

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Harry W. Rilling
Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons
Commissioner Tony Lopez

CITY OF NORWALK BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING November 21, 2022

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Rilling; Commissioner Collier-Clemmons; Commissioner Lopez

STAFF: Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Deputy Chief Susan Zecca; Deputy Chief James Walsh; Lieutenant Terry Blake

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:22PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 24, 2022

On page 5, paragraph 4, change “chief’s” to “chiefs”

On page 5, paragraph 4, in the action, insert “to be released”

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH (2) TWO IN FAVOR AND (1) ABSTENTION-COMMISSIONER LOPEZ.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

CIVILIAN AWARD- DISPATCHER STEPHANIE DEL ROSARIO

Chief Kulhawik said on September 24, 2022, Dispatcher Del Rosario handled a 911 call regarding a person who was not breathing and provided pre-arrival instructions to the family who had initiated CPR which resulted in the resuscitation of the individual. Norwalk EMS had commented to LT. Blake that if it wasn't for the dispatcher's calm directions that the individual would not have survived.

(The commissioners congratulated Dispatcher Stephanie Del Rosario)

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RECOGNITION- OFFICER OF MONTH – OFF. JOSE SILVA, OFF. ARIEL MARTINEZ, OFF. AKEEM BRYCE, OFF. TYCHIUS LINDSEY, AND OFF. RICHARD MONTANEZ

Chief Kulhawik said on October 25, 2022, the officers were dispatched to a disturbance call and had established a perimeter and while gaining entrance to the residence they found a hysterical female with two young children that were hiding in the residence and learned that a male had made a forced entrance into the house even though there was a protective order in place and upon hearing the sirens fled out the back door, but because the officers had set up a perimeter the suspect was immediately arrested.

(The commissioners congratulated Off. Jose Silva, Off. Ariel Martinez, Off. Akeem Bryce, Off. Tychius Lindsey, and Off. Richard Montanez)

OPERATIONS REPORT

PATROL STAFFING (OCTOBER)

Deputy Chief Walsh reported and said for the month of September the staffing was at 176 and there are 5 vacancies in patrol. He said a total of 211 sick days and 165.5 workers compensation days were used by sworn personnel and six officers are on long term workers compensation.

SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the Detective Bureau activity and said that 51 cases were opened in the month of October and noted that they are currently investigating a rash of checks being stolen that were altered and cashed throughout Fairfield County, they are also conducting five current applicant background investigations, investigated two gas station robberies where the suspect has been arrested, and conducted a follow up investigation and interviews regarding the Trope 429 investigation.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 20 cases and noted that they investigated and undercover operation at two different spa/massage locations due to complaints and made eight arrests and both businesses were fined by the Connecticut Department of Labor as well as under investigation by the Norwalk Health Department. He went on to say that a search warrant was executed on a subject involved in gang activity and that one ghost handgun was recovered and the individual was arrested on three counts of sale of narcotics and that US Marshal Task Force Officer Geismar participated in 12 fugitive arrests throughout the state of Connecticut.

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Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the Special Victims activity and said they remained busy and opened 41 cases and noted that a Norwalk High School student was arrested for online social media treat referencing a weapon, there is an ongoing investigation for child porn cyber tip, and five added security patrols continued in October and have been rescheduled for November. Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the traffic unit and said they performed selective enforcement at 38 locations and 109 violations were issued by traffic unit personnel. He noted that 13 car seats were installed, and they participated in school bus stop operation at five locations. Deputy Chief Walsh reported on Community Policing and noted they began the citizen police academy and had 18-20 participants, participated in the DPW touch a truck, participated in several trunk or treats for Halloween and did a nursing home drill at Autumn Lakes. Deputy Chief Walsh said there were 187 criminal arrests made for the month, there were a total of 4949 calls for service and 403 total citations were issued and that many stemmed from cell phone violations and had several DUI check points scheduled throughout the holiday weekend.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT- OCTOBER TRAINING REPORT

Deputy Zecca reported and said for the review credit training officers had attended Human Trafficking training, domestic violence, Narcan, Hazmat, Bloodborne pathogen, rape crisis and sexual assault, crime scene investigation, juvenile matters, bias related crimes, and mental health first aid training. She said the one officer had attended POST to assist with their motor vehicle stops for the new academy and three of the newer officers had attended ARIDE (advanced roadside impairment detection & enforcement) training which is required within the first year, and one officer had attended methods of instructions so that he can become a police instructor and will likely become an instructor in use of force. She said one of the SROs had attended an active threat class. She said the ESU/TRT teams did their monthly training and noted that a department wide supervisor leadership training was held and was very well received. Chief Kulhawik said he had been looking for an in-service supervisor training because at the state level very little is offered, and he is happy on how the class went and how well it was received. Deputy Chief Zecca said they have also just sent two officers for a train the trainer for ICAT (Integrating Communications Assessment and Tactics) which is a de-escalation/use of force training and in January will begin to train supervisors and the field training officers in those methods. Chief Kulhawik said that he is a member of the Police Executive Research Foundation and is only open to mid-size and larger agencies, but they produce a lot of cutting-edge research and produce reports based on the research and they developed this ICAT training and is cutting edge de-escalation training and has been well received throughout the country for the departments that have had the training.

Mayor Rilling requested that on a separate report a brief synopsis on how the embedded social worker is working out.

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PERSONNEL MATTERS

CORRECTION TO OFFICER SCOTT RUSSO'S TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

Chief Kulhawik said that at the October meeting Officer Russo had submitted a tuition reimbursement request for \$1,920 and was approved subject to the invoice being provided but when the invoice was provided it was discovered that is actuality the reimbursement of only two of the courses should have been approved and have adjusted the reimbursement request to \$960.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO RESCIND THE ACTION FROM THE OCTOBER 24TH MEETING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,920.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR OFFICER SCOTT RUSSO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$960.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS- COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary letter for Officer Shizume for assisting a motorist who had run out of gas and was thankful for the help that he had provided to her.

Chief Kulhawik said that Deputy Chief Zecca has received a voicemail complimenting from someone who had been involved in a motor vehicle accident and wanted to thank Officer Luciano for being so helpful.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary letter from the Diocese of Bridgeport thanking Officer Holmes for attending and engaging conversation on their luncheon on school security.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary letter regarding Mark Voeltz who for many years has been involved in charity work and thanked him for his involvement in the Trunk or Treat event in MT. Pleasant Blythedale.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary letter regarding Detective Pugliese from an individual that was involved in a robbery at Starbucks last year and sent the email talking about the difference Detective Pugliese made in her recovery and mental health.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary letter regarding Officer Acosta for assisting them when their vehicle broke down and for providing him with a ride to his grandson's game.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- DISABILITY PENSION- OFFICER THOMAS KALAMARAS

Executive session began at 4:55PM.

Executive session ended at 5:11PM.

During executive session there were no motions made and no votes were taken.

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**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER- CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE DISABILITY PENSION EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2022, FOR OFFICER THOMAS KALAMARAS BASED ON THE INFORMATION THAT HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND DOCUMENTED.**

(The commissioners wished Officer Kalamaras well and thanked him for his 15 years of service)

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:14PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd