

City of Biddeford
Biddeford Police Advisory Committee
June 27, 2023 6:00 PM Biddeford Police Dept.

1. **Status:** - *Biddeford Police Station*
2. **Call to Order**
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Acceptance of Minutes**
 - 4.a. Acceptance of Minutes from 5-23-23
[BPAC Minutes 5.23.23](#)
5. **Briefing on Selected Topical Areas**
 - 5.a. Discuss any new committee business, information, community concerns or feedback.
 - 5.b. Discuss upcoming National Night Out event
 - 5.c. Update on retirements, employee transitions, and plans for programs going forward.
(K9, SRO, Drone)
6. **Public Safety Committee Items**
7. **Other Business** - *Closing*
8. **Adjourn**

City of Biddeford
Biddeford Police Advisory Committee

May 23, 2023 6:00 PM Biddeford Police Dept.

Meeting Notes

1. Call to Order: 6:03 pm

Attendees: Chief JoAnne Fisk, Deputy Chief Steven Gorton, Carolyn Southwick, Fred Olson, George Sutherland, Kelly Seiler

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. April Meeting Minutes Accepted

4. Briefing on Selected Topical Areas

4.a. Discussion of the current housing crisis and how to respond to concerns regarding the unhoused in Biddeford

- There are areas in the City where the unhoused have established short or mid term shelter; when this results in a violation (e.g., trespassing), the Biddeford Police Department may intervene however displacing individuals is not a long-term solution
- Jacob Hammer, Community Engagement Specialist, is the best resource to contact for concerns about the unhoused not related to a specific violation; 207-323-1801
- York County Community Action (<https://yccac.org/> 207-324-5762) and Seeds of Hope (<https://seedsofhope4me.org/> 207-571-9601) are two examples of entities that provide support/aid to the unhoused, which BPD works with to find support of individuals

4.b. Discuss ongoing opportunistic vehicle break ins where individuals attempt to gain entry to unlocked vehicles and take loose change or unsecured property. These instances are sometimes shared via home security networks such as Ring cameras.

- The BPD does not have access to personal security networks but will utilize information provided by citizens who call to report concerns
- These types of issues are difficult to prevent without a constant police presence, the best approach is to make sure your vehicles are locked and any property is removed or not visible to dissuade break in attempts
- Discussed a recent break in on Outer Pool Road as an example of a break in which led to a vehicle theft

4.c. Upcoming Events – Discussed the upcoming and ongoing events in Biddeford that may impact traffic flows and the volume of pedestrians and how the BPD plans for public safety at these events

- Memorial Day Parade through Biddeford and Saco – date 5/29, route, overview of how the BPD will reinforce security around access points
- Confe? Bazaar – date 6/3
- La Kermesse / Kora Shriners Parade in Biddeford – date 6/10, route, overview of how the BPD will reinforce security around access points
- Art Walks are resuming for the season, held the 3rd Friday of each month
- Na?onal Night Out – date August 1, Advisory Commi?ee will have some level of involvement this this year’s event, to be discussed in more detail at the next (June) mee?ng

As it related to Officer’s experience patrolling / providing security details during community events, the group discussed Officer’s experience interac?ng with the community and the general tone and tenor with which they are received. This was described as posi?ve in general, with Officers feeling welcomed and appreciated in most cases, and seeing community events as a way to build partnerships and posi?ve rela?onships.

4.d. Recapped the status of grants discussed at the April mee?ng

- Expect to have more informa?on about the status of a K9 resource and handler by end of June
- Expect to have more informa?on about the drone by the fall
- Research is s?ll underway regarding a possible ven?la?on hood for drug tes?ng

5. Public Safety Commi?ee Items

- Reminder from the BPD that fireworks are not legal in Biddeford; discussion regarding the placement of signage aler?ng residents and visitors to this fact and the need to re-evaluate if more communica?on is needed given the growing popula?on and visitors
- Discussed the laws around drinking/consuming substances in public and the differences – and o?en confusion about – permissible outdoor drinking as part of an establishment/event versus consuming off premises. This can become par?cularly confusing during ‘pop-up’ events in parks or at the beach where consuming is permi?ed as part of the event but in a limited area. BPD advised when in doubt, clarify with the vendor to ensure you are partaking properly.
- Ques?on raised based on recent news regarding the use of ‘SWAT’ style response units, discussed the use of ‘SWAT’ in Biddeford
 - BPD does not have a designated ‘SWAT’ style response unit – this is not viewed as the best use of resources for BPD or necessary given the current

climate; rather, BPD relies on the State Police and other communities as needed for a special unit or tactical force response.

4. Other Business

- Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at 6pm, location: Biddeford Police Department

8. Adjourn: 7:26pm