



Office of the City Manager, Chief Administrative Officer
Monthly Administrative Report
September 2019

Port Huron Police Department employees were busy in August with 15 (fifteen) crimes of an unusual or serious nature compared to 20 (twenty) last month. The following is a preview of this month's occurrences.

On August 1st, the Major Crimes Unit (MCU) received information from a deputy that a 24 year old male Port Huron resident was boosting cart loads of merchandise from the Walmart in Fort Gratiot. MCU located the suspect in the 1200 block of Chestnut Street and MSP pulled over the vehicle. Crystal meth was observed inside the vehicle along with drug paraphernalia, a fake handgun, and suspected stolen merchandise. The suspect, a 29 year old male Port Huron resident, and a 37 year old female New Haven resident were all arrested and will be charged with some combination of Receiving & Concealing property, Possession of Meth with intent to Deliver, Retail Fraud, VCSA, DWLS 2nd and Parole Violation.

On August 4th, Port Huron Police Department officers were sent to the 900 block of Prospect Place on a disorderly subject call. The suspect, a 50 year old male high on drugs who resided in one of the apartments, was highly irate. The suspect had forced entry inside another apartment holding a 52 year old male and a 52 year old female, who were screaming for help, against their will. The suspect had broken two windows on the home and assaulted the 52 year old male with a piece of wood. The suspect began smashing a 45lb weight plate through one of the doors near the officers. Officers forced entry with a ram through the barricaded door after the suspect refused to cooperate. PHPD Officers fired multiple baton rounds at the suspect from a less than lethal weapon through the broken door at the suspect who said he was armed with a shotgun. The suspect became compliant after the first round temporarily embedded itself into his forearm and a second round struck his torso. The suspect was taken to McLaren Hospital due to the baton rounds striking him. A warrant was sought for Felonious Assault, Malicious Destruction of Property, Home Invasion and Resisting and Obstructing officers.

On August 14th, PHPD officers were dispatched to a disorderly person at the Soup Kitchen in the 800 block of Chestnut. Officers were unable to locate the suspect, but believe him to be a 36 year old Port Huron resident who was currently homeless. They located this male who had warrants for his arrest at 4th and Wall Street. The male was told he had a warrant and that he was under arrest. He refused to listen to officer's commands. As he was taken to the ground, he continued to resist as officers fought to handcuff him and eventually used a Taser. The suspect advised he owned the soup kitchen and was a member of the Secret Service. He was transported to McLaren Port Huron for medical clearance.

On August 16th, PHPD officers responded to a 911 call from a grandmother who advised her grandson, a 31 year old Port Huron resident, was armed with a shotgun and fled the door of his home in the 900 block of Johnstone. Officers were unable to locate the grandson but now the grandfather, a 68 year old male from Jackson, MI, was having a heart attack. EMS responded and transported him to the hospital. Officers learned the grandson had pointed the shotgun at his grandfather and they feared he may harm others. Officers from Port Huron and Marysville, troopers, deputies, and Border Patrol responded. A K-9 track and a helicopter search were underway, but they were unable to find the male.

The Major Crimes Unit located the suspect the following day. He was arrested and lodged in the St. Clair County Intervention Center for Felonious Assault.

On August 19th, PHPD officers were dispatched to the 2nd turnout south of the Blue Water Bridge for a male and a female struggling to get out of the water. The female came out of the water, but the 41 year old male from Bath, MI was hanging onto the sea wall after a retired police officer visiting the area tied his belt around the males wrist and held him until help arrived. Detective Merritt and Officer Conley were the first personnel to arrive taking over holding the victim up until fire was able to put the ladder in the water and assist the victim with climbing out of the water. Once out of the water he was treated by Tri-Hospital EMS and then transported to McLaren Port Huron Hospital.

On August 24th, PHPD officers were dispatched to the 500 block of Quay Street on a report of shots fired from a loft apartment. Witnesses advised they heard a male yelling at a female just prior to the shots. The 26 year old male resident and his 25 year old girlfriend from Fort Gratiot were found uninjured. Both advised no shots were fired, no gun was involved and there was no argument or assault. A consent search revealed no signs of shots fired or a gun. The male said he did bang on a table in the loft earlier while watching a sporting event. Other residents were interviewed and didn't report hearing anything unusual.

On August 25th, Central Dispatch received a 911 call from a frantic female advising her child was not breathing inside a vehicle near 13th & Water Street. The caller said they were enroute to McLaren ER. The Medical Examiners Officer contacted PHPD investigators when they learned the 14 month old child had passed away. The parents, 27 and 28 year old Port Huron residents, were in the 1300 block of Division prior to calling 911. PHPD Criminal Investigative Unit, Major Crimes Unit and the Medical Examiner's Office are investigating.

On August 27th, PHPD Officers were dispatched to the 1100 block of 10th Street for a male swinging a bat and smashing things in the apartment. People were struck with the bat and one person grabbed a knife. The 22 year old with the bat was arrested for Domestic Violence and Felonious Assault and lodged. The injured were treated and released.

Another successful "Float Down" was handled by the police department with the assistance from many other Law Enforcement, Fire, and EMS partners. After months of planning and numerous meetings the Port Huron Police Department concluded the event with only making one arrest for Operating While Intoxicated. The event was successful with no loss of life. This concludes the police department summer events.

The number of reported drug overdoses in the month of August were thirteen (13) compared to eight (8) last month. Seven were from heroin, three were from prescription drugs and the rest were from an unknown substance. Luckily, none of the overdoses resulted in death. Calls for service overall in August 2019 (2716) decreased 12% from July 2019 (3037).

In the month of August, the Port Huron Fire Department responded to 337 calls for service, including 10 fires, 237 medical emergencies, 13 vehicle accidents, and 18 hazardous conditions.

On August 12th, fire companies were called to the St. Clair River in front of the YMCA for a report of a suicidal female patient in the water. After the patient refused a PFD provided by a St. Clair County Marine Division vessel, Lieutenant Jeff Easter entered the river, secured the patient in a PFD, and brought her to shore. The patient was transported to McLaren Hospital for evaluation.

On August 21st, fire companies responded to near-simultaneous, but ultimately unrelated, factory fires on adjoining properties in the Industrial Park. Michigan Metal Coatings, at 2015 Dove Street involved a running ductwork fire in material distribution componentry. ALD Thermal Treatment, at 2656 24th Street, involved a roof fire near a heat treatment exhaust assembly. Fort Gratiot, Port Huron Township, and the City of Marysville provided mutual aid companies.

In the month of August, thirteen firefighters and officers completed the IADRS Watermanship Test, in anticipation of the Dive Rescue 1 class that was held later in the month. The Watermanship Test included a 500 yard swim, 15 minute tread, 800 yard snorkel swim, and 100 yard victim tow, as well as a nine foot free dive. All of these testing evolutions were conducted with no more than a 15 minute break between exercises. Later in August, Dive Rescue International conducted a three day Dive Rescue 1 Public Safety Diver Course in Lake Huron and the St. Clair River. On August 16th, the Port Huron Fire Department's Underwater Rescue Team was placed in service. Under limited conditions, advanced rescues will be conducted with rapid SCUBA units and rescue swimmers. As further training sessions are held, the Department foresees an expansion of operating conditions.

Fire companies completed over 800 hours of on-duty training, including industrial facility tours, pre-fire planning, aerial operations, and dive rescue support and tending operations.

Fire companies completed 28 life safety and pre-fire inspections. The Fire Marshal completed 22 fire inspections as well as numerous on-site consults. Over 400 public education contacts were made at multiple special events this month including three smoke detector installations requested by City residents.

The Clerk's office handled normal responsibilities of processing FOIA requests, voter registration changes, scheduling cemetery burials and preparing proclamations and general correspondence for the Mayor.

The Engineering Department staff continues to work on the design for the replacement of the master water meter located at Gratiot Avenue and Keewahdin Road as well as the McMorran Boulevard Reconstruction project (Huron Avenue to Merchant Street).

Riverside Boat Launch Parking Lot project was awarded on July 8th with work expected to begin in mid-September. The Bathroom Renovation project is still under review.

The contractor continues to work on the Quay and Michigan Street Reconstruction project. They began work on Michigan on July 22nd and work is expected to be completed in late September. Also, the contractor continues to work on the 13th Street reconstruction between Lapeer and Water Street. The anticipated completion of this project is mid-November.

A Notice to Proceed has been issued for work to begin on the Trail Head Buoy construction area at Lighthouse Park.

The streets maintenance staff continued to perform the typical month-to-month duties which included crack sealing most days and applied over 13,000 pounds of hot rubber throughout the City and street sweeping 19 days with 108 cubic yards of material being removed from the streets. The asphalt crew put down 88 tons of asphalt at six locations and repaired curbs at five locations. Many alleys and roads were graded. Radar trailers were placed at different locations for the Police

Department each week. Streets were closed for four special events. Cement barriers were placed around the Rockin' the Rivers footprint each week. Brush was cleared out on the south side of the canal and on rainy days street sweepings were hauled to the landfill.

