

Police Commission
Tuesday, March 24th, 2026
Remote via Zoom and In-person in Contois Auditorium City Hall
Burlington, Vermont
DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Commissioner Depper, Commissioner Ginorio, Commissioner Paul, and Commissioner Finneran

Members Online: Commissioner Cox

Staff Present: Interim Chief Burke, DC Young, Director of Human Resources Lynn Reagan online, Command Staff Assistant Shibe Couchman online.

1. Agenda

1.1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by Commissioner Depper.

1.2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Required quorum present.

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

Commissioner Cox motions to remove Executive Session from the agenda because it is no longer needed, Chair Depper seconds. Unanimously approved.

2. Adopt Minutes

2.1. Motion to Adopt Draft Minutes from February 24th, 2026

Commissioner Ginorio moved to adopt the previous meeting's minutes, seconded by Chair Depper. Unanimously approved.

3. Public Forum (Time Limited: 10 Minutes)

3.1. The Public is Invited to Address the Commission

Councilor Melo Grant brings up the previous evening's City Council meeting and urges individuals to watch all footage of the ICE incident of March 11th. She would also like to see discussion of use of force.

4. Police Department Business (Time Limited: 60 Minutes)

4.1. Chief's Report -Chief Search Update and ICE Event Discussion

Lynn Reagan, Director of HR, gave an overview of the permanent Chief search process. IACP is putting together a candidate profile. Commissioner Paul asks if the process will begin soon and if there will be a committee as desired by the Mayor. Lynn Reagan does not know what the Mayor's intentions are but that the profile is hopeful to be completed soon to begin the search process. Commissioner Cox asks for clarity if the Commission is part of the process. Lynn Reagan does not know the direct answer but there is time until candidates are brought to Vermont after the ICAP screening.

Chief Burke presents a slideshow regarding the South Burlington mutual aid of the ICE events of March 11th. This presentation contains relevant department directives, personnel assigned to the mutual aid response, time/locations of BPD Officers, arrest made by BPD, equipment brought to the scene, the BPD complaint process and current point of the process, and the Executive Order for disciplinary decisions.

Chair Depper asks Chief Burke if the Police Commission can obtain bodycam footage of the event. Chief Burke offers Attorney Hayley McClenahan's opinion that was sent to the Commission.

Commissioner Ginorio understands that worse or more violence could have occurred at the incident if local police were not there. Commissioner Ginorio gives different situations to ask if BPD Officers would have a duty to intervene regarding force.

Commissioner Finneran asks if Chief Burke has anything at this moment, he wishes went differently regarding BPD Officers. He answers with no, not at this moment because he too relies on a fulsome review and tries to remain unbiased before a full package of information reaches him.

Commissioner Paul asks if the hopes of the administrative review completion within 30 days is counted 30 days from the incident or 30 days from the Police Commission meeting (Tuesday, March 24th, 2026). Chief Burke clarifies 30 days after the incident. Commissioner Paul asks if the 121 complaints regarding this incident are official complaints or if several of the 121 are not considered official complaints. Chief Burke answers that the full 121 are considered complaints. Commissioner Paul ends by saying Chief Burkes words of the day are insightful and meaningful, where his answers are refreshing and indicative of a Chief who wants to do their best, ultimately urging that all must do better.

5. Commission Business (Time Limited: 60 Minutes)

5.1. Committee Reports from All Committees

Complaints Committee

Animal Control Committee

The Complaints Committee has a potential scheduling. Complaints Committee can meet and work administratively without warning a meeting. Chair Depper encourages to go forward with the Complaint Committee as it stands now.

The Animal Control Committee has a meeting scheduled for April 1st.

5.2. Bylaws Discussion

Chair Depper recaps what was discussed regarding bylaws the month before. Commissioner Cox asks to table this discussion until next meeting to allow time to review. Commissioner Ginorio seconds. Passed.

6. Commendations (Time Limited: 15 Minutes)

Officer Commendations

N/A

7. Announcement of Next Meeting Date

April 28th, 2026.

8. Adjournment

8.1. Motion to Adjourn

The Commission adjourned the public meeting at 7:49pm.