

**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
April 21, 2026, AT 6:00 p.m.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT:

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Chairperson
Commissioner Rory Ghio
Commissioner Dean Kilbourne
Commissioner Paul Lemieux
Commissioner Terry Lewis
Commissioner Gloria Sapp Smith arrived at 6:15 p.m.
Council Member Sue Tyler
Jon Mace, Board of Finance Liaison

ABSENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

No Awards.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No participation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member Tyler moved to APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR POLICE BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 17, 2026, WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT: COMMISSIONER GHIO WILL SEND A COMMISSIONER IN HIS PLACE IF HE IS UNABLE TO ATTEND THE AWARDS COMMITTEE, Seconded by Commissioner Ghio.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

5. APPROVAL OF VARIOUS MONTHLY REPORTS

Chief Morello spoke about the Community Feedback Report. 91% of the public has a positive view of the BPD after interacting with our officers. This marks two consecutive quarters where our agency exceeded 90%. That is a 2% increase from the previous calendar year. Mayor Zoppo-Sassu noted in the second paragraph that respondents desired increased police presence in the community and greater community engagement. With red light cameras, we can probably achieve some of these goals by freeing up some officers. Chief Lemieux praised the department for the increase in DUI stats since last year.

Commissioner Kilbourne moved to APPROVE MONTHLY REPORTS AND PLACE ON FILE, Seconded by Commissioner Lewis.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

6. CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence

7. COMMITTEE MINUTES

a. Awards Committee

Commissioner Kilbourne made a MOTION TO DISCUSS THE AWARDS COMMITTEE, Seconded by Commissioner Lewis.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

Commissioner Kilbourne asked for an explanation of how we got to this point with the Awards Committee. Commissioner Ghio explained that the recommendations need to be approved by the Board. Chief Morello explained that the Awards will come before the Board for approval, and we will provide the Award recommendations for the Board's review. Commissioner Kilbourne asked once again how we got to this point with the Awards Committee. Council Member Tyler explained that she attended the last Awards Committee Meeting and that the Awards are handed out before the minutes are approved, which is a little out of sequence. Council Member Tyler noted that Commissioner Ghio and other Commissioners raised points about the process and how the awards were being reviewed and voted on. So at the last Awards Committee meeting, some questions were raised by various attendees. There seems to be some confusion across the board. We discussed the details of the General Order regarding who will be on the Awards Committee. There was a motion made by one of the Officers that we send the question to the Corporation Counsel as to whether a Commissioner had the right to fill in for Commissioner Ghio. There were just questions, and they were all very valid and good questions. Council Member Tyler expressed that she wasn't sure why we were voting on these right now, since the Commission hadn't had time to review them. Commissioner Ghio forwarded the submissions to me, and with his permission, I forwarded them to Commissioner Lemieux and the Mayor. Based on comments and recommendations from the four of us. I went to the Awards Committee because there is a lot of unclarity. She feels that everyone agrees we want to recognize our Officers for the great work they do. So I think we are at a crossroads, and we need to work out a process. Commissioner Kilbourne stated that we are implementing a new procedure, so I would like to vote on it first.

The Police Commission will receive nominations from the awards subcommittee in the form of recommendations, which will then be duly acted upon by the Commission, with awards presented at the subsequent month's meeting.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu moved TO UPDATE THE AWARDS PROCESS TO REFLECT THAT THE AWARDS COMMITTEE WILL ISSUE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE POLICE COMMISSION AT WHICH TIME, THEY WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW AND APPROVE OR NOT APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS, they will have the opportunity to review and approve or not approve the recommendations, with the awards being issued in the subsequent month. Seconded by Council Member Tyler.

VOTE: PASSED

4 - yes

1 - no

1 - abstained

Commissioner Ghio moved to APPROVE AWARD #26-8 FOR THE DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD, Seconded by Mayor Zoppo-Sassu.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

Commissioner Ghio moved to APPROVE AWARD 26-10 FOR THE SILVER STAR AWARD, Seconded by Commissioner Kilbourne.

A discussion was held. Council Member Tyler stated that this is the award I brought to the Committee, for which I received concerns from four of our Commissioners. She stated that she hadn't signed it and noticed it had been signed after the fact. She stated that she will be voting no on this award. Her perception is that, because she expressed concerns about this Award and would not sign it, a motion was made at the end of the meeting to recommend this Award for Officer of the Month as well.

VOTE: PASSED

5 - yes
1 - no

Commissioner Ghio moved to APPROVED AWARD 26-11 FOR A LETTER OF COMMENDATION, Second by Council Member Tyler.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

Commissioner Ghio explained that Chief Morello denied Award 26-9 and will be sent back for more information.

Traffic Sub-Committee Report

Council Member Tyler explained that we had a good discussion about traffic efforts. Our next meeting will be held on the third Tuesday of July.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Chief Morello

8.2 Police Commissioners
None

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Chief Morello

i. Chief's Report - April

Chief Morello reviewed his April Chief's report.

9.2 Police Commissioners

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu informed the Board that she, the Board of Finance Liaison Jon Mace, and Deputy Chief Moskowitz visited the existing animal control facility to develop an alternative plan. It has become apparent that, even though grant funds are available through the State to encourage regionalization, the parameters will not work for this project. So the current site will be utilized.

10. To convene into Executive Session to hear Officer Michael Campisano's appeal and to take any action as necessary.

At 6:36 p.m., Council Member Tyler moved to CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO HEAR OFFICER MICHAEL CAMPISANO'S APPEAL AND TO TAKE ANY ACTION AS NECESSARY.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

Present in Executive Session: Mayor Zoppo-Sassu; Commissioners Ghio, Kilbourne, Lemieux, Lewis, Sapp-Smith; Council Member Tyler; Attorney Brown; Vice President of the Police Union Officer Mark McGrane, Officer Campisano, Deputy Chief Moskowitz; Deputy Chief Osborne, and Chief Morello.

11. To reconvene into Public Session and to take any action as necessary.

At 7:54 p.m., Commissioner Ghio moved to RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC SESSION AND TO TAKE ANY ACTION AS NECESSARY.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

No votes were taken in Executive Session.

Commissioner Kilbourne moved to AFFIRM THE SUSPENSION OF OFFICER MICHAEL CAMPISANO ORDERED BY CHIEF MORELLO, Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux.

VOTE: PASSED

5 - yes

1 - no

12. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Tyler moved to ADJOURN, Seconded by Commissioner Ghio.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

The regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners called for the 21st day of April, 2026, was HEREBY ADJOURNED AT 7:55 p.m.

Lisa Ziogas
Recording Secretary