



# CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

## BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

We Are One Community

Glenda McDonald  
Mayor

### BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

#### Minutes of November 1, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by Chairman Johnson.

#### Roll Call:

**Present:** Chairman Ryan Johnson, Commissioner Brenda Hicks, Commissioner RJ Watkins, Commissioner Michael Curis, Commissioner Erica George, Internal Affairs Investigator Lackey, Chief McMann, Chief Hollowell, Sgt. Fergus, Officer Beard, Internal Affairs Monroe, Mayor Glenda McDonald

#### Approval of Minutes

Chairman: The minutes of October 4, 2023 were approved.

#### Opening Remarks

Chairman: I will give the floor to the Mayor today as we are honored to have her here.

Mayor: I am honored to be here and looking forward to moving this commission forward.

#### Police Department

Chief McMann: We had the Halloween event at the recreational center yesterday. We had a lot of participation, and it was a great turnout. We have two people in the academy scheduled to graduate December 7<sup>th</sup> and both are from Highland Park. We are working on developing a new record system which we hope to have up and running soon. We will be working toward a FOYA system so we can record request and maintain our records. We are about to get a prescription drug box in this building on Hamilton. We are partnered with DWIHN, and we are approved to be a drop off. If anyone has prescription drugs they can drop off with no questions and the DEA pick up.

Chairman: Does this include narcotic?

Chief: Yes.

Commissioner George: When do you expect that installed?

Chief: By next week. We are looking to make sure we photograph what is dropped off to ensure these drugs do not end up on the streets. We are looking for a community liaison to create a community calendar and plan events. We are in the process continuously to consolidate our property room. As you all know, we flooded at city hall which prompted our transition to this building and hope to finish it soon. We are working with the state and courts to close out our CCH records. CCH is criminal history record. If the event you are arrested, then charges are put in the system. If there are no charges or the charges are dropped, then some of those records were not updated. We are making sure all records have a disposition. We do not want anyone victimized.

Chairman: If the court does not do their part, is that on the court and not on the police department?

Chief: Correct. This is why we partnered with the courts to make sure we are working hand and hand.

Chairman: How far are we going back?

Chief: We went back five years. Many of the records beyond three years will start to clear.

Chairman: Do we have a place that citizens could come to help people past the five-year mark to help clear their records?

Chief: Yes, the citizens can come to us. We would follow up with our team or the courts and the outcome through the judicial system. We have discovered people have cases lingering and need closure. We are not the only agency in the state with the problem, but we have reached out for help.

Commissioner Hicks: For the community liaison, what are the requirements?

Chief: They do not have to be a police officer; they could be a reserve.

Commissioner Hicks: How soon do you expect that to take place?

Chief: Hopefully soon and it will be from within the department.

Commissioner Watkins: Is the crime rate down? We have a lot of restaurants closing.

Chief: I do not believe this is due to crime because statistically these stores have been around through higher crime rates. I think people were concerned about the water crisis.

Chairman: I know the chief does not have the statistics to answer that question.

Commissioner Curis: Many businesses received money from COVID and the higher interest rates, so this is effecting the stores due to higher cost. I think it is a combination but not due to crime.

Chief: I have not seen an increase in violence in that area. I think financially things are tough.

Chairman: I would like to recognize you and say thank you for things you are instituting that has not been done before. I commend you and I think you are doing an excellent job. I appreciate you engaging the community

Chief: I appreciate that and the people in our department appreciate that. It makes our jobs easier.

## **Fire Department**

Chief: This Friday we have someone graduating from the fire academy at top of his class. We did increase 60%. The fire at 6 mile and Woodward is being investigated. For Halloween we passed out 250 bags of candy.

Chairman: Is the increase of 60%, YTD or last month?

Chief: The increase has been due to a lot more accidents, careless cooks, burning trash. For structural fires there were 20 or 30.

Commissioner Curis: What are other incidents?

Chief: For instance, the police department could call us that is not an emergency we have to log it.

Commissioner Watkins: Did we have any incidents yesterday?

Chief: We did not have any incidents.

Commissioner Hicks: Did you have more patrol units?

Chief: We had two more persons on duty. I believe the police department did some additional staffing as well.

## **Internal Affairs**

Dir. Lackey: We had 2 complaints since last month due to storage fees and curtsey complaint which is being handled by administration. We are making progress with technology. We are shifting some of our software and making progress. We are waiting on an internet install.

Chief: How is blue light?

Dir. Lackey: We are adding two locations on Woodward. The two locations should be up in the next 30 days.

Chief: Can you tell us how many cameras are in the city?

Dir. Lackey: There are 114 cameras.

Commissioner Curis: How many buildings?

Dir. Lackey: I would have to check.

Commissioner Watkins: Did the citizen from last meeting situation get handled?

Chief: The person has been cited.

### **Commissioner Affairs**

Commissioner Curis: Are there any public members on the zoom?

Dir. Lackey: We have two.

Chairman: Are we planning any city auctions?

Chief: We work with Troy's towing and they publicize that information.

Commissioner Curis: Can we get the eight complaints?

Dir. Lackey: I will get those emailed to you after the meeting.

Mayor: I want to talk about how great our teams are. They are doing a great job. I get calls about how our departments are visible and they care. I stand behind the good work and I will defend them to the end. I appreciate the commission which makes my job easier. This is how it is supposed to run.

Commissioner Hicks: What are you all doing for the holidays?

Mayor: We just spoke to someone today about getting turkeys donated. The city had so many places doing it that made us shorter than expected. We are trying to do boxes. Both departments passed out last year. If you know anyone who would donate, we could reach out. From the community, they want to receive the boxes because they can get turkeys anywhere. We are grateful for everything we receive but let's get together and figure out what we can do.

Chairman: I use to have the UAW but many of those people are retired. How much would you need in turkeys and donations?

Mayor: I can come back to you on that number.

Chairman: If you let us know, we can work on it.

Chief: I want to recognize Officer Clayton. He has been here with us for a long time and he is a great guy, always greets everyone and we just want to say thank you and honor you.

Commissioner Watkins: Are you public safety?

Chairman: We use to be public safety but not anymore.

Mayor: We were under emergency management but once that ended, we split departments.

### **Closing Remarks:**

Chairman: There are no closing remarks.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, December 6, 2023 6:00 pm, Zoom and In-person

cc: City Clerk