

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 October 16, 2023

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:16PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

There was a correction to the corrected minutes from the August 21, 2023, meeting as follows:

On page 4, in the motion change "Leutenant" to "Lieutenant"

On page 5, in the motion change "Leutenant" to "Lieutenant"

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

SEPTEMBER OFFICERS OF THE MONTH- OFFICER ANTHONY DEL PINO

Chief Walsh said that Officer del Pino was awarded officer of the month for his investigation and subsequent apprehension of five individuals who were operating a drug factory within a residence in Norwalk. Officer del Pino showed great professionalism, investigative skills, and exceptional work that culminated on September 26, 2023, with a large seizure of contraband and two semi-automatic handguns. LT. Mark Lepore nominated Officer del Pino for officer of the month for his investigation that led to the search warrants and significant seizures.

(The commissioners congratulated Officer del Pino)

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PATROL STAFFING (September)

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the patrol staffing for the month of September and said the staffing was at 182 sworn personnel and there are no vacancies in patrol. He said a total of 149 sick days and 88 workers compensation days were used by sworn personnel, and three officers remain on long term workers compensation.

SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT REPORT (September)

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Detective Bureau activity and said that 50 cases were opened in the month of September and noted that two suspects were arrested for their involvement in a stabbing on Burnell Blvd., investigated a shooting at 261 Ely Ave. where three victims sustained gunshot wounds, and arrested a suspect for domestic violence on an electronic stalking case.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 35 cases for the month of September and noted that a suspect was arrested with 10 failures to appear warrants and executed a search warrant on Osborne Ave. and made four arrests and two firearms and narcotics were seized.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Victims activity and said they opened 52 cases for the month of September and noted that a suspect was arrested by warrant for sexual assault four and risk of injury regarding an assault that occurred seven years ago and extradited a suspect from Rhode Island and was charged with domestic violence threatening, stalking, and harassment.

Deputy Chief Blake said that there were 6,081 calls for service and 393 total arrests in September. He said that 607 total citations, summons, and written warnings were issued.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if there are any grants that will be coming up for stop sign violations. Deputy Chief Blake said the Traffic Unit along with additional officers have been targeting areas for traffic lights, control signal, and speeding enforcement using JAG funding. He said he believes that distracted driving will be coming up this fall.

Commissioner Lopez said the numbers for the traffic division seemed to have dropped quite a bit since August. Deputy Chief Blake said that in July and August there was a substantial amount of grant funding and almost every day additional officers on the road to conduct speed and aggressive driving enforcement. Chief Walsh noted that the infraction and citation activity is up almost 300% at this point compared to last year.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TRAINING REPORT (SEPTEMBER)

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Community Police Services Division and said during the month of September they had attended the Stew Leonard's Touch-A-Truck, held a child safety seat installation day, attended the Kid's Fun Day at Ryan Park, attended the Hispanic Heritage Celebration event and there was a collaborative effort with the CTDOT railroad crossing safety on Commerce Street.

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Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Traffic Unit and said for September they had conducted 264 motor vehicle stops and conducted major selective enforcement based on the data from the UCONN traffic crash repository as well as resident complaints.

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Behavioral Health Unit and said they opened 45 cases in September, addressed 57 cases and closed out 23 cases. He said that one case was referred from an outside agency and 28 were referred from within the police department.

Deputy Chief Dinho provided an overview of the training for September and said it was an intensive month for training and a lot of training consisted of the new tasers and all, but 17 officers have received the training on the newly issued tasers.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Deputy Chief Lepore reported and said the grant reporting requirements were completed in September for DUI, bullet proof vest partnership 2021, project safe neighborhoods, DRE, distracted driver, and speed and aggressive driving. She said the new grants will come in on October 31, 2023.

Deputy Chief Lepore said that staff inspections were held for the Marine Unit and for the Headquarters Division which included the court officer, animal control, holding facility, complaint bureau, and maintenance. Mayor Rilling asked how often the inspections are held. Deputy Chief Lepore said all the divisions within the department are on a rotating basis.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Crime Scene Unit and said that 99 persons were fingerprinted (22 were for pistol permits, 15 DVD's were created for case requests, 14 cases were processed for evidence, and 87 patrol cases required camera/photograph downloads.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the professional standards and accreditation and said the distribution of body cameras to all patrol officers and the detective bureau were completed, the training and issuing to specialized divisions continues and will be completed this week, and 31 new requests were received for case videos.

Deputy Chief Lepore said the last training for Taser 7 was completed on October 8, 2023.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the accreditation and said that LT. Kalmanides has completed the new accreditation manager training.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

DROP PLAN- OFFICER MARK SUDA

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE DROP PLAN FOR OFFICER MARK SUDA BEGINNING ON DECEMBER 1, 2023, AND ENDING ON NOVEMBER 30, 2028.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COURSE APPROVAL- MASTER'S DEGREE-OFFICER BENJAMIN KOSE

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE APPROVAL FOR OFFICER BENJAMIN KOSE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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INFORMATIONAL ITEMS- COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS

Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary letter from Rosalie Canosa regarding Officer Nguyen who was assigned to a construction project when she had approached him requesting assistance that was not explicitly on his job description. She had just moved to Norwalk and was transitioning her vehicle and Officer Nguyen assisted her with removing her license plate as she was having difficulty due to arthritis.

Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary letter from Yauss Safavi, MD, regarding the positive interaction he had with Officer Ortiz regarding a wellness check she did for an elderly Veteran, and he was so thankful for her responsiveness, kindness, and dedication.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said that kindness starts at the top and offered Chief Walsh congratulations for being awarded the Be Kind award from the NAACP last Friday.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:41PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dilene Byrd