

Port of Seattle

Police Civil Service Commission

Commissioner Oris Dunham
Commissioner Kirk Merrill

April 4, 2017
Police Civil Service Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Approved July 18, 2017

Call to Order: Commission Chair Vic Peirsol called the April 4, 2017 meeting of the Port of Seattle Police Civil Service Commission to order at 10:03 am.

In Attendance:

Commissioner Oris Dunham
Commissioner Kirk Merrill (Teleconference)
Interim Chief Rodney Covey, Port of Seattle Police Department
Paula Edelstein, HR, Secretary for the Commission
Tracy Goodwin, Legal Representative for the Commission
Brandy Brown, PCSC Administrative Support
Jessi McFarland, PCSC Administrative Support

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Merrill moved to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2015 meetings. The motion was second by Commissioner Dunham and it was unanimously carried.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Commissioner Merrill moved to approve agenda for the April 4, 2017 meeting. The motion was second by Commissioner Dunham and it was unanimously carried.
3. **Public Comments:** No public comments were offered.
4. **Chair and Vice Chair Elections:** The commissioners in attendance elected their officer for 2017. Kirk Merrill was nominated by Oris Dunham and was unanimously carried to be the Chair. Oris Dunham was nominated by Kirk Merrill and was unanimously carried to be the Vice Chair.
5. **Order of Business**
 - a. **Recognize Vic Peirsol for Service –** Interim Chief Rodney Covey
Vic Peirsol served on the Police Civil Service Commission since inception in 2001. Interim Chief Covey presented Mr. Peirsol with a plaque for his 16 years on the Civil Service Commission along with a Port of Seattle Police Department Coin.

b. Appointment of Talent Acquisition Manager as Civil Service Secretary – Paula Edelstein

Sr. Director Human Resources, and current Secretary to the Police Civil Service Commission, Paula Edelstein, asked the commissioner to consider a motion to appoint the Talent Acquisition Manager as Secretary to the Civil Service Commission.

Commissioner Dunham moved to appoint the Talent Acquisition Manager. The motion was second by Commissioner Merrill and it was unanimously carried.

Kathy Lewless, the current Talent Acquisition Manager will service as the Police Civil Service Secretary.

c. Port of Seattle Police Department Briefing

Commander Bill McAteer briefed the commission on the Port of Seattle Police Department.

The POSPD consists of 98 sworn officers and 30 civilians, including a Police and Fire dispatch center. The area patrolled is the SeaTac Airport and the Port of Seattle Seaport consisting of cargo & cruise ships, marinas and park. They also work very closely with surrounding agencies in Seatac, Tukwila, Renton, and Des Moines.

The department is led by Interim Chief Rodney Covey, with two Deputy Chiefs. Deputy Chief Mark Thomas oversees the operations side with the Airport Commanders (2) and a Seaport Commander. Deputy Chief Covey oversees the administrative side with a Criminal Investigation Commander, Administrative Commander and Communications Center Manager.

The majority of the work of the POSPD is at the SeaTac International Airport (STIA). STIA is a category 'X' airport based on various factors such as the number of takeoffs and landings annually, the extent of passenger screening at the airport, and other security considerations.

Policing at STIA is different than a city agency and comes with unique challenges. The need to keep business continuity is necessary with a 24 hour operation that relies on the timely movement of passengers and airplanes throughout the airport. The POSPD also works very closely with their Federal Partners: TSA, CBP, FAMS, USSS, and the US Coast Guard.

The Seaport is also very unique with cruise ships and freighters sharing the water with private pleasure craft. The terminals served over 900,000 passengers in 2016. With the larger cruise ships expected in 2017, the number is expected to increase, while also continuing to patrol the public access areas, parks and marinas. POSPD also partners with ILWU and the terminal operators.

The Criminal Investigations Unit is currently staffed with 4 detectives. This unit is not fully staffed. The detectives work with the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, DEA Task Force, and Valley Officer Involved Shooting Task Force. There is 1 full time Crime Scene/Evidence Technician. The detectives also conduct felony follow up and filing of cases with the KCPO.

The Police and Fire Communications Center consisted of 1 Communication Center Manager, 2 non-sworn shift supervisors, 16 fulltime Police & Fire Communications Specialist. The center services POS Police, POS Fire & Emergency Medical Services, Normandy Park Dispatch and Burlington Northern Santa Fe.

Port of Seattle Police Department Specials Teams:

- Marine Patrol/Dive Team
- Regional SWAT/Crisis Negotiators
- Regional Civil Disturbance Unit
- Bike Team: The entire civil service is bike certified.
- Bomb Disposal Unit: FBI Trained
- Explosives Detection K9 Unit: 8 TSA Teams. Currently have two dog training specifically for passenger training.
- Gang Unit

POSPD Community Partnerships:

- Police Citizens Academy
 - Held 1x a year. Next class will be in the Fall of 2017. Educate the public about the policing capabilities and special teams of POSPD.
- Partnerships with TSA and other Federal Agencies
- Successful “Marina Watch Programs”
- National Night Out event at Shilshole Bay Marina (13 years)
- Customer Surveys
- Informal weekly meeting with Federal Partners. This partnership has become an example for other airports best practices.

The POSPD has found that the likely hood of calls being placed is related to the education and community involvement of the officers.

Interim Chief Covey provided the commission a hiring update.

At this time, POSPD is hiring and working to getting fully staffed. POSPD has had difficulties filling positions due to the pass/fail aspect of the testing (ethics portion), limited candidates due to the current nature of the job, as well as the legal status of Marijuana in the State of Washington impacting eligibility for police officers.

Future actions will include extension of the candidates list, specifically for Commanders.

The meeting was adjourned by the Commissioner Dunham at 11:15 am.