

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 September 19, 2022

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:26PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES JULY 18, 2022

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION- MAYOR RILLING..**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

PROMOTION- OFFICER BRIAN HAMM TO SERGEANT

Chief Kulhawik said that Sergeant Lapak had retired effective September 1st and would like to promote Officer Brian Hamm to Sergeant.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROMOTION OF OFFICER BRIAN HAMM TO SERGEANT EFFECTIVE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

(The commissioners congratulated Officer Hamm on his promotion to Sergeant)

RECOGNITION- CIVILIAN AWARD- DISPATCHER VANESSA BARRETT
JULY OFFICERS OF THE MONTH- LT. MARC LEPORE, SGT. JUSTINE BISCEGLIE, OFF.
RAUL ALDARONDO, OFF. CHRISTOPHER KASSIMIS, OFF. TIFFANY ORTIZ, OFF. MARK
SUDA, OFF. PAUL WARGO AND OFF. KEITH TORRESO.

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Chief Kulhawik said on July 25th just before 5:00AM a 911 call was received regarding a newborn that was not breathing. The call came into dispatcher Barrett and following the protocols that she has been trained on was calmly able to provide pre-arrival instructions to the family to administer CPR. Officer Torresos then arrived and took over CPR and the newborn was resuscitated and because of their actions resulted in a newborns life begin saved.

(The commissioners offered their congratulations to Dispatcher Barrett and Officer Torresos)

Chief Kulhawik said on the night of the fireworks there was an individual who climbed over the I-95 bridge on East Avenue and was going to jump onto the highway and Lieutenant Lepore, Sergeant Bisceglie, Officer Aldarondo, Officer Kassimis, Officer Ortiz, Officer Suda and Officer Wargo did an amazing job by keeping the individual calm and was able to pull him back over the fence and get him medical attention.

(The commissioners offered their congratulations to Lieutenant Lepore, Sergeant Bisceglie, Officer Aldarondo, Officer Kassimis, Officer Ortiz, Officer Suda and Officer Wargo)

OPERATIONS REPORT

PATROL STAFFING (JULY)

Deputy Chief Walsh reported and said for the month of July the staffing was at 175 and there are 6 vacancies in patrol. He said a total of 199 sick days and 199.25 workers compensation days were used by sworn personnel and eight officers are on long term workers compensation.

SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the Detective Bureau activity and noted that the Carl Ferraro was arrested on eight separate cases of embezzlement with two more cases opened post arrest, there was an investigation regarding a stabbing on Woodward Avenue and one arrest was made. He said they also conducted a burglary investigation at 239 Main Avenue where an ATM was stolen.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 13 cases for the month and conducted five temporary liquor applications and seized over seven pounds of marijuana at a shipping depot and there is an ongoing investigation.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the Special Victims activity and said they opened 18 cases and conducted an infant death investigation on Bouton Street, assisted in the Norwalk Public Safety

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Cadet Academy and provided security to Norwalk Public Schools summer academy and summer camps.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the traffic unit and said there were 74 stops made, 46 citations were issued, three misdemeanor arrests were made, 20 written warnings and 8 verbal warnings were issued. He noted that Officer Wasilewski arrested an individual stemming from a fatal MVA in 2021 and was charged with manslaughter in the second degree. He said they concentrated most of their selective enforcement at various locations and assisted the state police on the route seven connector for drag racing enforcement.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on Community Policing and noted they had three funeral escorts, provided day camp security, provided outreach at Ryan Park, and speed sign were installed at Ferris Avenue, Bedford Street, Hunt Street and Highland Avenue.

Deputy Chief Walsh said there were 186 criminal arrests made for the month, there were a total of 4026 calls for service and 189 total infractions issued.

PATROL STAFFING (AUGUST)

Deputy Chief Walsh reported and said for the month of August the staffing was at 176 and there are 5 vacancies in patrol. He said a total of 204.25 sick days and 205 workers compensation days were used by sworn personnel and nine officers are on long term workers compensation.

SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the Detective Bureau activity and noted that Detective Taylor arrested a subject for robbery and larceny, Detective Imparato arrested an individual on four counts of sex offender registry violation and there were several ongoing applicant background investigations for new candidates.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 25 cases and noted that a liquor compliance check at Saltwater bar and issued two citations for underage sales, US Marsal TFO officer Geismar located and arrested a fugitive in Florida and extradited them back to Connecticut on felony violence charges and they conducted four temporary liquor background investigations.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the Special Victims activity and said they opened 11 cases and noted that five officers were transferred to SVU and assigned as school resource officers for the beginning of the school year, school security was supplemented by hires assigned geographically throughout the city and they assisted in locating a schizophrenic missing person.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the traffic unit and said they initiated the annual school slow down days which concentrates in the areas of school zones and bus stop areas to prepare motorists for the return of school and there were 615 stops made, 109 citations were issued, 10 misdemeanor arrests were made, 458 written warnings and 38 verbal warnings were issued. He said they are also planning Norwalk Night Out on September 27th and the Citizen Police Academy.

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Deputy Chief Walsh said there were 161 criminal arrests made for the month, there were a total of 4638 calls for service and 467 total infractions issued.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT- JULY AND AUGUST TRAINING REPORT

Deputy Chief Zecca reported and said that the emergency services unit, the TRT team, the crisis negotiation team and the SCUBA team all did their monthly training, and they will be training one new drone officer. She also said they were able to get seats in the academy for the three new hires and they will be starting at the end of this week. She said that body camera training, bloodborne pathogen training, firearm training, citizen with special needs training and DUI training were also held for the new officers. She said the new review credit cycle has begun for 1/3 of department and dash camera training was given to most of the department as they are transitioning into having dashcams in the cars. She said additionally multiple officers were recertified in their NCIC certifications, two officers were helping at POST with hand on training and some of the officers went through annual patrol rifle training.

Mayor Rilling asked if all of the officers have access to Narcan. Deputy Chief Zecca said "yes". Mayor Rilling asked if the fire department and schools also have access to Narcan. Deputy Chief Zecca said she believes the fire department does but she is not sure about the schools. Mayor Rilling said it is critically important to have an adequate supply.

REQUEST FOR WAIVER FOR EXTRA DUTY FEE

Chief Kulhawik said historically the commission has waived the fee for the Oyster Festival however, this year because of the outside vendor they are not able to waive their fee, but the Oyster Festival is still requesting the city's portion of the fee to be waived. Mayor Rilling asked who the outside vendor is. Chief Kulhawik said Rollcall which is the online portal for extra duty work and since this was not a city function, they will not waive the fee. Deputy Chief Zecca said the city's portion of the fee that is charged is approximately \$3452.89.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE TO WAIVE THE CITY'S PORTION OF THE EXTRA DUTY FEE FOR THE OYSTER FESTIVAL WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ROLL CALL FEE WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SEAPORT ASSOCIATION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PERSONNEL MATTERS

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- SERGEANT SOFIA GULINO

****COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR SERGEANT SOFIA GULINO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,315**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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BACHELOR'S DEGREE STIPEND REQUEST- OFFICER GINA TOMEI

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE STIPEND REQUEST FOR OFFICER GINA TOMEI**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DROP PLAN- LIEUTENANT BRIAN CUNNINGHAM

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE DROP PLAN BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 1, 2022, AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2027 FOR LIEUTENANT BRIAN CUNNINGHAM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS- COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email from an individual whose 16-year-old was involved in a traffic accident. Officer Boyd was assigned, and she commented on how professional and nice he was to her son, and how he turned an upsetting situation into a teaching moment.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary letter from an individual whose boat was disabled on the Norwalk River and Officer Lee and Lieutenant Blake assisted them with their engine problem before the marine unit was able to get there.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email from an individual regarding a group of kids that were harassing residents and the police were called and apprehended a group of 17-year-old kids with masks on and was appreciative that the officers put a stop to it.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email from a parent regarding Sergeant Orr and Officer Abruzzini regarding their work with the DARE training. He also said he receives many letters regarding Officer Abruzzini's work at the school's and he is very well known and liked and does a tremendous job.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd

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