

Police Commission
Tuesday, July 22, 2025
Remote via Zoom and In-person in Contois Auditorium City Hall
Burlington, Vermont
DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Commissioner Depper, Commissioner Brooks Fast, Commissioner Finneran and Commissioner Paul

Members Online: Commissioner Cox, Commissioner Comerford, and Commissioner Ginorio

Staff Present: Interim Chief Burke present, Command Staff Assistant Shibe Couchman online, Attorney Hayley McClenahan

Public Present: Councilor Melo Grant

1. Agenda

1.1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:01pm by Commissioner Depper.

1.2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

All Commissioners present.

1.6. Motions for Additions or Modifications to Agenda (Time Limited: 15 Minutes)

Commissioner Paul moved to add the discussion of a Commission retreat as well as a discussion of the Commission attending a Roll Call with a meeting to follow. Motioned, seconded, and approved.

Commissioner Cox mentioned how in previous years, a new chair and vice chair would be nominated and voted on at the beginning of the Fiscal Year. Motioned, seconded to discuss this evening, motion fails. Commissioner Cox requested to add it to the August agenda. Chair Depper accepts.

2. Adopt Minutes

2.1. Motion to Adopt Draft Minutes from May 27th, 2025

Moved, seconded, approved unanimously.

3. Public Forum (Time Limited: 10 Minutes)

3.1. The Public is Invited to Address the Commission

Councilor Melo Grant spoke regarding the past, present, and future of the Police Commission, urging the Commission to have balance between the public and the Police Department.

4. Commission Business (Time Limited: 30 Minutes)

4.1. Committee Reports from All Committees

The only standing Committee is the Complaints Committee. Tabled until section 4.5

4.2. Committee Changes

4.3. Flag and Table:

Public Information Directive – DD30

Law Enforcement Role and Authority – DD01

Chair Depper says that if the Commission has read and understands the Directives then the Commission can vote.

Chair Depper moves to approve DD30, seconded, approved unanimously.

Chair Depper moves to approve DD01, seconded, approved unanimously after Commissioner Paul question.

4.4 Discussion of DD03 – Fair and Impartial Policing – Update on Referral

Chief Burke to have a DD03 written up to be discussed in September's meeting, given the addition of new Commissioners and the previous DD03 draft being edited by Commissioners who are no longer part of the Commission.

4.5 Discussion of Complaints Committee

The role is to be notified of complaints, review, and provide feedback. Required by policy. Chair Depper is the only Committee member, Commissioner Finneran and Commissioner Ginorio appointed to join.

Time moved by Commissioner Cox to be extended by 15 minutes, seconded, approved unanimously.

Addition of 4.6 Commission Retreat / Informal Meeting

Commissioner Paul offers a Commission Retreat to give the Commissioners to get to know one another, speak informally in person. Talk about their priorities, what made them join, etc. Input as well from the Chief within this meeting.

Addition of 4.7 Attending Roll Call at the BPD

Commissioner Paul suggests Commissioners attend a Roll Call, give commendations, see the renovations at the Department and interact with the Officers.

Chief Burke supports the idea, will look into the timeline for the completion of Department construction to then have Commissioners attend Roll Call and see all improvements done.

5. Police Department Business (Time Limited: 30 Minutes)

5.1. July 2025 Chief's Report

Table setting with City data team. Charts supported by data shown and explained by Chief Burke. Discussed further updates within the Department to include policy and direction.

6. Commendations (Time Limited: 15 Minutes)

6.1. Officer Commendations

Commissioner Cox spoke of recent personal experience and interaction with Officers Moran (as well as second officer she could not remember the name of). She speaks of their patience, tips offered, and overall positive interaction.

7. Announcement of Next Meeting Date

August 19th, 2025.

8. Adjournment

8.1. Motion to Adjourn

The Commission adjourned the public meeting at 7:33pm.