Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Harry W. Rilling
Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons
Commissioner Tony Lopez
Commissioner Nathan Sumpter
Commissioner Ron Paladino

CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
October 21, 2024

ATTENDANCE: Commissioner Collier-Clemmons; Commissioner Lopez; Commissioner Paladino

STAFF: Chief James Walsh; Deputy Chief Terry Blake; Deputy Chief Melissa Lepore; Deputy Chief Joseph Dinho

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons called the meeting to order at 5:14PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

**** COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments this evening.

SEPTEMBER CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH-COLLIN PRATT

Chief Walsh said for September 2024 we have recognized a civilian Norwalk Police Department employee as Employee of the Month for September 2024. We traditionally highlight the heroic and professional acts of sworn officers, but this month we will be honoring the work of Collin Pratt. Collin transferred to the Police Department from another city department three years ago as our custodian and has proven to be a true professional no matter what the task. Collin is an integral part of the operations in maintaining the building with repairs and improvements but is a true asset with our fleet maintenance. Fleet maintenance is the backbone of the patrol division and Collin assures that the patrol cars are readily maintained, and safe.

Collin takes real pride in his work from the normal upkeep of the building to preparing for special events such as National Night Out where he is readily seen working with our sworn members to provide the best to the Norwalk community.

Collin is a true asset to the day-to-day operations in supporting the role and service we provide to the community and is a valued team member for his outstanding performance and dedication. It is for these reasons I have named him the Employee of the Month for September 2024.

(The commissioners congratulated Collin Pratt)

CIVILIAN AWARD-DISPATCHER KRISTIN FERRANTI

Chief Walsh said on August 30, 2024, at 22:13 hours Dispatcher Kristin Ferranti took a call for a report of an elderly party who had stage 4 pancreatic cancer and was not breathing and was unconscious. Dispatcher Kristin Ferranti began to give CPR instructions in spite of the language barrier. When police arrived, they reported the party was now conscious and breathing. Dispatcher Supervisor Morais stated that Dispatcher Ferranti did a good job with multiple people in the house and was able to maintain control while there was screaming in the background as well.

We recommend that Dispatcher Ferranti be recognized for her heroic actions and for saving the life of Mr. Cordero Zuniga. This is once again another great job by our combined dispatch personnel who are well-trained and assist well before the officers arrive

(The commissioners congratulated Dispatcher Kristin Ferranti)

CHIEF'S EXECUTIVE REPORT- SEPTEMBER EXECUTIVE REPORT

Sworn Personnel Updates

Chief Walsh reported on the patrol staffing for September and said the staffing was at 180 sworn personnel, and there are three vacancies in patrol. There is one officer on administrative leave pending an internal affairs investigation. Sergeant Fern retired on September 30, 2024. Three offices attend the POST Academy. Interviews took place in September for the hiring of two lateral officers in October, and four conditional offers were given to potential candidates for the January 2025 POST Academy.

Civilian Personnel Updates

Chief Walsh said there are 22 telecommunicators/supervisors assigned to combined dispatch and they are fully staffed. He said that 14 civilian employees are assigned to support staff positions and are also fully staffed.

Departmental Initiatives

Chief Walsh said that an RFP was submitted for the promotional testing for the rank of Lieutenant and Sergeant and is tentatively scheduled for February 2025. Several policies and procedures are being updated in the NPD Directive Manual to stay consistent with legislative updates. The department has begun the research and development of a policy to implement a police service/therapy dog to be utilized in our community services division. There have been added school security units to deal with cyber threats and hoax threats to the Norwalk Public Schools. The 2024 security election protocols liaison with local, state, and federal law enforcement partners as well as our local Registrar of Voters.

Finance and Current Fiscal Year Budgeting

Chief Walsh said that all budgets are monitored by Mr. Docimo of Administrative Services and are tracking quite well and provided an overview of the September 2024 budget status.

OPERATIONS REPORT

PATROL STAFFING (SEPTEMBER)

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Detective Bureau activity and said that 33 cases were opened in September and noted that a juvenile suspect was arrested and charged with assault in the first and second degree following a stabbing at the Oyster Festival. Two suspects were arrested following an armed robbery of a delivery driver and both were charged with robbery in the first degree, weapons in a motor vehicle, and larceny in the fifth degree.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 40 cases for September and noted that a search warrant was executed on a business at 133 South Main Street and five gambling machines were seized and this location had previously been raided for the same issues and had their liquor license suspended by the State of Connecticut indefinitely There was a joint case with the Stratford Police Department and a search warrant was executed for narcotics and those charges are currently pending.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Victims activity and said they opened 61 cases for September and noted that a suspect was arrested and charged with threatening in the first degree and computer crimes in the fourth degree following a school threat posted on Snapchat. There are several ongoing criminal investigations.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Marine Unit activity and said they had 56 cases for September and noted that there were no people rescued, four boats were towed, and there were four boating violations, and responded to a large fuel spill at Cove Mariana.

Deputy Chief Blake said there were 7,398 calls for service and 165 total arrests in September, and that 830 total citations, summons, and written warnings were issued for the

month, and are currently at 10,356 for the year, and compared to 2023 are well over year total for 2023 which was 8,152 so the officers are remaining very proactive in their duties.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TRAINING REPORT (SEPTEMBER)

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Community Police Services Division and said they handled a total of 482 calls for service. He provided an overview of the major events they attended/assisted during September.

