



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

Port Huron Police Department employees were busy this July with 20 (twenty) crimes of an unusual or serious nature compared to 23 (twenty-three) last month. The following is just a preview of this month's occurrences.

On July 2nd, PHPD officers received a call of a domestic dispute at the Beverage Barrel, 1433 Military. The 33 year old male had left on foot. Officers interviewed the 35 year old Port Huron female who told of a Home Invasion that occurred in the 1400 block of 6th Street where the same male had forced entry inside her apartment. The male had then struck her in the head. She was transported to a Detroit hospital for treatment. The male was located at a bus stop at 28th and South Boulevard headed back to Clinton Township where he lived. He was charged with Home Invasion, Domestic Assault on Pregnant Individual, and Interfering with Telecommunication Device. He was lodged in the St. Clair County Jail.

On July 4th, PHPD officers were dispatched to the Zebra Bar in reference to a domestic assault that had just occurred. Employees were restraining the suspect until police arrived. The victim, a 30 year old Port Huron Township female, was working inside the Zebra Bar just after the bar closed. Her ex-boyfriend, a 35 year old Port Huron male, was allowed into the bar by fellow employees when he asked to speak with her. The male took her cell phone, grabbed her by the arms and pushed her down flights of stairs. He smashed her cell phone and continued to assault her. Another employee put the male in a choke hold and held him down until police arrived. Officers lodged the male in the St. Clair County Jail for Domestic Assault upon a Pregnant Individual, Interfering with a Telecommunication Device and MDOP.

On July 5th, PHFD was dispatched to a structure fire in the 1500 block of Union Street after a neighbor called 911. Cadet April Seavolt was off duty, but driving by. She entered the residence and helped the mother, who was covered in soot, get her small children out of the home. At that moment officers arrived and were told the grandfather was still inside the basement. Officer Brian Daly kicked a basement window out and evacuated the 67 year old grandfather through the window. A dog was later rescued by the Port Huron Fire Department after they arrived on location. Residents were treated for smoke inhalation. This was a great collaboration work by Port Huron Police and Port Huron Fire Department employees.

On July 9th, PHPD officers were dispatched to the Liquor Palace at 509 10th Street in reference to a male who had a handgun and was pointing it at a female. The 34 year old male and the 31 year old female, both Port Huron residents, had left in a vehicle. Witnesses confirmed what had occurred. Officer Derek Paret did locate the vehicle in the 400 block of 12th Street. The male was arrested for felonious assault and lodged in the St. Clair County Jail, but the female denied it happened.

On July 9th, Central Dispatch aired a call of a robbery in progress at Kay Jewelers inside Birchwood Mall. The Sheriff's Department located the suspect vehicle southbound on Gratiot near Sanborn. PHPD officers joined the pursuit and later discontinued it. However, the suspect vehicle

was picked back up again at Hancock and I-94 and the pursuit concluded at Riverside and Scott. The driver lost control attempting to navigate the curve at a high rate of speed striking a guardrail. Three occupants fled from the vehicle and ran into the backyards along the Black River. Officers, Deputies, and Troopers then pursued on foot eventually taking all four occupants in custody. The Major Crimes Unit assisted with evidence processing. The suspects are believed to be involved in other smash and grabs of jewelry stores in the region. This investigation/arrests were a cumulated team effort involving SCCSD Road Patrol and Detective Bureau, Drug Task Force, PHPD Road Patrol and Detective Bureau, Major Crimes Unit, Michigan State Police, US Border Patrol and citizens of Port Huron who pointed out suspect locations after they fled. The three 17 year old suspects and one 19 year old suspect, all from Detroit, were lodged in the St. Clair County Jail for Robbery and Fleeing & Eluding.

On July 12th, a PHPD officer was attempting to initiate a traffic stop for failure to use turn signal and erratic driving at 20th and Court Street. The driver, a 65 year old Port Huron male, finally stopped at 15th and Wells. He gave the officer a fake name and later admitted to swallowing methamphetamine. He was taken to the Lake Huron Medical Facility for medical clearance and then lodged in the St Clair County Jail for Fleeing & Eluding, Destruction of Evidence, Resisting & Obstructing, DWLS, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. He also had a warrant out of the St. Clair County Sheriff Department for a prior Fleeing & Eluding.

On July 16th, PHPD officers responded to a serious personal injury accident at I-94 and Garfield. The accident was witnessed by numerous people who indicated the victim intentionally walked out into traffic. Detectives and Accident Investigators responded to the scene. The pedestrian, a 32 year old male Port Huron resident, was transferred out of McLaren into another hospital and is still in critical condition.

On July 16th, the Major Crimes Unit began working Organized Retail Fraud incidents at the Fort Gratiot Walmart and the Meijer in Fort Gratiot and Marysville. A 47 year old male Port Huron resident, a 51 year old male with an unknown residence, a 28 year old male Port Huron Township resident and a 23 year old female Port Huron Township resident were all charged after the investigations revealed they were responsible for pushing out large televisions and other merchandise. Most of the suspects were lodged in the St. Clair County Jail with the help of road patrol deputies and PHPD officers.

On July 21st, a 69 year old male Port Huron resident, who is a valid CPL holder, took his dog for a walk near 31st and Conner Street. His dog is missing an eye from a separate dog attack in the past. Another dog aggressively came at him and his dog. This caused him to back into a wall and fire two shots as the dog advanced on him. The male and both dogs were uninjured and the owner of the other dog, a 33 year old male Port Huron resident, didn't realize his dog had got out. He was charged with Dog at Large.

On July 24th, while on routine patrol, an officer observed flames coming from the front porch of a home in the 1300 block of White Street. He advised dispatch and began knocking on doors, eventually waking the 25 year old male who was the lone occupant of the home. Other officers used their fire extinguishers to dampen the fire until the Port Huron Fire Department

arrived to fully extinguish it. Great work by Officer Travis Reed for diligently patrolling his beat, discovering the fire and awakening the victim to guide him to safety.

On July 26th, a female called dispatch advising she just located a video on her husband's cell phone of him involved in a sex act with their five year old daughter in the 3000 block of 28th Street. She confronted her 25 year old husband. He grabbed his cell phone away from her and fled the residence. The male later returned to the residence and was later interrogated by detectives from PHPD and MSP. The male confessed and was lodged in the St. Clair County Jail for CSC 1st, Child Sexual Assault Material, Accosting for Immoral Purposes, and Using a Computer to Commit a Crime.

On July 28th, PHPD officers were called to Garfield Elementary School for an MDOP. The school is currently being renovated. A contractor found suspects entered through a broken window. Once entry was made into the building, damaged was caused in several classrooms and others were gone through leaving those classrooms in disarray. Paint was thrown on the floor and walls in one of the hallways. The damages caused is estimated at \$10,000. The investigation into the juveniles responsible is ongoing.

The number of reported drug overdoses in the month of July were eight (8) compared to seven (7) last month. Five were from heroin and three were from prescription drugs. Out of the five overdoses from heroin, one person passed away. Calls for service overall in July 2019 (3037) increased 10% from June 2019 (2719).

In the month of July, the Port Huron Fire Department responded to 329 calls for service, including 14 fires, 206 medical emergencies, 13 vehicle accidents, and 24 hazardous conditions.

In the early morning hours of July 5th, fire companies responded to the 1500 block of Union Street for a report of a dwelling fire with persons trapped. All occupants were out of the home on arrival of the first due Engine Company. Fire damage was contained to the exterior of the home and the attic space, due to communication of fire through the soffits. One family dog was rescued from the dwelling by fire crews. One occupant was transported to the hospital for smoke inhalation. The cause of the fire was determined to be improper disposal of spent fireworks in a trash receptacle.

On July 16th, fire companies from Station #3 and Central Station responded to the intersection of Garfield/I-94 connector for a car versus pedestrian vehicle accident. A male patient sustained serious injuries and was transported to the hospital.

In the month of July, fire companies completed 290 hours of training, in areas such as night boat operations, apparatus pump operations, and EMS training. Fire personnel reviewed the Lucas CPR compression device with Tri-Hospital EMS crews. All shifts completed an onsite pre-fire walk thru of Dunn Paper. Three members completed Open Water SCUBA class. Fourteen members prepared for the IADRS Watermanship Test to be conducted in early August. Building site plans throughout the City were completed for the anticipated arrival of the quint apparatus in early 2020. In-house testing of all fire hose was completed in July.

Fire companies completed 14 life safety and pre-fire inspections. The Fire Marshal completed 13 fire inspections as well as numerous on-site consults. Over 300 public education contacts were made at multiple special events this month, including four smoke detector installations requested by City residents.

Aside from our daily responsibilities, this month the Clerk's Office received 48 Yard of the Year nominations. We assisted the Beautification Commission with accepting nominations, preparing judging forms and the subsequent notification letters to winners and non-winners. Yard of the Year awards will be presented on August 12th during the regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

For Mayor and Council activities we prepared five proclamations and responded to numerous invitations. Throughout the month we received countless calls and inquiries regarding peddler's permits, cemetery information and questions about summer time events in the Blue Water Area. With all the Election changes that Proposal 18-3 has brought we have begun updating our forms and letters to reflect the new changes.

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 McMorrان Boulevard Reconstruction Project (Huron Avenue to Merchant Street).

The Riverside Boat Launch Parking Lot project was awarded on July 8th and the Bathroom Renovation project is still under review.

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

Dredging at the mouth of the canal has been completed and the Contractor will be placing the dredged material south of Holland Beach.

Other ongoing projects include the Pine Grove Park Restrooms Facility and the Knox Field Gazebo, both projects have punch list items remaining.

At the River Street Marina, the low docks have been raised and some dolphin piles were straightened. This is as a result of high river levels. In addition, concrete repairs were made at various locations.

The streets maintenance staff continued to perform the typical month-to-month duties which included crack sealing most days and applied 9,000 pounds of hot rubber throughout the City and street sweeping 17 days with 182 cubic yards of material being removed from the streets. Many alleys and roads were graded. Radar trailers were placed at different locations for the Police Department each week. Streets were closed for three special events, along with cleaning the downtown area after the events. Cement barriers were placed around the Blue Water Festival

footprint along with trash being emptied every day of the event. The asphalt crew put down 40 tons of asphalt at seven locations and repaired curbs at eight locations.

The motor vehicle pool staff maintained the preventative maintenance list and maintaining the solids application equipment with no major breakdowns.

The traffic section assisted traffic control for special events along with shuttling electric panels and wire spools to various locations for special events. Signs were also fabricated for Pine Grove Park.

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. Utilities staff also completed numerous catch basin repairs to the State trunk lines which is part of an agreement with the State to maintain the catch basins. As of this time they have fixed around 40 basins in July.

The Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) staff continues their normal operation and maintenance procedures. Repairs to one of the pumps at the Scott/Poplar sanitary pump station is scheduled. Issues have decreased at the 16th Street sanitary pump station since the south half was successfully cleaned. Work on isolating the north half is underway for it to be cleaned. The stationary gas standby generators for the Scott/Poplar and Water Street pump stations are scheduled to be delivered next month. The contractor will pour the concrete pads and coordinate with SEMCO Energy for a new service at the Water Street pump station and new meters at both stations. Shop drawings submitted by Murray Underground for the rehabilitation of the Northern Sanitary Pump station were approved and a pre-construction meeting is scheduled for next month. An easement agreement has been accepted by the school for the sanitary sewer that serves the school and adjacent property.

The City is working with Tetra Tech to draft an easement agreement between St. Clair County and the City for DTE equipment that will provide a new electrical feed to new electrical switchgear at the WWTP. Three bids were received for the new electrical switchgear building and underground work. Recommendations on accepting the bid will be taken to Council.

Research and design work by Tetra Tech continue on the Grit Channel Rehabilitation and Odor Control Replacement project. City staff toured a WWTP in Coldwater, Michigan to witness a technologically new ionization odor control system. This type of system is being considered at the plant. The land application program is well underway. 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 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. Sprinkler repairs were made along the boardwalk across from Pine Grove Park. 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. City staff, BMJ, and Sanctum Contracting

have agreed on final plans and cost for the completion of the garage. The re-bricking of the WFP garage is underway with a different masonry company. The original mason was non-responsive and the contractor is taking legal action to recoup lost costs. The garage will be completed in the next month. Reasonable Roofing was awarded the contract to re-roof the main building, floor building, and low lift building and will begin work in late summer. Materials were reviewed and the energy efficient thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO) was selected.

During the month of July and continuing on into the month of August, the Human Resources Department is accepting employment applications for full-time Police Officers and Fire Fighters. We are also accepting applications for part-time Police Cadets, School Crossing Guards, and Dance Instructors as well as for a part-time Marketing Assistant and a part-time Recreation Clerk.

The last week of June and first week of July marks the time for us to make all wage and benefit changes for all full-time employees for July 2019. These changes are based on the new Collective Bargaining Agreements that are effective July 1, 2019. This includes making all the changes for the Utility Workers, Local 532 CBA that was recently settled to include healthcare changes. All employees are now under the same pension and healthcare plans.

Updated Collective Bargaining Agreements were prepared for all members of the Utility Workers, Local 532 union and distributed. Health & Safety training is ongoing. We continue to train new employees as they come on board at the City.

The Code Enforcement Unit had 216 new enforcements opened and the Administrative Hearing Bureau heard 30 cases. \$540.00 was collected in payments this month.

The Rental Inspection Division completed 391 inspections and certified 186 rental units in July. Staff responded to five rental complaints and three new rentals properties were registered during the month.

The Inspection Division issued 122 permits and collected \$23,095.00 in permits fees. Inspectors responded to 25 inspection complaints throughout the month.

In Community Development, the draft CAPER was prepared. Paint vouchers will be given until September 1st, extended from the normal August 1st deadline, to allow additional exterior painting projects to be completed while the weather is good. Two first time homebuyers used the Urban Pioneer Program in July.

The Planning Department prepared one item for the August Zoning Board of Appeals and six Planning Commission items. These included a rezoning and a special use permit for a storage building at 3125 Barlow Street, a special use permit for a short term/vacation rental on McBrady Street, a special use permit for a storage building on Barlow Street, a special use permit for a dog kennel on Runnels Street, and a special use permit for a fuel station with convenience store on 24th Street. Site plan review was also complete for the proposed fuel station on 24th Street. At the July Planning Commission meeting, the Commissioners agreed to create a subcommittee to discuss setting higher design aesthetics for new commercial construction.

July has flown by with several fun activities for families at the Port Huron Parks and Recreation Department. Several of the programs provided by the Recreation Department were free to enjoy throughout July, including the second annual Sandcastle Contest for Kids at Lakeside Beach. Complimentary popsicles and swimming was offered for one hour to residents at Sanborn and Court Street Pool. Blockbusters in Your Neighborhood screened Mary Poppins Returns for free on the big screen at Knox Park. Walk Michigan continued through July and had 776 participants register. EBW TV interviewed Faith May, events programmer, regarding the weekly summer Walk Michigan event. The annual senior picnic was also put on in collaboration with the Council on Aging.

In addition, the Department collaborated with many other local organizations and professionals to offer programs this summer. Kirk Osgood, a Chicago-based theatre professional, Regina Spain, and McKale Jude Bingham taught theatre intensive courses to students at McMorran. Children explored nature and wildlife with the Nature in the City program offered for the first time with the Friends of the St. Clair River. Artist Cindy Badley instructed the MI Great Lakes Art Series where participants find items on the beach and turn it into works of art.

Sports Programming had a very successful July season. “The number of coaches and their enthusiasm was very much appreciated,” said a parent of a child to attended a sports program. Beach Volleyball Camp was brought back this summer and held at Lakeside Beach. Sanborn and Court Street pool hosted a second session of swim lessons. McMorran Place Arena hosted the Recreation Camp Shows and Boats & Boots outdoor concerts for Blue Water Fest.

In the Cemetery for the month of July we had 18 total services with six being full burials and 12 being cremains services. Staff has been utilizing time between services to grind stumps, elevate trees and remove overgrown shrubs. The Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration, which oversees our Old Soldiers portion of the Cemetery, and our local VFW board members are working together to get lighting at the flagpole at the Old Soldiers section of our Cemetery.

The Information Technology Department was involved in a number of activities. Of note were: completed the upgrade of the telephone systems at the six remote sites as part of an overall project to upgrade all city phone systems, assisted the BoatNerd organization in reestablishing their roof top river camera, developed an application for use by the police department for the tracking of ‘use of force’ incidents, and began work on the move to HD cameras in the public meeting room.

During the past month the Income Tax Division finished sending follow-up correspondence on annual tax return problems. We 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 updated our list of automatic monthly accounting entries for the new fiscal year. These entries include budget transfers, administrative charges and automatic wage splits for those salaried employees whose wages are charged to more than one fund or activity. We are also working on updating our purchase orders for the new fiscal year and reconciling the annual physical inventories taken by various departments.

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 document other information including fences, sheds, sidewalks, pools and patios. We have now begun measuring the exempt properties in accordance to State requirements. In total we have visited 350 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. In addition, we are handling deposits from the pools, boat launches and beach parking lots during the summer months. We also continue to perform the monthly accounting for BWATC. During the month of July we collected over \$11.6 million in property taxes; however, it should be noted that approximately two-thirds of that amount is collected for other taxing entities such as the State, County, School District and RESA. We also processed numerous Board of Review adjustments in addition to handling the normal water billings and shutoffs for nonpayment during the month.

Sincerely,



James R. Freed

City Manager

Chief Administrative Officer