

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 18, 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 4:56PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- AUGUST 21, 2023

On page 4, Paragraph change "Lieutenant" to "Leutenant"
On page 5, paragraph 1, change "Lieutenant" to "Leutenant"

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

AUGUST OFFICERS OF THE MONTH- OFFICER DEVENDER SINGH, OFFICER STEVEN ANUSZKIEWICZ, OFFICER ANDREW RONCINSKE, AND OFFICER MATTHEW MITCHELL

Chief Walsh said that on August 6, 2023, Officer Anuszkiewicz was proactively patrolling the area of 30 Day Street and was flagged down by a resident, who reported that a male was sitting in a vehicle within the parking garage that may have been involved in a recent shooting at the complex. Officer Anuszkiewicz located the vehicle and contacted the sole occupant. When Officer Roncinske, Officer Mitchell, and Officer Singh arrived the male was removed from the vehicle and a 9mm Glock handgun with a 30-round magazine was located on the floor.

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Officer Anuszkiewicz's proactive approach to patrol, coupled with the teamwork displayed by Officer Roncinske, Officer Mitchell, and Officer Singh led to the successful arrest of the suspect and the removal of an illegal firearm from our streets.

(The commissioners congratulated Officer Singh, Officer Anuszkiewicz, Officer Roncinske, and Officer Mitchell)

HONORABLE MENTION- OFFICER ANDREW RONCINSKE AND OFFICER DEVENDER SINGH

Chief Walsh said that on August 6, 2023, Officer Singh and Officer Roncinske were dispatched to a possible kidnapping attempt on Bouton Street. Officer Singh interviewed the complainant and obtained a suspect description, which was broadcast, and Officer Roncinske located the suspect and detained him. The complainant stated that the suspect had reached into her car via an open back window and grabbed her child and the suspect began pulling the child out of the car, the mother grabbed the child and pulled the child away from the suspect, the suspect approached the mother and offered money for the child. Based on their quick and professional response, the suspect was apprehended and charged.

(The commissioners congratulated Officer Roncinske and Officer Singh)

HONORABLE MENTION- OFFICER VAN RENSBURG AND OFFICER ARVANITAKIS

Chief Walsh said that on August 8, 2023, Officer Van Rensburg was driving home after the completion of his shift and received an LPR hit for a stolen vehicle while traveling on the Route 7 connector. He confirmed that the U-Haul truck was stolen out of New York and with the assistance of Officer Arvanitakis he was able to stop the truck and the two occupants were arrested and the officers located the burglary tools within the vehicle and were consistent with the ones used to steal catalytic converters from vehicles. Despite being off duty, Officer Van Rensburg remained alert to his surroundings.

(The commissioners congratulated Officer Van Rensburg and Officer Arvanitakis)

CIVILIAN AWARD- ALEX HORELICK AND DOMINIQUE FALCI

Chief Walsh said that on September 2, 2023, Combined Dispatch received a 911 call reporting a drowning at Calf Pasture Beach. The caller stated that the victim had been removed from the water and that CPR was being performed. The arriving officers found the victim being tended to by Norwalk lifeguard Supervisor Alex Horelick and Dominique Falci, who was an off-duty registered nurse. Supervisor Horelick stated that he had witnessed the victim being pulled out of the water by a family member and rushed to the victim's aid and found the victim to be pulseless and he began CPR and when nurse Falci arrived, she took over the compressions while he prepared the AED and after multiple rounds of chest compressions, the victim regained a pulse and they assisted the victim to a recovery position, at which time she began to breath. The

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officers provided oxygen and EMS transported the victim to the hospital and the victim was conscious and speaking in the ambulance.

(The commissioners congratulated Alex Horelick and Dominique Falci)

PATROL STAFFING (August)

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the patrol staffing for the month of August and said the staffing was at 178 sworn personnel and five vacancies in patrol. He said a total of 147 sick days and 98.65 workers compensation days were used by sworn personnel, and three officers remain on long term workers compensation.

SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT REPORT (August)

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Detective Bureau activity and said that 45 cases were opened in the month of August and noted that they arrested a resident of 30 Day Street for failure to comply with the deadly weapon offender registry, arrested a suspect for Larceny one after embezzling money from Brien McMahon High School, and arrested a suspect for a shooting on Main Avenue and was charged with assault one, robbery one, and criminal possession of a firearm.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 44 cases for the month of August and noted that they arrested a suspect dealing cocaine on Prospect Street and a search warrant was executed at the residence and cocaine was seized.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Victims activity and said they opened 47 cases for the month of August and noted that the School Resource Officers began a new school year on August 28, a suspect was arrested for possession of child pornography one after a lengthy investigation, and a suspect was arrested for sexual assault one and risk of injury to a minor. Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Marine Unit and said there were 184 calls for service between June and August.

Deputy Chief Blake said that there were 6,530 calls for service and 240 total arrests in August. He said that 1199 total citations, summons, and written warnings were issued and were very proactive in August and had funding from a grant that allowed extra officers on the street to conduct speed and aggressive driving enforcement.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TRAINING REPORT (AUGUST)

Deputy Chief Dinho reported and said during the month of August they had four training classes that included legal updates, hostage negotiations, sniper training, and a physical fitness training class.

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Community Police Services division and said that at Monterey Village they held their own National Night Out which the Community Police had assisted with and was a fantastic turnout. He said there was a touch-a-truck event at the Norwalk Community Health Center and the back-to-school backpack giveaway which appears to big a

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huge success each year and the officers do a great job. He said the Norwalk Night Out was also held at police headquarters and is always well attended and enjoyed by the public.

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Traffic Unit and said for August they had conducted 595 motor vehicle stops and conducted the back-to-school slow down days on August 21st – August 30th and made 371 motor vehicle stops.

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Behavioral Health Unit and said they opened 46 cases in August and closed out 27 cases.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Deputy Chief Lepore reported and said earlier this year the contract was renewed for the body cameras, dashboard cameras, and tasers and have upgraded the body cameras and have begun to distribute them to all the officers and Animal Control. She said they have also added an additional 20 dashboard cameras to the cars and currently have 55 in the primary patrol cars and have 20 cameras ready to be installed in the new vehicles and any additional second line vehicles that they think will be necessary. She said they have also upgraded the tasers to the seven series and have been rolling them out and are well received by the officers.

Deputy Chief Lepore said that Lt. Kalmanides has taken over her position and is in charge of the accreditation manager and is going through the training and has hit the ground running and is doing a great job.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

DROP PLAN- OFFICER HECTOR DELGADO

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DROP PLAN- SERGEANT PETER WHITE

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE DROP PLAN FOR SERGEANT PETER WHITE BEGINNING ON DECEMBER 1, 2023, AND ENDING ON NOVEMBER 30, 2028.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

BACHELOR'S DEGREE STIPEND- OFFICER GINA TOMEI

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said Officer Tomei had the degree when she was hired and asked why it is just coming before the commission now, and will the stipend be effective now or will it be retroactive to her hire date. Chief Walsh said it will be effective from when she presented her degree moving forward.

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**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE STIPEND FOR OFFICER GINA TOMEI.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS- COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS

Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary letter from the Winston Preparatory School on behalf of Sergeant Kruger and Officer Peterson along with their canine buddies who provided a presentation to the students during the last week of school. They went on to say that it was incredibly generous and appreciated and are hoping to have them visit again as the students and faculty were very engaged and enjoyed the presentation.

Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary letter from Sergeant Platt of the Ridgefield Police Department on behalf of the scuba team who had assisted them for several days in an unfortunate incident and tried to assist in locating a body of a person who had drowned in August and was a difficult operation but was unsuccessful.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd