204 who is currently assigned to the DEA. Interviews were conducted with the suspects that provided information on a large-scale operation.

Officer Wright observations, perseverance and diligence led to the arrest of these suspects involved in trafficking of methamphetamine and one suspect was wanted on a burglary warrant.

This arrest took a large amount of meth off the streets from Wrights arrest of these individuals.

In addition, the suspects provided Det. Lt. Bogner with useful information to the DEA which led law enforcement to further drug interdiction efforts.

I am recommending that Officer Wright receive a Level II commendation at the request of the attached memo I received from his commanding officer, Lt. Berzac #133.

I would also like to see a Level I commendation for Sgt, Schmidt and Det. Lt. Bogner with this letter placed into their personnel file.

Commissioner Dragojevic made motion to accept the letter of commendation awarding a Level II Commendation and Level I Commendations and was seconded by Commissioner Rich.

Commissioner Poling asked if there were any discussion.

Commissioner Poling stated all in favor signify by saying, "Aye."

All replied, "Aye."

Commissioner Poling stated, "Opposed, same sign."

Hearing none Commissioner Poling stated, "Motion carries."

ITEM IV OLD BUSINESS

NONE

ITEM V NEW BUSINESS

Chief Cuttino presented a Conditional Offer of Employment to Dylan Mazurek.

Commissioner Pawlak made a motion to extend the Conditional Offer of Employment to Dylan Mazurek and was seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Commissioner Poling asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Poling requested that Chief Cuttino take a roll call vote.

Chief Cuttino took a roll call vote.

Commissioner Dragojevic, "Aye"

Commissioner Rich, "Aye"

Commissioner Poling, "Aye"
Commissioner Pawlak, "Aye"
Commissioner Ward, "Aye"

Commissioner Poling stated, "Vote is unanimous, and the motion carries."

ITEM VI

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Rich made motion to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Pawlak.

Commissioner Poling stated all in favor signify by saying, "Aye."
All replied, "Aye."
Commissioner Poling stated, "Opposed, same sign."
Commissioner Poling stated, "Adjourn."

Commissioner Poling stated the next regular meeting will be Friday November 4, 2022 at 2:00 P.M.

AS THERE WAS NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.