

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 20, 2021

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Rilling; Commissioner Collier-Clemmons

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:48PM. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 19, 2021.

On page 1, line 7, change "her" to "their"

On page 2, line 1, change "councilwomen" to "councilwoman"

On page 2, paragraph 2, change "induvial" to "individual"

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

RECOGNITION

(Civilian Award- Dispatcher Joshua Wrinn & Richard Reynolds)

Chief Kulhawik said there was a boat rescue last month where people were stranded in the water and were rescued. LT. Blake and Assistant Chief Bassett of the Fire Department had brought to his attention that the people who were rescued praised the way that dispatcher Joshua Wrinn had handled the call and found that he was instrumental in finding the location and getting help to them quickly. He said for this we want to recognize him with a civilian award for his work on that call.

Chief Kulhawik said that on August 7, 2021, there was a 911 call for a person not breathing and dispatcher Richard Reynolds followed the emergency medical instructions on that call and Officer Prada happened to be working in dispatch at the time and had a connection to the family involved and believes without a doubt that the way he handled the call assisted in saving

City of Norwalk
Board of Police Commissioners
September 20, 2021

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Harry W. Rilling

Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

Commissioner Kelly Straniti

that person's life. He said for this we want to recognize him with a civilian award for his work on that call.

(The commissioners offered Dispatcher Joshua Wrinn and Dispatcher Richard Reynolds congratulations.)

(Civilian Award- Reverend Kassimis)

Chief Kulhawik said that on August 28, 2021, the department hosted a backpack give away and even though the Police Department had hosted the event it was spearheaded by Reverend Kassimis. He said that his church had collected approximately \$12,000 worth supplies and over 500 backpacks were distributed so we wanted to recognize him for the civilian award for his outstanding community work and spearheading that endeavor.

(The commissioners offered Reverend Kassimis congratulations.)

(August Officers of the Month-Officer Delgado, Sergeant Calise and Officer Max Sixto)

Chief Kulhawik said that Officer Delgado assisted Reverend Kassimis with the backpack giveaway and put a tremendous amount of extra effort to assist him so with that we want to recognize his efforts. He said that National Night Out was also hosted in August and LT. Dingo wanted to be sure that sergeant. Calise, Officer Sixto and their unit are recognized for their work in coordinating the event as well as their work in the community event.

(The commissioners offered Officer Delgado, Sergeant Calise and Officer Max Sixto congratulations.)

OPERATIONS REPORT

JULY

Patrol Staffing

Deputy Chief Walsh reported and said for the month of July there were currently 173 sworn personnel and that there are eight patrolmen vacancies. He said the sworn personnel used 174.75 sick days, 165.75 workers compensations days and five officers are on extended workmen's compensation and three officers are on light duty.

Selective Enforcement Report

Deputy Chief Walsh reported and said Detective Bureau remained steady in the month of July. Deputy Chief Walsh said that Special Services opened 26 cases and were busy with eight felony arrests, three misdemeanor arrests, five warrants and seven search warrants. He said that several

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Harry W. Rilling

Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

Commissioner Kelly Straniti

search warrants were executed at Carlon Court and ¼ gram of cocaine was seized and two individuals were arrested. He said there was also an arrest for a possession of a loaded handgun. Deputy Chief Walsh said the Special Victims Unit remained busy with 27 open cases in the month of July and held the DARE camp from June 28th to July 2, 2021 and was successful with 40 fifth and six graders attending. He said that three personnel also attended the NASRO conference from July 11, to July 16, 2021 and Sergeant Orr, Officer Gonez and Officer Robertson attended.

Deputy Chief Walsh said the Traffic Unit remained busy and 131 stops for the month of July and 134 citations were given, 21 misdemeanor arrests, three written warnings and 26 verbal warnings, and continued to do selective traffic enforcement in and traffic monitoring on Witch Lane & Hunt Street, Highland Avenue, William Street & County Street and Fitch Street & Strawberry Hill Avenue, and year to date have made 1309 stops. He said that traffic signs were deployed at 41 East Rocks Road and Mc Kinley Avenue in response to citizen complaints, and the community policing unit was also busy in preparation for National Night Out.

Deputy Chief Walsh said the total criminal arrests for the month of July was 171 and there were 4644 patrol division calls for service. He said the total enforcement for the month resulted in 217 citations and were mostly for stop sign violations and have been receiving a lot of civilian complaints regarding stop sign and red-light violations, so they have been focusing their attention there.

AUGUST

Patrol Staffing

Deputy Chief Walsh reported and said for the month of August there were currently 173 sworn personnel and that there are eight patrolmen vacancies. He said the sworn personnel used 200.75 sick days, 174.75 workers compensations days and seven officers are on extended workmen's compensation and two officers are on light duty.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported and said Detective Bureau dropped slightly in the month of August and there is an ongoing investigation into a cold case, and the detectives executed four arrest warrants.

