

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners
Mayor Harry W. Rilling
Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons
Commissioner Kelly Straniti

CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 2020
VIA ZOOM

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling; Commissioner Collier-Clemmons; Commissioner Straniti

STAFF: Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Deputy Chief Susan Zecca; Deputy Chief James Walsh

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:38PM. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 20, 2020

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2020 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment this evening.

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

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RECOGNITION

July Officers of the Month: Sergeant Garrett Kruger & Officer Gabe DeMott

Chief Kulhawik said that on July 9, 2020, Sergeant Garrett Kruger and Officer Gabe DeMott were dispatched at 6:1AM to a suspicious person on Second Street by the Norwalk Harbor. While they were in route they received notification that the suspect had entered the water and once on scene they entered the water to search for the person that was submerged and located him and pulled him to dry land and performed CPR and the person was resuscitated however, several days later he did pass away at the Norwalk Hospital.

(The commissioners offered the officers congratulations)

August Officers of the Month: Officer Raul Aldarondo; Officer James Barron; Officer Anthony del Pino; Officer Theodore Garbera; Officer Andrew Roncinske and Officer Jean-Maxime Sixto

Chief Kulhawik said there was an incident that occurred on August 25, 2020, on a report of a stabbing of two persons at the Hilton Garden Inn on Main Avenue and Officers Garbera and Officer Aldarondo had responded and located two victims with serious stab wounds. He said while treating them the officers had gathered information on a possible suspect and based upon the very limited information on a description Officer Sixto recognized the person as someone he knew from the South Norwalk area and Officer Roncinske, Officer del Pino and Officer Barron had conducted a search in the South Norwalk area and located and arrested the suspect.

(The commissioners offered the officers congratulations)

OPERATIONS REPORT

Patrol Staffing- July/August

Deputy Chief Walsh reported and said that for the month of July and August there were currently 178 sworn personnel, with three patrolman vacancies. He said that 233 sick days were used in July and 236.25 sick days were used in August and the high amount of sick days is correlated to time off due to the Covid-19 quarantines. He said the workmen's compensation days used for July was 60.75, and 58.5 for August and two officers are on extended workmen's compensation.

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Deputy Chief Walsh said that the activity in the detective bureau remains steady and includes a shooting where one person was injured and they had arrested a person that had an arrest warrant charging kidnapping and sexual assault. He also said that several juveniles were taken into custody for significant car burglaries and remanded to youth detention.

Deputy Chief Walsh said that in August as Chief Kulhawik mentioned there was a stabbing on Main Avenue and an arrest was made by patrol of a subject on four counts of burglary and larceny. He also said there was a slight uptick in car burglaries in August.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the Special Victims Unit and said in July the investigators had concluded an investigation regarding an individual whom was stopping motorists with a red/blue light and an arrest was made. He said in August two hoax bomb complaints were investigated at two separate schools and were unfounded and they had worked with Norwalk Public Schools.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on Community Policing and Community Services and said there were 36 infractions issued in July on Rowayton Avenue, Weed Avenue, Nursery Street and West Rocks Road, and there are three ongoing motor vehicle accidents investigations that are ongoing.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the patrol division calls and said for July there were 4, 888 calls for service, and in August were 4,389 calls for service.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on Special Services and said they had seized \$154,000 from an individual whom was attempting to buy a large amount of narcotics and an investigation was conducted with the Bridgeport Field Office DEA.

Deputy Chief Walsh said that SNET officers have located and arrested the individual responsible for the stabbing on Main Avenue. He said they also conducted compliance checks with the Board of Health Inspectors on restaurants for the Covid-19 reopening and four businesses were cited, and two are temporally closed.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on Selective Enforcement and said there was 94 infractions for the month of July and were mostly for speeding. Mayor Rilling asked if there is a reason for the large drop in the infractions that were issued in July. Deputy Chief Walsh said there was a drop in self-initiated activity in the patrol division. Deputy Chief Walsh said for the month of August there were 96 infractions and towards the end of August/ September had started the slow down days and there was high activity in the beginning of September, and the officers had focused on the school zones and are still concentrating on the bus locations to ensure bus safety.