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Traffic Unit and said they had conducted 311 motor vehicle stops. He said there were 27 selective enforcement locations and some of the locations were held on West Avenue, Connecticut Avenue, West Rocks Road, East Avenue, Washington Street, Calf Pasture Beach Road, Belden Avenue, Silvermine Road, and Strawberry Hill Avenue.

Deputy Chief Dinho provided an overview of the Behavioral Health Unit and said they opened 30 cases in September, addressed 30 cases, and closed out 20 cases. He said no cases were referred to by outside agencies, 29 cases were referred from within the police department, and one case was self-initiated.

Deputy Chief Dinho provided an overview of the training for September and said 10 total subject areas were taught and were attended by 73 officers and in the coming months there will be an increase in training as the recertification cycle picks back up.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT (SEPTEMBER)

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the grants and inspections and said the DUI grant is closed for 2024. Overall, the dedicated enforcement hours for the year were 603, and a total of 374 cars were stopped, 326 infractions were issued, and 62 DUI arrests were made based on the grant. The application for the 2025 DUI grant is being completed and should begin before the holidays. The speed and aggressive driving grant is also closed. Overall, the dedicated enforcement for the two months was 936 officer hours. A total of 1,202 cars were stopped and 1,153 infractions were issued. The application for the Project Safe Neighborhood Grant that is used to purchase the FLOCK camera system has been submitted and the awards will be announced at the end of October. The 2024 Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) instructor grant closed on September 30th, and the 2025 application was completed and submitted and recently awarded funding and will go to the Common Council for approval next week. The 2024 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) application is open and has been completed and submitted. The funding opportunities through new state and federal grants are continually being monitored.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the staff inspections and said the Special Services divisional inspection was conducted with no discrepancies found. Some equipment is showing signs of aging and will need to be replaced soon and will be discussed in the upcoming budget year.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Crime Scene Unit and said that 116 persons were fingerprinted (28 were for pistol permits. She said 24 DVD's / or photos were created for case requests, 13 cases were processed for evidence, and 83 patrol cases required camera/photograph downloads of scenes, and backgrounds were conducted on four massage therapists, and all were for the Healthy Massage Spa. She said six solicitor permits were requested during the month for Power Home Remodeling, and there were no pawnbroker/precious metal permits were requested for the month. She said the CSI unit was deployed for two cases during September for the fatal motor vehicle accident on Winfield Street and the shooting on Strawberry Hill Avenue.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the accreditation and said the RFP for the promotional exams was closed on September 30th and received quotes from three vendors. The selection committee met, reviewed the proposals, and agreed upon one which will be submitted to the legal department for review and approval. There are approximately 60 officers that qualify for the sergeant's exam and 24 sergeants that qualify for the lieutenant's exam.

Deputy Chief Lepore said the intern applicant from last month will begin her required 120 hours over the next several weeks with the professional standards division, ride-a-longs in patrol, and the training division.

Deputy Chief Lepore said they are assisting corporation counsel with one investigation that was brought against the City of Norwalk

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the body and dashboard cameras and said there are no issues or malfunctions at this time.

Deputy Chief Lepore said that there were 48 new requests for case videos, six disks were burned with videos, and 24 electronic shares with Stamford Court.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the accreditation and said there were 19 directive updates/changes completed. The hard copies were sent to print and will be available for personnel and with the promotional exam scheduled after the new year anticipate a significant demand for them. Electronic copies are being distributed to all personnel and uploaded into the POWER DMS software system which they are also attached to CALEA they are currently working on updates and several policies in accordance with state and mandated changes and will be completed and distributed by the end of the month. She said that are continually reviewing the CALEA standards and are continually collecting proofs and reviewing CALEA standards for compliance and the annual audit.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

COURSE APPROVAL- OFFICER BENJAMIN KOSE

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE APPROVAL FOR OFFICER BENJAMIN KOSE.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- OFFICER BENJAMIN KOSE
Commissioner Lopez said it appears the tuition reimbursement still includes the late fees and will need to be adjusted. Chief Walsh agreed and said that $150 will need to be deducted from the original request of $5,354.25
**** COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE ADJUSTED TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR OFFICER BENJAMIN KOSE IN THE AMOUNT OF $5,204.25**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Course Approval- Officer Mark Vozzella
**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE APPROVAL FOR OFFICER MARK VOZZELLA.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Master's Degree Stipend- Officer Michael Macari

**** COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MASTER'S DEGREE STIPEND FOR OFFICER MICHAEL MACARI.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Master's Degree Stipend- Officer Patricia Nelson

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MASTER'S DEGREE STIPEND FOR OFFICER PATRICIA NELSON.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Bachelor's Degree Stipend- Officer Amanda Lopez

**** COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE STIPEND FOR OFFICER AMANDA LOPEZ.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Bachelor's Degree Stipend- Officer Jamal Benn

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE STIPEND FOR OFFICER JAMAL BENN.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS

Chief Walsh said that he received a complimentary letter of appreciation for Officer Anuszkiewicz from an elderly resident who had received a threatening note in her mailbox. She said the officer responded and fully investigated the matter and she recognized him for his time for doing the proper follow-ups and took the complaint very seriously and went above and beyond.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd