

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Harry W. Rilling
Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons
Commissioner Tony Lopez
Commissioner Nathan Sumpter
Commissioner Ron Paladino

CITY OF NORWALK BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING August 19, 2024

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

STAFF: Chief James Walsh; Deputy; Deputy Chief Melissa Lepore; Deputy Chief
Joseph Dinho; Officer James Kassimis

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:29PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES JULY 15, 2024

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments this evening.

JULY OFFICER OF THE MONTH- OFFICER JAMES KASSIMIS

Chief Walsh said he is honored to announce that Officer James Kassimis has been named the July 2024 officer of the month. James was recognized for his heroism, dedication, and lifesaving efforts of saving a woman who was believed to be taking her own life in the Norwalk River.

On July 15, 2024, Officer James Kassimis heard Combined Dispatch send officers to the rear of 136 East Avenue for a possible drowning. He immediately left his extra work job on Wall

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Street and responded to the area. Officer Kassimis, along with Norwalk Firefighter David Dustin entered the water and made their way to the victim, who was clinging to a life jacket that had been thrown to her by a rower. They reached the victim and skillfully brought her back to shore. The victim was transferred to the care of the Norwalk Hospital for evaluation. Officer Kassimis bravely entered the Norwalk River without a personal flotation device, and along with Firefighter Dustin, selflessly saved the victim's life. Officer Kassimis is hereby nominated as the July Officer of the Month.

For these selfless reasons, Officer James Kassimis was named July 2024 Officer of the Month.
(The commissioners congratulated Officer James Kassimis)

CIVILIAN AWARD- MARK MINOR

Chief Walsh said that Mark Minor of the Maritime Rowing Club had given the woman a life vest as she was clinging to the life vest in the middle of the river. He said a witness had observed a woman walk into the water and when she was chest deep laid down in the water and on the way to the hospital the woman had admitted that she was possibly attempting to commit suicide, and if it wasn't the initial efforts of Mr. Minor there may have been a different outcome.
(The commissioners congratulated Mark Minor)

PATROL STAFFING (JULY)

Chief Walsh reported on the patrol staffing for the month of July and said the staffing was at 182 sworn personnel as of July 31, 2024, and there is one vacancy in patrol. He said a total of 163 sick days and 64 workers compensation days were used by sworn personnel, with three officers on long term injury, two officers out with non-work-related injuries, and two officers on administrative leave.

SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT REPORT (JULY)

Chief Walsh reported on the Detective Bureau activity and said that 39 cases were opened in the month of July and noted that a suspect was arrested for assault in the first, reckless endangerment in the first, carrying a pistol without a permit, and unlawful discharge following a shooting on Ely Avenue.

Chief Walsh reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 69 cases for the month of July and noted that a search warrant was executed at 91 Lexington Avenue after numerous resident complaints of narcotics trafficking, and a suspect was arrested and cocaine, fentanyl and Adderall were seized. A fugitive from California was located and arrested for a

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warrant and was charged with two counts sex assault on a victim that was 12 years old. Liquor compliance checks were conducted with the State of CT Consumer Protection Agents.

Chief Walsh reported on the Special Victims activity and said they opened 10 cases for the month of July and noted that a suspect was arrested on a warrant and charged with sexual assault in the second degree and two counts of risk of injury to a minor, a suspect was arrested on a warrant and charged with sexual assault in the first and risk of injury to a minor, and a suspect was arrested on a warrant and charged with sexual assault in the third degree and risk of injury to a minor.

Chief Walsh reported on the Marine Unit activity and said they had 89 cases for the month of July and noted that seven persons were rescued, four boats was towed, and there were 13 boating violations including multiple voyage terminations. He said that a boat was grounded south of Ram Island and four people were rescued and they assisted patrol with a water rescue from the Norwalk River.