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Mayor Rilling requested a report be given on the Marine Divisions activity at next month's meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Training Report (July & August)

Deputy Chief Zecca reported and said that training for July and August remains relatively light due to Covid-19 restrictions, but have begun holding more of the review credit classes this month so there will be an uptick on the training report next month. She said in July and August they did an annual firearms qualifications training, low light and use of force training, E.S.U. training, legal updates and the N.C.I.C. recertifications. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if there will be a significant increase in training with the resuming of in person in training classes. Deputy Chief Zecca said "yes" and have started all of the review credit training that has been on hold the past six months, and additionally will be looking institute some refresher courses that have not been done the past few years.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Tuition Reimbursement- Deputy Chief James Walsh

Tuition Reimbursement- Sergeant Ryan Evarts

Tuition Reimbursement- Lieutenant Terry Blake

Tuition Reimbursement- Lieutenant Jared Zwickler

Tuition Reimbursement- Officer Daniel Vazquez

**** COMMISSIONER- COLLIER CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENTS FOR DEPUTY JAMES WALSH; SERGEANT RYAN EVARTS; LIEUTENANT TERRY BLAKE; LIEUTENANT JARED ZWICKLER; OFFICER DANIEL VAZQUEZ FOR THE AMOUNTS THAT ARE STATED ON EACH OF THEIR APPLICATIONS.**

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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**Course Approval- Lieutenant Terry Blake
Course Approval- Sergeant Rafael Fonseca
Course Approval- Lieutenant Jared Zwickler
Course Approval- Officer Daniel Vazquez * two courses
Course Approval- Officer Robert Castaldi**

**** MS. STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE APPROVALS FOR
LIEUTENANT TERRY BLAKE; SERGEANT RAFAEL FONSECA; LIEUTENANT
JARED ZWICKLER; OFFICER DANIEL VAZQUEZ; OFFICER ROBERT CASTALDI.
** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Master's Degree Annual Stipend-Deputy Chief James Walsh

**** STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MASTER'S DEGREE ANNUAL STIPEND
FOR DEPUTY CHIEF JAMES WALSH.
** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Complimentary Letters

Chief Kulhawik said that he received a complimentary email from the Rabbi at Beth Israel Chabad regarding Lieutenant Zwickler.

Chief Kulhawik said that a complimentary emails were received regarding how pleased they were with how things went during the protests.

Chief Kulhawik said that a complimentary email was received from someone at the beach who had an issue and Lieutenant John and Officer Taborda were able to assist.

Chief Kulhawik said that a complimentary email was received for Officer Crawford for his assistance at the WayPointe parking garage.

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Chief Kulhawik said that a complimentary email was received regarding an internet phishing scheme that Officer Garbera was able to assist with and Detective Maloney was able to follow up.

Chief Kulhawik said that a complimentary email was received regarding an incident at the beach where someone who suffers from dementia had wandered off and Officer DiMeglio and Officer Laudano were able to assist.

Chief Kulhawik said on their social media page there was a post from a teacher from Stamford that thanked officers regarding Cranbury School

Mayor Rilling said the amount of complimentary comments that he receives has increased significantly and the complaints he receives are virtually nonexistent which goes to show that the police officers are working very diligently and hard.

International Alliance of Chaplains & Law Enforcement

Chief Kulhawik said that there was a prayer walk held several months ago and this group had attended the prayer walk and have since met with him to offer their support to the department and he is going to put them in touch with the Chaplains.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION- DISABILITY PENSION REQUEST- OFFICER CRISTINA
CAPELLA TEJADA**

- ** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ENTER INTO
EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE DISABILITY PENSION REQUEST FOR
OFFICER CRISTINA CAPELLA TEJADA**
- ** COMMISSIONER STRANITI SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Executive session began at 8:16PM
Executive session ended at 8:29PM.
There were no motions made and no votes were taken.

- ** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE
DISABILITY PENSION FOR OFFICER CHRISTINA TEJADA EFFECTIVE
OCTOBER 13, 2020.**
- **COMMISSIONER STRANITI SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:31PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd