

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 August 21, 2023

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

STAFF: Chief James Walsh; Deputy Chief Terry Blake; Lieutenant Melissa Lepore;
Lieutenant Dinho; Officer Barrett; Officer Lavallo; Officer Silva; Officer
Serrano

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:22PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- JULY 17, 2023

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

JULY OFFICERS OF THE MONTH- OFFICER LOUIS GIANNATTASIO, OFFICER MATTHEW MITCHELL, OFFICER PHIL TABORDA, AND OFFICER JAMES KASSIMIS

Chief Walsh said that Officer Giannattasio, Officer Mitchell, Officer Taborda, and Officer Kassimis have all been selected as the officers of the month for July 2023 for the investigation and subsequent apprehension of a violent family offender. On July 5, 2023, Officer Giannattasio was assigned to investigate a violent domestic assault and kidnapping which occurred in Norwalk and ended in Ansonia. The suspect was subsequently arrested for an assault that occurred in Ansonia after the kidnapping, but the kidnapping remained unreported by the victim. The suspect failed to appear in court but continued to stalk and threaten the victim in Norwalk. The suspect was staking and making death threats as he looked for the victim in the victim's neighborhood and based on the severity of the imminent threat of the further assault and kidnapping the victim came to police headquarters as the officers attempted locate the suspect.

City of Norwalk
Board of Police Commissioners
August 21, 2023

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

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Officer Mitchell spotted the suspect in his vehicle while driving in the victim's neighborhood and attempted to pull him over, and the suspect engaged the officers in pursuit and Officer Kassimis and Officer Taborda assisted. The three officers pursued the suspect in his car based on the severity of the charges and the suspect crashed his vehicle and fled on foot but was arrested after a lengthy foot chase.

Chief Walsh said that Sergeant Evarts nominated all the officers for Officer of the month for their efforts and investigative work in assuring this suspect was arrested for the overall safety and welfare of the domestic violence victim and he backs up that nomination. The suspect was arrested for kidnapping, unlawful restraint, and numerous motor vehicle charges.

(The commissioners congratulated Officer Giannattasio, Officer Mitchell, Officer Taborda, and Officer Kassimis)

OPERATIONS REPORT

PATROL STAFFING (July)

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the patrol staffing for the month of July and said the staffing was at 180 sworn personnel and is one vacancy in patrol. He said a total of 155.75 sick days and 111.75 workers compensation days were used by sworn personnel, and four officers remain on long term workers compensation.

SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT REPORT (July)

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Detective Bureau activity and said that 50 cases were opened in the month of July and noted that they investigated three shots fired incidents in Colonial Village, arrested a suspect in two home invasion incidents, and two suspects were arrested for kidnapping that began in New York City.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 43 cases for the month of July and noted that there was an investigation into crack cocaine in and around Ryan Park and four arrest warrants were served and a search warrant was executed. There was a search warrant executed at vape shops throughout the city and three pounds of marijuana, hallucinogen mushrooms and \$15,000 of cash was seized from the Smokehouse Vape Shop. There was an investigation into the underage sale of alcohol at Saltwater Gill and a referral to the Connecticut Liquor Commission led to a voluntary surrender of their liquor permit.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Victims activity and said they opened 21 cases for the month of July and noted that the School Resource Officers assisted with summer school and summer camps, the DCF investigator began working in the Special Victims Unit, and they assisted another agency with a sexual assault investigation.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Behavioral Health Unit and said that 45 cases were opened in July and addressed 44 total cases have been addressed and 24 cases were successfully closed. He said that unit continues to be busy and is very successful.

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Harry W. Rilling
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Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Traffic Unit and said that 254 citations were issued as well as 87 written warnings, 11 verbal warnings, and made four arrests. He said they also escorted the peace run.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on community policing and said they visited the summer camps throughout the city, participated in the backpack collection giveaway in August, and Cones with Cops in East Norwalk.

Deputy Chief Blake said that there were 6,606 calls for service and 246 total arrests in July. He said that 986 total citations, summons, and written warnings were issued which is a substantial increase from 2022, and the month of July also incorporated state grant funds for speeding and aggressive driving enforcement.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TRAINING REPORT (JULY)

Chief Walsh provided an overview of the training that was held in the month of July and said there were 13 total training courses held and most of the review credit training was completed in May and June.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said she is happy that these classes are given and makes the police force better prepared for the situations that they encounter. Mayor Rilling agreed and said he also sits on the Fire Commission and does not think there are two departments anywhere that receive as much training as the Norwalk Police Department and the Norwalk Fire Department, and it is well used. Commissioner Lopez said he echoes the same sentiment and that is why we have the trained and skilled officers that we have on staff.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

COURSE APPROVAL MASTER'S DEGREE- OFFICER ESLAM ELLISY

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE APPROVAL FOR OFFICER ESLAM ELLISY.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COURSE APPROVAL MASTER'S DEGREE- SERGEANT ROBERT ZWILLICH

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE APPROVAL FOR SERGEANT ROBERT ZWILLICH**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- SERGEANT RAFAEL FONSECA

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE APPROVAL FOR SERGEANT RAFAEL FONSECA.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- DEPUTY CHIEF TERRY BLAKE

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR DEPUTY CHIEF BLAKE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 1,032.50**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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Board of Police Commissioners
August 21, 2023

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DROP PLAN- SERGEANT JOSEPH MOQUIN

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION-PROMOTIONS, DISABILITY PENSION APPLICATION, AND CONTRACT DISCUSSION- DEPUTY CHIEF BLAKE

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Executive session began at 4:40PM.

Executive session ended at 5:03PM.

There were no motions made and no votes were taken.

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE DISABILITY PENSION FOR OFFICER BRUCE LAVALLO.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

(The commissioners thanked Officer Lavallo for his years of service and wished him well in the future)

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED THE CONTRACT DISCUSSION FOR DEPUTY CHIEF BLAKE.**

Chief Walsh said it is a modification of his current contract as was discussed in executive session and will be effective August 24, 2023.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE RETIREMENT REQUEST FROM DEPUTY CHIEF BLAKE EFFECTIVE AUGUST 24, 2023, AND ISSUE A CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT FOR A PERIOD OF YEARS.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROMOTION OF LIEUTENANT MELISSA LEPORE AND LIEUTENANT JOSEPH DINHO TO THE POSITION OF DEPUTY CHIEF, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 22, 2023.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

(The commissioners congratulated Lieutenant Lepore and Lieutenant Dinho on their promotion to Deputy Chief)

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**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROMOTION OF SERGEANT SOFIA GULINO TO LIEUTENANT, THE PROMOTION OF SERGEANT STEFANOS KALMANIDES TO LIEUTENANT, AND SERGEANT GARRETT KRUGER TO LIEUTENANT EFFECTIVE THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2023.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

(The commissioners congratulated Sergeant Gulino, Sergeant Kalmanides, and Sergeant Kruger on their promotion to Lieutenant)

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROMOTION OF OFFICER JOSE SILVA TO SERGEANT, OFFICER DANIEL SEFCIK TO SERGEANT, AND OFFICER JOHN PETRAFESA TO SERGEANT EFFECTIVE THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2023.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

(The commissioners congratulated Officer Silva, Officer Sefcik, and Officer Petrafesa on their promotion to Sergeant)

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROMOTION OF OFFICER ALFREDO SERRANO AND OFFICER BRIAN BARRETT TO THE POSITION OF DETECTIVE EFFECTIVE THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2023.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

(The commissioners congratulated Officer Serrano and Officer Barrett on their promotion to Detective)

Chief Walsh said there will be a formal promotional ceremony held this Wednesday at 5:30PM at City Hall.

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INFORMATIONAL ITEMS- COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS

Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary email for the Marine Division for a heartfelt thanks to the four officers who came to the rescue of their family and the boat.

Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary email from the FBI for Lieutenant Marc Lepore for assisting in attending a class in crisis negotiations and hostage negotiations in Wilton, and they are looking forward to further presentations in the future.

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Board of Police Commissioners
August 21, 2023

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Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary email for Officer Ortiz for assisting a woman that was involved in a motor vehicle accident and said she is a shining example of kindness and professionalism and was an honor to have met her.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:22.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd