

MEETING OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2020

WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the City of Westfield Public Safety Communications Commission will be conducted via remote participation. Specific information can be found on the City of Westfield website at www.cityofwestfield.org. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen to the meeting may do so by tuning into Channel 15 or online at westfieldtv.org. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the City's website an audio recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

The Public Safety Communications Commission meeting was remotely called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Commission Chair Bernashe.

Roll Call: Commissioner Bernashe – Present
Police Chief Valliere– Present
Fire Chief Egloff – Present
Commissioner Emmings – Present
Commissioner Nunez – Present

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Emmings made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting which was held on August 12th, 2020 which Commission Chair Bernashe signed on behalf of the full board. Chief Valliere seconded the motion. Roll call was taken.

Chief Valliere- Yes/ Commissioner Emmings- Yes/ Chief Egloff- Yes/ Commissioner Bernashe- Yes/ Commissioner Nunez- Yes
All approved.

New Business: Administrator Barszcz advised the Commission that she had been nominated to take the open spot on the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council (WRHSAC) as the Public Safety Communications Representative. This spot is to be a voting member on the Council and to bring forward any news and information that relates

the most amount of mental health calls in the last six months and maintaining an average of 94% on all the reviewed incidents for quality.

- Dispatcher Will Serrano was also recognized at the staff meeting for being attentive and proactive to employee morale in the dispatch center.
- Dispatcher Jason Menaker has reached his one year anniversary and Dispatcher Terkelsen is approaching her second year anniversary working in the center.

Administrator Barszcz advised the Commission that because Chief Valliere had in past meetings brought up these public recognitions as being important to share with the dispatchers, she had reminded all the dispatchers at the staff meeting about the Commission, when meetings are, how to access the meeting for attendance, what is typically talked about, and how to find meeting agendas and minutes.

MCSA Scholarship Program:

Through the Massachusetts Communications Supervisors Association a grant is available to fund personnel from Mass PSAPs to attend either the Certified Public Safety Executive course or the Communications Center Manager course. This grant is competitive and the employee must apply and be accepted into the program to which they will attend the course for a period of time in person in another state and through an online component. This opportunity has been presented to all of the dispatchers and so far there had only been one dispatcher openly interested in it but was unsure of whether family obligations would make him unable to attend.

Budget/ Grant Updates:

Administrator Barszcz advises that the PSC budget is on track for the year with ample funds. Only a quarter of the overtime budget has been spent so far and that is not including incoming reimbursements from grants. Several reimbursements totally over \$90,000 have already been submitted this fiscal year and are waiting to be approved and sent back from the state. Since Covid, the State 911 Department has been going over their thirty day reimbursement policy.

Outside, Public AEDs:

KEVS Foundation President and Founder had donated a locked cabinet that stores an automatic external defibrillator machine to the Westfield Parks and Recreation Department back in the early spring. Just recently, the cabinet has been installed and is ready to go at the Municipal Park off Franklin St. Dispatch, Police, and Fire had not been brought into the planning process of this before the installation so some of the procedural concerns were quickly resolved after a meeting the previous week with many City departments including Dispatch, Parks and Rec, DPW, Law, Police and Fire. The dispatchers now have access to find the code for the locked cabinet in case of emergency in the vicinity. Commissioner Bernashe notified the Commission that she had seen a news article printed about this initiative.