The motor vehicle pool staff maintained the preventative maintenance list and the solids application equipment (gator) had three major breakdowns that took several days to repair.

The traffic section was very busy with performing Miss Dig locations as well as fabricating and replacing "no parking" signs.

Utilities Services continued to perform the typical month-to-month tasks. These tasks include water meter reading, sewer cleaning and assistance to the Water Office for turn-ons and shutoffs for non-payment of water bills. For the month of August the Utilities department had 47 scheduled meter appointments and had 380 addresses on the shutoff list of which 262 addresses were shutoff for non-payment. Utilities staff also completed numerous catch basin repairs to the State trunk lines which is part of an agreement with the State to maintain their catch basins. Approximately 20 basins were rebuilt. The Utilities staff also fixed three locations on the City sewer mains, one being off of Beard Street and the other two in the 3400 block of Stone Street.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) staff continues their normal operation and maintenance procedures. The second of the two odor control fans broke down causing foul odors to escape from time to time. The motor on the first fan has been down for over a year and staff was able to make repairs using parts from both fans and motors to get one running. Quotes were obtained for repairs and replacement to the second fan for a back-up. Tetra Tech was hired for design of the Grit Channel Rehabilitation and Odor Control Replacement project. Research and design for a new odor control system is in progress. City staff witnessed a technologically new ionization odor control system. The feasibility of this type of system and operational costs are being examined for potential installation at the plant. Plans for rehabilitation of the grit channel in the primary treatment process will be ready for bid next month.

Kennedy Industries was contracted to replace a coupling in a pump at the Scott/Poplar pump station. Utilities staff will assist in bypassing sanitary flow at the 16th street pump station for the second (north) half to be cleaned. Issues with pumps and the flow meter have significantly decreased since the south half was cleaned. The stationary gas standby generators for the Scott/Poplar and Water Street pump stations will soon be delivered. The contractor, J. Ranck Electric, will pour concrete pads, install the generators and coordinate with SEMCO Energy for a new service at Water Street and new meters at both stations. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled with Murray Underground for the Northern Sanitary Pump station. The existing station will be demoed and a new one built within the canal right-of-way to serve the school and adjacent properties.

The construction contract for a new switchgear building and switchgear installation was awarded to RCL Construction, Inc. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for next month. Coordination with DTE has begun for a new primary electrical service to the WWTP in relation to the switchgear project. A new, upgraded service is required for reliability and connection capabilities to the new switchgear. The City is working with Tetra Tech to draft an easement agreement between St. Clair County and the City for locating the DTE equipment on County property across from the WWTP.

The land application program is well underway. The gator equipment has had a few failures that have been repaired by City mechanics. Hauling and applying will be continuous, including

weekends, as long as the weather cooperates to make up for the very wet spring. The program will likely run into October. The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has enforced increased PFAS sampling at the plant and from industrial users. The environmental technician is remaining diligent in meeting the requirements.

The Water Filtration Plant (WFP) staff continues their normal operation and maintenance procedures. Dean Marine, Inc. is under contract to stabilize the raw water intake pipes for the WFP. The work will commence once the river elevation and flows recede. Sanctum Contracting has nearly completed the maintenance garage. The new mason has done a notable job re-bricking the building. The roof is on and pouring of the concrete floor and door installation will complete the building. Reasonable Roofing was awarded the contract to re-roof the main building, floc building, and low lift building and will begin work in late summer. Materials were reviewed and the energy efficient thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO) was selected for use on all three roofs.

During the month of August and continuing on into the month of September, the Human Resources Department is accepting employment applications for full-time Police Officers. We are also accepting applications for part-time Police Cadets, School Crossing Guards, Pro Shop Sales Staff for McMorrان and Temporary Laborers for various departments.

A pre-kickoff meeting for the United Way was held on Tuesday, August 20th and the official kickoff meeting will be held on Monday, September 9th for this year's campaign. Human Resources Director Julie Davis has been asked to co-chair along with Karry Hepting from the County for the Government Division for this year's campaign.

City administration is scheduled to meet with the six (6) unions on Thursday, August 29th to explain the City's plan to bond out the pension liability for the existing pension plans and how it would stabilize and provide a path to financial stability to the City. Bargaining sessions will be scheduled following this meeting to talk about how we close out our existing pension plans and create a new plan for new hires.

Health & Safety training is ongoing. We continue to train new employees as they come on board at the City.

The Code Enforcement Unit had 255 new enforcements opened and the Administrative Hearing Bureau heard 61 cases. \$1,230.00 was collected in payments this month.

The Rental Inspection Division completed 275 inspections and certified 80 rental units in August. Staff responded to two rental complaints and no new rentals properties were registered during the month.

The Inspection Division issued 141 permits and collected \$42,241.00 in permits fees. Inspectors responded to 36 inspection complaints throughout the month.

In Community Development, there has been a transition of a new employee. There is continued work being done with the CAPER. The Rehab Project is complete at 17th Street and will be on the market by the end of September. There were three first time homebuyers that used Urban Pioneer Program and two façade grants processed.

The Planning Department prepared three items for the September Zoning Board of Appeals and two Planning Commission items. These included a zoning variance for a front yard setback at 2807 24th Street, a zoning variance for building setback and site plan approval at 1313 12th Street, site plan review for our office for a used car lot at 3519 Military Street, and a zoning variance for truck dock in front yard at 2210 Beard Street. The neighborhood watch map for Policing Zone District 12 was also completed.

In the Recreation Department, Rockin' the Rivers was a main focus and an extremely successful event. With record crowds and awesome weather, Kiefer Park was the place to be on the first four Thursdays in August. The Magic Bus, Hotel California, Mainstreet Soul and Forever Young rocked the park and concert-goers enjoyed the food, drinks and inflatables.

Pools closed for the season on August 14th but not before we hosted a special party just for the dogs. Approximately 30 dogs dove into Sanborn Pool. The Times Herald was onsite and printed a great story along with lots of photos. We hope to make this an annual event.

Beaches will remain open through Labor Day. Kate's Concessions will be on hand to offer cool drinks and tasty snacks. Sprout City and our new Super Slide were busy throughout the month and Camp Palmer Summer Day Camp was still going strong, wrapping up on the last Friday of August.

In the Month of August, McMorran Place assisted with Rockin' the Rivers at Keifer Park, hosted Port Huron Civic Theater "Legally Blonde" and Wolverine Productions "Dickey Lee" Concert.

In the Cemetery for the month of August we had 13 services with eight being full burials and five being cremains services. National Restoration has been scheduled to restore the interior of the Mausoleum and to repair damage from years of a failing roof. Staff continues to elevate trees and remove dead wood to improve health and aesthetics of the trees in the Cemetery.

The Information Technology Department was involved in a number of activities. Of note were working with Police Department on a recommendation for a parking ticket application; working on upgrade for replacement telephone PBX for MOC which is scheduled for cutover September 10; investigating desk-top emergency notification applications; successfully testing live stream of City Council meetings.

During the past month the Income Tax Division continued reconciling withholding payments with the annual information returns filed by employers and sending correspondence on any inconsistencies. We have also been sending delinquent notices and assessments using our new software. We continue to use information previously received from the State to help with our compliance efforts.

The Accounting Division continued to perform the typical month-to-month duties. These include processing payroll, expense checks and other usual monthly work such as posting journal entries, updating various spreadsheets, balancing accounts, etc. We also completed numerous adjustments in anticipation of the year-end audit. These included various inventory accounts, receivables, accounts and contracts payable as well as accrued payroll. We also began updating our spreadsheets for the various construction projects having activity during the year. This includes working with the Engineering Division in order to properly allocate the project costs to various funds, such as Streets, Water and Wastewater.

The Assessing Division has continued the process of updating the sales history and entering it into our computer files in anticipation of our 2020 sales study. In addition, we have begun the fifth year in a process of verifying assessing information for all City properties. This program will ultimately take several years to complete. During that time, we will re-measure all buildings and structures as well as documenting other information including fences, sheds, sidewalks, pools and patios. We have now begun measuring the exempt properties according to State requirements. In total we have visited over 400 properties to date during 2019. The exempt properties take somewhat longer as this is a new State requirement and we have very limited data on them.

The Treasurer's Office and Water Office continue to be busy with collection of income tax payments and water payments. We also continue to perform the monthly accounting for BWATC. We are also collecting summer taxes, however this has slowed somewhat since the July due date. This allows us to review some of our old water files and prepare them for storage. Also, the recreation programs, beach parking lots and the boat launches are still active.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James R. Freed', written over a horizontal line.

James R. Freed

City Manager

Chief Administrative Officer