

I. REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Public Safety met in the Regular Meeting at 9:16 a.m. on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 (one day earlier due to the Juneteenth Holiday), with Board President Dan Jones, and Board Members Darryl Heller (not present), Lee Ross, Al Kirsits, and Pamela Claeys were present. Also, Police Chief Scott Ruskowski, Fire Chief Carl Buchanon, and Attorneys Danielle Campbell Weiss, Adam Taylor, Kylie Connell, and Board Clerk Theresa Heffner. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, County-City Bldg., 227 W. Jefferson Blvd., South Bend, Indiana and virtually via Microsoft Teams at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/2024BPSHybrid>

Attorney Weiss asked that everyone mute their microphone when not speaking and reminded attendees that comments from the public should be saved for the Privilege of the Floor portion of the meeting. Attorney Weiss then read through the agenda to note any additions or corrections.

A. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Board President Dan Jones welcomed the public, called roll, and confirmed the presence of the Board Members.

B. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Upon a motion by Lee Ross, seconded by Al Kirsits, and carried by roll call, the Board approved the Minutes of the May 15, 2024, regular meeting.

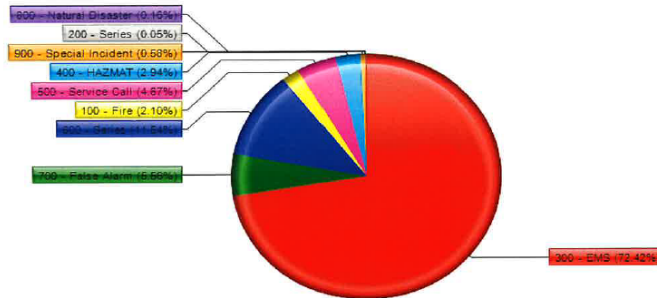
C. FIRE DEPARTMENT

1. FILE MONTHLY STATISTICAL ANALYSIS REPORT FOR MAY 2024

Chief Carl Buchanon submitted the monthly statistical analysis report for May 2024. He noted that they have completed 132 inspections for the month of May, which is a little bit lower than a year ago at this time. He exclaimed the inspectors are doing a great job out there, not only reinstating a lot of businesses, but also making time for the new businesses that are coming to the area. He added that they responded to 1907 incidents in May and had 5671 apparatus calls.

MAY 2023	MAY 2024
STRUCTURE FIRES Property Damage--Buildings & Contents (Estimates)	
\$556,500	\$234,500
INSPECTION DIVISION	
151 Inspections	132 Inspections
INVESTIGATION DIVISION	
16 Investigations	13 Investigations
4 Incendiary 4 Accidental 0 Natural 8 Undetermined	5 Intentional 5 Unintentional 3 Undetermined

2024 May	Fire Department
Incident Type	Monthly Breakdown
100 - Fire	40
200 - Series	1
300 - EMS	1381
400 - HAZMAT	56
500 - Service Call	89
600 - Series	220
700 - False Alarm	106
800 - Natural Disaster	3
900 - Special Incident	11
Monthly Total	1907



Al Kirsits asked Chief Buchanon if the Fire Department had been participating in Spray and Play this week due to the heat. He noted when he was a firefighter, they spray and play all the time and he wondered with the high temps if they were doing more of it with the high heat. A lot of departments around the Midwest were stopping training and engaging with spray and play events due to the heat.

Chief Buchanon advised that he was not sure about this week, but they have been having them at least two (2) or three (3) times throughout the week and especially on the weekends. With Juneteenth coming up on Wednesday, there will be a lot of kids that want to go to the park, so we will be trying to make sure we have a few companies out to assist with that.

D. POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. APPROVE PROMOTIONS OF PATROLMAN 1<sup>ST</sup> CLASS

Evan Eckelbarger  
Kole Miller

Chief Scott Ruszkowski submitted letters of recommendations for the above officers to be promoted to Patrolman 1<sup>st</sup> Class effective June 21, 2024. Chief stated Officer Eckelbarger and Officer Miller have successfully met the requirements outlined in the working agreement to become Patrolman 1<sup>st</sup> Class with the SBPD.

Upon a motion by Pam Claeys, seconded by Al Kirsits, and followed by a roll call, the Board approved the Promotions to Patrolman 1<sup>st</sup> Class.

