

Police Budget Advisory Board Minutes
September 9, 2021 6pm City Hall

Attending: Evelyn Buisch, Amara Dunn, Irene Rodriguez, Robert Maclean, James McCorkle, Andrew Spink, Adam Blowers (city comptroller), Frank Gaglianese (at-large councilor), Michael Passalacqua (Police Chief)

Election of roles:

--Irene: Chair

--Robert: Secretary

(by unanimous consent)

Discussion with Chief:

--Assistance from other agencies (County, NYSP):

MJP.: Mutual aid with Sheriff's Office and State Police is reciprocal. They offer us mutual aid when assistance is needed, or call on us if they don't have a car. NYSP is a different entity, they run a "closest car" concept. If NYSP car is closest, they detail it to that job. GPD gets their shift every day so we know who's working. They'll have for example a North, South, and Center car. If we ask for assistance, 8 or 9 times out of 10 it'll be a Sheriff's deputy. NYSP has different duties (i.e. mail delivery). If their closest car (e.g. crash in the Town on White Springs Rd.) is farther away, we take over the scene until they get there. If we have a major incident, e.g. if we need a Command Post, which we don't have, the county will bring it in. Other services we don't have: K9, search for missing subjects, also SWAT if the need arises. They have four drones. Search wooded areas, e.g. behind the high school. Beyond the County., the SP has even more services. Helicopters, boats. Sheriff's office has snowmobiles, usually used in the south end of the Cty.

Would the county or the state ever be on a patrol in the city without a request for aid?

MP: Routinely, no. The OCS civil members might be here to serve warrants, subpoenas, orders of protection, etc. Even on a city address, OCS personnel The State Police do stop cars here. They don't take complaints here but they will stop cars for whatever reason on main streets. Not routine for them to be here.

EB: It's been brought up in the past, why not bring in the OCS office to help out, what do you say to that?

MP: The agencies are different in terms of the way they police and the area they cover. OCS breaks up the county into "posts," of which there are eight. One car, e.g., covers posts 1 & 2, Town of Geneva south across to Canandaigua Lake. My answer: response times are much greater with SO only because they're covering a much greater area. Map covers city: often their

road patrols won't even cover anywhere this side of Canandaigua. They're short as well. Their minimum is four cars (one per two "posts," numbers 7&8 even bigger than 1&2). Relying on city means fewer times seeing the police, driving by, checking doors, and extended response time.

--What keeps you up at night?

MP: Everything. Especially this time of year, we're forecasting, looking at things we'll need. Our vehicle maintenance needs: tires, gas, oil. End of every year we buy four or five sets of tires to cover the winter season. Try to budget to have \$1000 left in Nov to order tires.

Trying to maintain the level of service, training, supplies, and thing we need to operate day to day with what we're given. A budget process can be grueling. There's wants and there's needs, try to boil it down to what's needed. Obviously we can't control... God forbid we have a car crash, a totaled car, that would affect the fleet. Couldn't just buy a new car.

Movable line items if you look at the police budget, I actually control and use about \$120K/year for day to day operations. Adam and I talk frequently about what's needed.

Safety. Last two years, portable radios the guys use on the street on their belts, connected to the 911 merger, purchased in 2016 and begun to be used in 2017. Starting to need to replace parts. The radios we have aren't made anymore. We get refurb. A repair could go to ~\$110 - \$1000. A new radio would cost \$4000. We try to lean on Finger Lakes Communication.

AB: Every dept. is advocating for its own wants and needs. If I look at it and think it looks like a want to me, sometimes wants turn into needs, i.e. radios.

FG: Did you say \$4000/radio?

MP: In-car radios are more expensive... Never had a unit model go bad. The portables get a lot of wear and tear.

--Vehicles

AD: Wanted to get the specific vehicle quote

JM: As the city moves to solar and electric, can the whole city move towards electric vehicles?

MP: I've seen a monthly magazine that highlighted that but haven't personally looked into going that way for the fleet, but it's something we can look into

AB: Don't have a lot of city vehicles besides the PD. We have one electric car. There are a lot of grants available. I haven't seen a lot of options for electric vehicles. For police vehicles, it's just starting to get rolled out. A path we're going down (electric charging stations at City Hall and lakefront)—within the state bid process.

EB: What goes into you guys deciding it's time for a new vehicle. I've worked in a transpo dept., we're spending this much on repairs, past so many miles, etc. We had a process to decide when to buy a new one.