Chief Walsh said there were 7,579 calls for service, 201 total arrests in July, and that 1,472 total citations, summons, and written warnings were issued for the month, and they received speed and aggressive grant funds so each day grant hires were put out to address speeding and aggressive driving in areas where they had received civilian complaints. Mayor Rilling asked if the back-to-school slowdown days have begun. Chief Walsh said "yes", They began last Thursday and have issued over 100 citations. Mayor Rilling asked if the passing a school bus complaints are still an issue. Chief Walsh said they don't receive as many as they did in the past, but he will add that to the report this year.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TRAINING REPORT (JULY)

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Community Police Services Division and said they handled 631 calls for service. He said the major events they attended/assisted during July included the Westport, Norwalk, and Rowayton fireworks, the NICE festival, Nitzam preschool visit, Puerto Rican Day Parade, the Behavioral Health Unit event, the Cranbury and Naramake summer camps, Cones with Cops, and the Hartford Law Enforcement Day camp.

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Traffic Unit and said they had conducted 597 motor vehicle stops. He said some of the major selective enforcement locations were held on East Avenue, Winfield Street, West Rocks Road, Wilson Avenue, Beach Road, Ward Street, Riverside Avenue, Grist Mill Road, Silvermine Avenue, Main Avenue.

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Deputy Chief Dinho provided an overview of the Behavioral Health Unit and said they opened 45 cases in July, addressed 45 cases and closed out 18 cases. He said three cases were referred to by outside agencies, 33 cases were referred from within the police department, and nine cases were self-initiated.

Deputy Chief Dinho provided an overview of the training for July and said there were a total of eight subject areas with 12 attendees.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT (JULY)

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the grants and inspections and said that they had 11 DUI grant hires for the month of July for a total of 97.5 hours. She said they conducted 13 field sobriety tests and seven breathalyzer tests, leading to 10 DUI arrests. She said officers made 74 car stops and issued 75 infraction tickets. She said the speed and aggressive driving had 61 grant hires for the month of July for a total of 366 hours, and officers made 454 car stops and issued 458 infraction tickets. She said the quarterly reporting to federal and state agencies for three grants was submitted, and the monitoring governments website for the drone grant application has opened.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the staff inspections and said there are no divisional inspections scheduled for September.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Crime Scene Unit and said that 104 persons were fingerprinted (26 were for pistol permits. She said 22 DVD's were created for case requests, 11 cases were processed for evidence, and 125 patrol cases required camera/photograph downloads of scenes, and backgrounds were conducted on one massage therapists for the Coco Health Spa. She said three solicitor permits were requested during the month. She said the CSI unit did not have any crime scene deployments during the month of July.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the body and dashboard cameras and said there are no issues or malfunctions at this time.

Deputy Chief Lepore said that there were 48 new requests for case videos, 5 disks were burned with videos and 24 electronic shares with Stamford Court.

Deputy Chief Lepore said they received three inquiries for local students seeking internships, with only one responding and her background and interview were successful, and she will be starting in September. She said the intern will be completing 200 hours with the Behavioral Health Unit

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the accreditation and said they are currently working on updates to several policies in accordance with state mandated changes and are continually collecting proofs and review of CALEA standards for compliance and annual audit.

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Mayor Rilling said that he has requested that the Grants Coordinator for the City of Norwalk compile a list of grants that have been received to date.

PERSONNEL MATTERS- DROP PLAN-OFFICER VIDAL GONEZ

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE DROP PLAN FOR OFFICER VIDAL GONEZ BEGINNING ON DECEMBER 1, 2024, AND ENDING ON NOVEMBER 30, 2029.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS

Chief Walsh said that he received a complimentary letter from the Chief Koskinas of the Westport Police Department for Officer Wasilewski and Officer Wargo for providing motorcycle assistance during their recent fireworks display.

Chief Walsh said that he received a complimentary letter from Tina Donaher for Officer Martinez kindness in providing a senior citizen that walks each day in East Norwalk with shorts and thanked her for all she does both within and outside her duties.

Chief Walsh said he received a letter via the CALEA public comment portal stating the Norwalk Police are an exceptional group of men and women and the department has also been helpful when she needed assistance. The representation throughout community events such as the PRIDE event is very important especially during these times and it makes her feel safe and protected in our town.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons requested that Chief Walsh contact the Sergeant who wrote the officer of the month letter and let him know it was very well written.

Commissioner Paladino said that he was the recipient of the Norwalk fire, police, and medical units a few weeks ago after falling from his roof and thanked everyone for their professionalism and said we have amazing first responders.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07PM.

Respectfully submitted, Dilene Byrd

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