2. ACKNOWLEDGE COMMENDATION OF LIFE SAVING AWARD – DAN NAPOLITAN

Chief Scott Ruszkowski submitted a Letter of Commendation for Officer Dan Napolitan. Chief Ruszkowski stated while working light duty at the front desk on May 6, 2024, a records specialist employee started choking, Officer Napolitan immediately gave the Heimlich and back blows and was able to dislodge the food and she was able to breathe again. Chief noted Officer Napolitan’s quick actions saved the employee’s life and recommended Officer Napolitan receive a Lifesaving Award. The Board members congratulated Officer Napolitan and President Jones stated he would be presented with a commendation coin. Congressman Yakim also presented him with a national Life Saving Award.

3. RECEIVE LEXIPOL POLICIES

302 Control Devices (Current Policy 302 and 303 being combined into Policy 302)  
424 Mobile and Portable Audio/Video Recorders (includes Body Worn Devices)

President Jones noted that when body cams are mentioned, it seems like every now and then we see national incidents with police and for some reason they don't have their body cameras on. He stated that he is really pleased that this policy has been implemented.

Attorney Kylie Connell submitted the above Lexipol Policies for review by the Board and to be considered for approval at the next Board Meeting. Attorney Connell noted that Policy 303 is being combined into Policy 302.

4. FILE MONTHLY STATISTICAL ANALYSIS REPORT MAY 2024

Chief Scott Ruskowski submitted the monthly statistical analysis report for May 2024, and stated there was a twenty-three percent (23%) decrease in Part One Offenses.

The MAY 2024 analysis is as follows:

<u>PART 1 OFFENSES</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>		
				<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
HOMICIDE	2	0	-2	10	3	-7
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE*	0	0	0	1	1	0
RAPE	6	5	-1	29	24	-5
ROBBERY	20	16	-4	114	87	-27
AGGRAVATED ASSLT	102	115	13	464	424	-40
BURGLARY RES	32	26	-6	180	153	-27
BURGLARY NON RES	21	22	1	79	68	-11
LARCENY	195	155	-40	943	643	-300
MOTOR VEH THEFT	38	48	10	207	153	-54
ARSONS	1	2	1	7	8	1
GRAND TOTAL	417	389	-28	2033	1563	-470

Respectfully submitted,

  
 Scott Ruskowski  
 Chief of Police

SR/jlj

**Month: MAY 2024**

<u>PART 1 OFFENSES</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
HOMICIDE	10	3	-70%
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE*	1	1	0%
RAPE	29	24	-17%
ROBBERY	114	87	-24%
AGGRAVATED ASSLT	464	424	-9%
BURGLARY RES.	180	153	-15%
BURGLARY NON RES.	79	68	-14%
LARCENY	943	643	-32%
MOTOR VEH THEFT	207	153	-26%
ARSONS	7	8	14%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>2033</b>	<b>1563</b>	<b>-23%</b>

**-23% CHANGE IN PART 1 CRIMES THROUGH MAY 2024**

Chief Ruskowski noted that on the first page of the statistical analysis report, it shows a decrease of 470 Part One Offenses from last year. On the second page it shows a twenty three percent (23%) decrease in Part One Offenses. He noted that contrary to social media, or other circulating comments, South Bend had a twenty three percent (23%) decrease from last year. The only thing that went up was arson by one (1) incident. Also, for a reference point, only four (4) people have died from criminal assault shootings this year, and we had ten (10) this time last year.

Al Kirsits stated that he read an article recently that some cities may be defunding or getting rid of the ShotSpotter. He asked if it was a good tool for the City.

Chief Ruskowski advised that the number one intention is a quick response. If someone has been struck, we can get there to render aid and it also works well as an investigative

tool. We can prove that something did happen there or prove that it did not happen there. Every time we have a neighborhood meeting, the people ask for it if they don't have it in their neighborhood. Currently, the ShotSpotters are in the worst areas for crime and based on analytics, a total of four (4) square miles.

Al Kirsits asked if the ShotSpotters are reliable.

Chief Ruszkowski advised that they actually do surprise checks that we don't tell the company about so that we can be sure the sensor features are working properly.

E. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Attorney Weiss reminded the public to use the hand-raising function of Microsoft Teams to indicate their desire to speak during Privilege of the Floor. She reminded attendees that they would be allotted three (3) minutes to speak.

There was no one present or virtual that wanted to speak.

F. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon a motion by Pam Claeys, seconded by Al Kirsits, and carried by roll call, the meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY



---

Daniel Jones, President



---

Lee Ross, Member



---

Al Kirsits, Member



---

Pamela Claeys, Member

ATTEST:



---

Theresa Heffner, Clerk