MP: We do something similar. On the RMS side (records management system), anytime a repair or replacement is done on a car, it's logged—the parts, not the labor because the city mechanic does that. Our fleet: set up on a rotation. We don't want cars run all the time. We assign basically two main cars to each shift. Days/afternoons/nights—cars assigned to them. A third officer will take another car. GV-5 and -7 we don't run on all shifts Very cognizant of the mileage. When I was in charge of the fleet, the insurance co didn't want us to run a vehicle over \$100k miles. If a car got to that and it was a good car, not a lot of repairs. We'd overhaul the vehicle, have everything checked. Right now, three of our cars are over 100k miles, but we keep track of everything. If we need a new transmission, e.g., we try to get a deal. Then, we have a \$25K budget for maintenance, it would cost us X to fix it vs. what we could get at an auction for it. If there's a big repair, we look at the car and the budget and assess. If it's not economically efficient, we'll send it to auction.

AD: No new vehicles last few years?

MP: Typical is we'd purchase and retire two new vehicles. 2019 and 2020 were years we didn't have new vehicles. We've had issues with water pumps at 5K miles, within warranty. Cars are finicky and we know what's going on with them repair-wise. Not always patrol vehicles. Usually we'd every 1-2 years purchase a patrol vehicle and an unmarked, investigator vehicle.

Three years ago we tried to go to a rotation where the afternoon guys aren't using any cars except the ones we assigned to them, so that we spread the mileage out.

AD: How many cars at a time?

MP: Right now, we have 14 or 15. Three detectives, a training/school car (a decommissioned car with only a radio), eight or nine marked cars with the SRO, chief's car.

AD: Help me understand the value of unmarked vs. patrol cars?

MP: Three investigators: Criminal Investigator, Youth Investigator, Narcotics Investigator. 2018: established an on-call system. Before then we'd call and hope they'd answer. I worked with the City, who worked with the union, to establish an on-call system so we always have one of the three on call. Realistically, the reason for it is they have take-home cars so they can be on call. On the monetary or budget side, when you take the cost of a marked car or an unmarked car, it's obviously a lot less. Has only 10% of the lighting a marked car has.

AD: So you said 2-3 cars/shift and it rotates, can you help explain how 9 cars fits into that rotation?

MP: Typically it's 2-3, we might have a heavy week where four guys are on at a time. Sometimes we're down 2-3 vehicles at a time. Sounds like a lot. Typical patrol car used 24/7 will last us 2 to 2 1/2 years. Other cars there in case, we have events going on. Block party or fireman's parade. If our fleet had only four vehicles we couldn't effectively carry...

JM: Essentially, the cars are a positive redundancy

MP: Essentially yes, if you go back to 2016 we have 28 bodies now and 37 back then. We often had 4-5 cars on at a time. Things have obviously shifted as far as how many guys we deploy per shift. If you go by right now there might be 2-4 cars parked and that's typical. Plus a sergeant out in the street. In 2015 we had a crash at Hamilton and Copeland, that car had 5k miles on it, was totaled; at the same time a couple cars were down. Doesn't happen all the time, but you have to be ready.

AB: We look every year at mileage and maintenance costs in preparing the budget

MP: When we auction it usually is being parted, don't get a lot of money....

JM: Axon body and dash cameras: what is the "Product Manager Representative"?

MP: Axon has been great, since 2019. They're now being replaced, it's an upgrade. I can log in from home and see which officers are active, are recording, and I can livestream into that recording and see what's going on. Part of the contract is Axon flew two members of their team in to do a training on how to use the cameras and the software, the cloud storage model. They came into that training... Myself and Sgt. Keyser (inter-department camera administrator) went to Boston to do a two-day training in their operability. We were able to help when Axon came into do the training. Contract with them is five years, halfway in, just got new equipment, will talk after four years about whether to re-contract, at which point we'll get new equipment. The thing that's enjoyable is the technical side. Sometimes cameras have malfunctions. We have 6 or 7 spares. Unassign a broken one, assign a spare, and send to Axon for repair or replacement. Requested in this year's budget a move to what Axon would call phase II, or vehicle cameras. Both a dash cam and a "cargo" cam covering the rear seat area. If we can get that, there will theoretically never be a time when a citizen being arrested or transported isn't on camera. Axon: I call them the Verizon of body cameras. Other companies out there, but they don't offer the level of support. Also not a lot of follow-up training is needed.

FG: Canandaigua recently purchased those car cameras right?

MP: Yeah about half a year. Chief Nelson did a demo for those of us who hadn't seen them before.

IG: It doesn't seem like there's a need on the Dept. side to do extra training and operating these cameras?

MP: It only takes about 20-30 seconds to tag and upload recordings. One of the nice parts about the software side is cameras are serial numbered to an officer. The officer "owns" that camera, when I look at it it has the date/time and serial number. One difficult thing early on was using the footage in court. They have audit trails for every video recorded, which helps with the court process. Where the camera audit logs can be admissible as a true record. Usually what happens is you upload it, and two days later I'm doing a random check to make sure everything is good, and I go to the audit trail it will show me when it was recorded, if it was paused, etc., and the next entry will be my accessing it right down to the IP address. Proof that nothing's been changed or altered.

Policing study

AB: Last meeting, we discussed a study in general, not necessarily the one [city councilor] Pruett recommended. Main gist of it was : Board is interested in a study of some kind, what exactly goes into that we might not be certain, but there is a need there for some kind of data set, but we didn't

FG: Is this ok? I know that John proposed that one company, but can you explain the process that needs to take place? You need an RFP? You need three?

AB: You don't need a specific number. Put on an RFP about "police staffing and scheduling," please submit your proposal by a date, at which point a group gets put together. Players involved get together and work it out. Select the vendor right away or do interviews of the top 2-3. Negotiate out price etc. Told Pruett we needed to do an RFP and that particular vendor wouldn't necessarily be selected.

MP: The study Adam is talking about. Dept of Criminal Justice Services has a study of staffing at no cost. DCJS did a study of GPD in the late 1970s. Comprehensive staffing, scheduling, obviously they look at probably hundreds of different factors, I don't know what they are, we're still the process of talking back and forth. The only other one I could find was done in conjunction with the HWS internship program back in 2013. That analysis wasn't even as nearly in-depth as the 1970s one, which was neat to read and 70-80 pages long. The newer one was dumbed down to a proposal. Other than those two I'm not aware of any other studies of staffing. Talking to DCJS but nothing has moved forward yet.

EB: Some of our concern, problem with an outside person look at your dept. individually how can they help you to make it effective not going by statistics. Council likes to ask let's get this done and the money isn't there. Idk how far depth the CC has gotten into that stuff, there's a lot of money that's tossed out there and hey we're doing this. Ultimately the goal is to make things easier for you guys....

MP: Efficient

EB: Yeah I was saying I hate statistics don't tell us how to do things after all we are unique. And being more efficient....

IG: We all have different perspectives. There's different models of policing out there. Would it be beneficial to have more mental health based perspectives?

MP: Specifically, regarding mental health, I just had a meeting about that at 2:00. I said if we could figure out a way to fix the mental health system and not leave people in crisis or have an interaction with us where there's harm to themselves and we bring them to the hospital and a few hours later we're back there. If we could be completely removed from that, I'd sign up tomorrow. Every scenario is so different. On Monday morning we had to retreat two female

police officers from a standoff because the male in crisis was so upset at seeing female officers, saying you don't belong in uniform, etc., we had to bring in male officers to negotiate.

JM: I wonder if there's a way of looking at the school district. They're impoverished when it comes to mental health, counseling, etc. When you look at private practice too, there's a deficit. As of now, the mess all falls to the police department and you guys don't want to deal with it.... There's like 650 domestic disturbance calls. A huge amount of the budget gets taken up by those calls. Is there a way to shift resources to the schools, hospital other agencies to create a synergy to address the roots of the problem (which statistically is caused by 18-25yo white males)?

MP: Our conversations with FLH started last year. The problem that everyone has run into. We have Ipad now, if the scenario presents itself, instead of taking them to the hospital, we can use the Ipad to call into CPEP and Clifton Springs. The problem is funding. Try to come up with grant funding or something that would support that kind of implementation, whether that's something through the police dept. or a more community-based model separate from the PD. Working with Erica Collins.

AS: Have you found it helpful to work with the Ipad?

MP: Yes, for a few reasons. Before CPEP went mobile and before they were responding to the scene of a crisis, you couldn't get ahold of anyone unless it was 8-4. That's totally changed, they come to the scene, they're totally available, either in person or via Ipad. I think they're totally understaffed. Crisis Intervention Team implementation has been great. If someone is having suicidal ideation, we have to ask: do you want to go to the hospital and they say no, we have to arrest them (941) because they're a potential harm to themselves. Now, in certain scenarios, that decision can be made by a clinician.

AB: The budget will be presented 9/22 by Sage and myself. Looking to put together a process for the PBAB's rec to CM which will be forwarded to CC.

AD: I have about ten more questions for the Chief—I can send those by email? But I need to have more information to be able to make a recommendation.

IG: Everyone send questions to Amara to compile and not inundate Chief's inbox. In the interests of time, send them tomorrow?

AD: I won't be able to look at them until 4pm, so send them by then.

IG: Meet early next week to discuss and make recommendations?

Meeting time discussion....

Wed is CC work session, Tuesday is Adam's wedding anniversary (congrats!)

Next meeting: City Hall, Thursday September 16th, at 6pm

Adjourned.