



**PUBLIC SAFETY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS BOARD COMBINED REGULAR AND
QUARTERLY - REGULAR SESSION
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024, 6:00 PM**

The Public Safety and Community Relations Board Combined Regular and Quarterly convened in regular session at 6:00 PM, September 25, 2024. Board Chairperson Rachel McFarland called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Sean Murphy	Board Member	Present
Surena Fish	Board Member	Present
William Bennett	Board Member	Absent
Ashley Farmer	Board Member	Present
Arthur Taylor	Board Member	Present
Rachel McFarland	Board Chair	Present
Tylian Smith	Board Member	Absent

Public Comment

Individuals wishing to provide emailed public comment must email comments to publiccomment@cityblm.org at least 15 minutes before the start of the meeting. Individuals wishing to speak in-person may register at cityblm.org/register at least 5 minutes before the start of the meeting.

SPEAKER 1: Possible issuance of citations for Illinois compiled statues would be out of compliance with Federal law. Issue with being asked for a driver's license. Non Commerical inter and intra is not governed by the State but the citizens. Wants to be left alone if not committing a crime and this will increase community relations.

Consent Agenda

Items listed on the Consent Agenda are approved with one motion; Items pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion are listed and voted on separately.

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 5.A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the August 28, 2024 Special Session and July 24, 2024 Regular Session Public Safety and Community Relations Board Meeting.

Board Member Farmer made a motion, seconded by Board Member Bennett, to approve the item as presented. Board Chair McFarland

called roll: AYES: McFarland; Farmer; Fish; Bennett; Taylor; Murphy.
Motion passed.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.B. Presentation and Discussion by the Bloomington Police Department (BPD) on an update of complaints received.

There is currently one pending complaint and no PSCRB requests for review. Additionally, there has been a slight increase in calls for service.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.C. Presentation by the Bloomington Police Department on the taser use report There were 22 use-of-force incidents, with 2 involving two or more officers. In August, there were 11 incidents involving the use of a taser.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.D. Presentation on personnel training and continued education by the Bloomington Police Department (BPD).

The department currently has 128 officers out of an authorized 132. Five officers are in the academy and are set to graduate on December 27th. Three candidates, all from Illinois, are in the background check process for employment. Additionally, one retirement was announced yesterday.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.E. Presentation on recruitment statistics by the Bloomington Police Department (BPD)

The application process for new hires is open, with a closing date of October 11th.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.F. Presentation and Discussion by the Bloomington Police Department (BPD) on general department updates

ALPR: Installation of 15 new systems will begin soon, targeting areas where coverage is lacking, including 6 on the east side and 2 in southern Bloomington. The county will also receive some units. Recently, a vehicle stolen in Normal, containing firearms, was tracked all the way to Missouri, with the guns still inside. Officers were investigating a hit-and-run when ALPR was utilized. In August, ALPR was instrumental in locating 3 stolen vehicles. Yesterday, ALPR helped recover a gun involved in a fight at a gas station, which also had a green laser attached.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.G. Consideration and action on future meeting dates, times, location, and topics

Commissioner Taylor inquired if there was any indication of what caused the 500- call increase in service. The police representative responded, noting that they typically see an uptick in calls during June, July, and August. He also mentioned that violent crime had not increased.

Commissioner Fish raised a concern from westside neighbors asking whether the shift to new license plates instead of stickers was related to ALPR systems. The police representative clarified that it was not connected.

Commissioner Smith mentioned a group of nurses who had received threats via text and asked if there was a threat detection system in place. The police representative explained that such systems are only triggered if a crime has been reported.

Board Chair McFarland requested feedback from the special session held in August, asking what improvements could be made. Commissioner Taylor felt the meeting went well, considering the openness of the forum, and said it allowed the public to express concerns, which aligns with the board's mission. He noted that future meetings should continue in this vein to help prevent cases like Sonya Massey. Commissioner Fish agreed but emphasized the need to video record the meetings and is following up on why recording wasn't allowed at the Bloomington Public Library. Commissioner Smith agreed, calling it a missed opportunity.

Board Chair McFarland noted that it was interesting to see the U.S. Attorney from Springfield attend the meeting and felt good about the participation and discussion. Commissioner Farmer mentioned the high media turnout and said some outlets may have video footage. Commissioner Fish spoke with a WGLT reporter, who couldn't record the event due to missing audio equipment. Chair McFarland highlighted that the meeting became the top news story that evening. Commissioner Taylor added that the commission receives excellent coverage when requested. Commissioner Smith was surprised by the strong turnout and felt the commission can improve future meetings.

Commissioner Fish suggested sending a thank-you message to stakeholders, informing them that if there are concerns, they can address the board. Commissioner Smith also requested a demonstration on how the ALPR works. The police representative noted that while it's complex, they could provide a demonstration.

Board Chair McFarland asked if the police could provide a demonstration on interactions and procedures, to which Commissioner Taylor suggested showing a police training video to give the public insight into the challenges officers face. Chair McFarland proposed creating a plan to show training videos to the community. She tasked the Communications Committee with drafting a letter to community members, seeking input on topics they would like to see covered. The police representative requested two months' notice before meetings to ensure proper preparation. Commissioner Smith agreed to handle the letter. Board Chair mentioned at the next meeting will be the make-up of the board. Would like two more members and they don't have to be youth. There will also be a complaint review.

New Business

Adjournment- Next meeting: October 23, 2024. Board Member Taylor made a motion; seconded by Board Member Murphy, to adjourn the meeting. Board Chair McFarland called roll: AYES: McFarland; Farmer; Smith; Fish; Taylor; Murphy. Motion passed. The Meeting Adjourned at 7:06 PM.



Board Chairperson



Michael Hurt, Staff Liaison