Deputy Chief Walsh said that Special Services participated in a DEA investigation with the Bridgeport field office and upon executing search warrants in Norwalk they made arrests and two kilos of fentanyl were seized. They also continued with high visibility SNET patrols in hot spots of recent reports of shots fired in May and June and liquor violations on Washington Street and to make sure there was compliance with outdoor dining.

Deputy Chief Walsh said the Special Victims Unit assisted the traffic unit with slow down days from the beginning of the school year and there were several ongoing investigations for sexual assault.

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Harry W. Rilling

Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

Commissioner Kelly Straniti

Deputy Chief Walsh said the Traffic Unit remained busy and 243 stops for the month of August and 164 citations were given, 3 misdemeanor arrests, 56 written warnings and 20 verbal warnings. The annual slow down days begin on August 23 and over 300 stops were made, and enforcement was conducted in and about school zones to prepare for the beginning of school. Selective enforcement was conducted in 19 other locations around town in response to citizen complaints.

Deputy Chief Walsh said that there were 53 calls for service conducted by Community Policing Officers. National Night Out was held on August 23, 2021 and there was a backpack giveaway on August 28, 2021, as well as several community events.

Deputy Chief Walsh said the total criminal arrests for the month of August was 157 and there were 4750 patrol division calls for service. He said the total enforcement for the month resulted in 462 citations and were mostly given for stop sign violations and speeding.

Chief Kulhawik said that Sergeant Calise noted that during the slow down days that Officer Lavallo, Officer Wargo along with Officer Ouellette was responsible for 298 of the violations and averaged almost 19 violations each per day, and were able to use some grant funding to hire them for extra time before their shift so were able to get a lot of coverage.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

JULY AND AUGUST TRAINING REPORT

Deputy Chief Zecca reported and said training has been slow for the summer months because a lot of the staff is on vacation etc., so the bulk of the training in July and August was for specialty teams, ESU teams, SCUBA teams, CNT Teams and drone training. In addition to that one officer had attended a FEMA domestic preparedness training, as well as continuing with legal update training for the officers as well as an annual sexual assault investigation training. She said training was also started for some field training officers so as we get new officers, we can train them, and the force simulators have been received and installed and the trainers have all been trained on it and are looking forward to incorporating it into the firearms training and de-escalation training.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Course Approval- Officer Daniel Vazquez

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE APPROVAL FOR OFFICER DANIEL VAZQUEZ AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

City of Norwalk
Board of Police Commissioners
September 20, 2021

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

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**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA FOR THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR OFFICER DANIEL VAZQUEZ.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR OFFICER DANIEL VAZQUEZ IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1445.00.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Drop Request- Officer George Daley

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE DROP REQUEST FOR OFFICER GEORGE DALEY BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1, 2021 AND ENDING ON OCTOBER 31, 2026.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Drop Request- Officer Russell Ouellette

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE DROP REQUEST FOR OFFICER RUSSELL OUELLETTE BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1, 2021 AND ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2026.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Complimentary Letters

Chief Kulhawik said a resident wrote in thanking the officers who had responded to her house for an alarm.

Chief Kulhawik said the Superintendent from Burns Construction Company sent an email thanking the officers for their professionalism when working the construction sites and highlighted Officer Daley on going the extra mile to assist the crews.

Chief Kulhawik said a resident from Columbus Court sent an email thanking the officers who have been providing extra observation which Sergeant Calise arranged and especially thanked Officer Sixto.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email from a resident on Carlin Street for helping with a stop sign complaint.

Chief Kulhawik said he received two complimentary emails for Officer Wright who responded to a fireworks complaint.

City of Norwalk
Board of Police Commissioners
September 20, 2021

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

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Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email for Officer Mogollon thanking him for his hard work and dedication and were thankful he had responded to the call.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email from the Galley Café where someone had gotten injured, and the police had responded with the ambulance and were thankful for the quick response.

Chief Kulhawik said that goodie bags were dropped off for the DARE officers thanking them for running the camp.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email for a response to Harborside SONO on a DUI incident and were impressed on how the incident was handled.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email from residents in the Witch Lane area regarding the response to stop sign violations and especially thanked Officer Lavallo.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email from the Norwalk Transit district commending on how the officers had assisted during the storm.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email thanking Officer Holmes for his response outside the Open-Door Shelter for a behavioral health issue that one of the clients had.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email for Sergeant Fonseca thanking him for how he had handled a situation.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email from residents on Stuart Avenue regarding the response to a possible armed subject in the area.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A CONTRACTUAL ISSUE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Executive session began at 5:33PM.

Executive session ended at 5:52PM.

There were no motions made and no votes were taken.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:53PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd

City of Norwalk
Board of Police Commissioners
September 20, 2021