

# Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

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

## CITY OF NORWALK BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING October 24, 2022

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Rilling; Commissioner Collier-Clemmons

STAFF: Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Deputy Chief Susan Zecca; Deputy Chief James Walsh; Officer Matthew Nyquist

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:17PM.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

On page 4, change “DEE” to “FEE”

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

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

### PROMOTION – OFFICER MATTHEW NYQUIST TO DETECTIVE

Chief Kulhawik said there has been an opening in the detective bureau for quite a while because Detective Collins left to go to the FBI as a Special Agent and there was a second opening when Detective Maloney retired and they had filled one of the vacancies with Detective Barron, but the second vacancy was not filled due to manpower issues but now that they are beginning to recover from that and the vacancy needs to be filled to be able to make some personnel changes, and Officer Nyquist is number one on the detective list and has been extremely patient and asked that the commission to approve the promotion of Officer Nyquist to detective. Mayor Rilling asked what the effective date will be. Chief Kulhawik said it will be effective this Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> and the oath has been scheduled for 3:00PM that day.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROMOTION OF OFFICER MATTHEW NYQUIST TO DETECTIVE EFFECTIVE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2022.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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Board of Police Commissioners  
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(The commissioners congratulated Officer Nyquist on the promotion to detective)

## **RECOGNITION- OFFICER OF MONTH AUGUST- OFF. PAUL WARGO, SGT. LEE YOUNG, DET. JAMES BARRON, DET. JOHN TARANTO AND DET. LINDSEY TAYLOR**

Chief Kulhawik said on September 16, 2022, Officer Wargo was dispatched to a call for an unconscious male who was on the side of the road and when he arrived on scene bystanders were performing CPR and he used his AED and took over doing CPR until EMS arrived and the individual had a heartbeat when they arrived. The Supervisor of EMS noted that without a doubt this individual would not have survived if it would not have been for the quick work of Officer Wargo to resuscitate this individual and want to recognize him for one of the officers of the month for September.

(The commissioners congratulated Officer Wargo)

Chief Kulhawik said that on September 2, 2022, that Detective Barron developed information regarding a person that was known to them was in possession of a firearm in the area of Chestnut Street and Sergeant Young coordinated his detective squad and working together noted the suspect and began a foot pursuit and quickly apprehended the individual who had a loaded firearm along with a high capacity magazine. He said he was advised by Deputy Chief Walsh who had viewed the body camera that his description of the events doesn't hold water compared to what actually happened and apologized to them for the brief description of what had occurred and want to recognize the group as officers of the month for September. Deputy Chief Walsh said it was great teamwork and that it was a very tenuous situation.

(The commissioners congratulated off. Paul Wargo, Sgt. Lee Young, Det. James Barron, Det. John Taranto and Det. Lindsey Taylor)

## **OPERATIONS REPORT**

### **PATROL STAFFING (SEPTEMBER)**

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 178.75 sick days and 166.5 workers compensation days were used by sworn personnel and seven officers are on long term workers compensation.

### **SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the Detective Bureau activity and said that 54 cases were opened in the month of September and noted that they are investigating two retaliatory shooting with no victims that appear to be gang related, arrested Michael Schank on a warrant charging robbery first and larceny, they are currently conducting several deadly weapon offender registry investigations for non-compliance and one arrest was made on a sex offender registry violation. He said the detectives are still busy doing several background investigations for candidates.

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Board of Police Commissioners  
October 24, 2022

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Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 26 cases and noted that they seized two illegal gambling machines from a liquor store on Ely Avenue and that establishment is under investigation. He said they also did three temporary liquor background investigations.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the Special Victims activity and said they remained busy and opened 50 cases and noted they are conducting an infant death investigation, provided services to a 90-year-old dementia patient living in poor conditions, three full time SRO's with five additional school security hires were implemented since the beginning of the school year, and have implemented a full time DCF case worker imbedded into SVU to increase agency partnership.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the traffic unit and said there were 64 moving violations that were issued by traffic unit personnel. He noted that all three motorcycle officers attended refresher motorcycle training, they performed selective enforcement at various locations based on citizen complaints, they participated with Amtrak PD on operations safe track and participated in the 911 United Ride.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on Community Policing and noted they planned and implemented Norwalk Night Out on Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> and it was a well-attended event this year.

Deputy Chief Walsh said there were 155 criminal arrests made for the month, there were a total of 4666 calls for service and 182 total citations were issued.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said that the Norwalk Night Out was a great event and there were a lot of community organizations and a lot of attendees seemed to be getting informed as to what services are available and thanked all that had a part in setting it up.

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## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT- SEPTEMBER TRAINING REPORT**

Deputy Zecca reported and said the team's training and said the ESU team and Tactical Response Team conducted monthly training as well as crisis negotiation training and for general recertification training and staff attended bloodborne pathogen training, hazardous materials training, dispatch call taking training. She said that she and Chief Kulhawik attended a leadership training as well as a legal updates training and tree people attended a ARIDE (advanced roadside impairment detection & enforcement) class which is taking the next step toward drug recognition especially with the legalization of marijuana because detecting under the influence driving has become more complicated so they are slowly putting officers through that class. She said a few officers attended a tactical emergency casualty care training which is a coordinated effort of police, fire, EMS responding to a scene to keep the scene safe as well as to provide medical assistance for those that are injured. She said that multiple officers are in their emergency medical responder training which is their medical training as first responders as well as NCIC training which is the training for the crime database. She said that Sergeant Paulino attended a secret service computer applications course as he advances his technical training in that area, and that they continue to have officers in the academy and on field training.

## **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

City of Norwalk  
Board of Police Commissioners  
October 24, 2022

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## **TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- OFFICER SCOTT RUSSO**

Chief Kulhawik said that the reimbursement request is for two classes and noted that Officer Russo did not provide the invoice.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR OFFICER SCOTT RUSSO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,920 SUBJECT TO OFFICER RUSSO PROVIDING THE INVOICE AS TO WHAT WAS PAID.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- OFFICER DANIEL VAZQUEZ**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR OFFICER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,505.00.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **MASTER'S DEGREE STIPEND- OFFICER DANIEL VAZQUEZ**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MASTER'S DEGREE STIPEND FOR OFFICER VAZQUEZ.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS- COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS**

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary letter from a resident that reported his wife as missing but was determined to be a phone issue and thanked Officer Jonathan Smith for conducting a thorough investigation.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary letter regarding Officer DeVito and Officer Daley for their response to a medical call and reported how well and professional the two officers were and praised them for their help and how they handled the situation.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary letter from Norwalk EMS regarding Officer Wargo's lifesaving efforts for which he received the officer of the month recognition.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary letter regarding officers that had responded to a call and were pleased on how they had handled the situation.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary letter Ryan Harold who is the Director of Safety and Security for Norwalk Public Schools and commented on the quality of the security from the SRO's and the quality of work they have been doing while working with the schools, and how engaged they are and the feedback that he has received from the school administration and the school staff has been 100% positive.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary letter from the Volunteer Fire Department for the Town of Weston regarding the assistance that the department provided for the funeral for Lieutenant Blake's brother who had passed away fairly suddenly.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary letter regarding Officer Wasilewski stating she had a very positive interaction with him and was pleased that he had responded to her call for assistance.

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Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary letter regarding their gratitude to Officer Vento who had responded to a call and said that he had complete empathy and compassion towards them, and they were very pleased with his service.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION- REVIEW OF BACKGROUND OF PROSPECTIVE OFFICER CANDIDATE**

Executive session began at 4:42PM.

Executive session ended at 4:57PM.

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

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER- CLEMMONS MOVED TO OFFER EMPLOYMENT AS A PROBATIONARY OFFICER TO RAUL DELEON PENDING THE TIME DETERMINED BY THE CHIEF AND DEPUTY CHIEF'S AND HIS ABILITY FROM HIS CURRENT POSITION.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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The meeting adjourned at 4:58PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd