

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 JULY 17, 2023

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

STAFF: Chief James Walsh; Deputy Chief Terry Blake

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 5:09PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- MAY 15, 2023

On page 4, in the motion remove “accept” and add “to”

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

MAY OFFICER OF THE MONTH- OFFICER MATTHEW SHIZUME

Chief Walsh said that on May 12, 2023, Officer Shizume responded to a medical call at Blue Mountain Road for a male having difficulty breathing and CPR was in progress when he arrived and he quickly assessed the situation and began to perform CPR until the fire department arrived on scene. He said due to Officer Shizume’s professional life saving actions the patient has made a full recovery. He said that Deputy Chief Blake has nominated Officer Shizume for officer of the month, and he seconds that nomination.

(The commissioners congratulated Officer Shizume)

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CIVIL AWARD- DISPATCHER JENNIFER GIRON

Chief Walsh said that Dispatcher Giron has been nominated for a civil award for her assistance on the phone and providing medical protocols prior to Officer Shizume's arrival.

(The commissioners congratulated Dispatcher Giron)

HONORABLE MENTION- DISPATCHER VANESSA BARRETT AND DISPATCHER CHRISTOPHER LAZAR

Chief Walsh said on May 10, 2023, Dispatcher Barrett took a call from a resident reporting smoke and fire showing from an apartment building at 1 North Avenue and she handled the call very well and was able to determine there was a structure fire with people still possibly inside the apartments.

Chief Walsh said that Dispatcher Lazar was working as the fire department/emergency services/dispatcher and quickly dispatched fire and EMS personnel and kept them updated with the information. He said that Dispatcher Lazar did a phenomenal job handling all the radio traffic and requests from fire command and keeping everyone updated all while still having to handle other EMS calls coming in and dispatching them.

Chief Walsh said the during this time. Dispatcher Barret displayed outstanding teamwork and worked hand in hand with Dispatcher Lazar to make sure everything went as smoothly as it did. He said that both Dispatcher Barrett and Dispatcher Lazar both went above and beyond and did an amazing job.

(The commissioners congratulated Dispatcher Barrett and Dispatcher Lazar)

JUNE OFFICER OF THE MONTH- OFFICER JULIO RODRIGUEZ

Chief Walsh said in June 2023, Officer Rodriguez began an investigation after receiving information regarding a fentanyl supplier and was able to identify the suspect and arrange a controlled purchase of fentanyl. He said on June 28, 2023, he arranged the delivery and was able to make an arrest without incident and seized over 600 grams of fentanyl and over 1000 M30 fentanyl pills.

(The commissioners congratulated Officer Rodriguez)

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OPERATIONS REPORT

PATROL STAFFING (May)

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the patrol staffing for the month of May and said the staffing was at 181 sworn personnel and there are no vacancies in patrol. He said a total of 154 sick days and 62.25 workers compensation days were used by sworn personnel, and four officers remain on long term workers compensation.

SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT REPORT (May)

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Detective Bureau activity and said that 45 cases were opened in the month of May and noted that they had arrested a juvenile for arson 3rd and criminal mischief 3rd, and two suspects were arrested for embezzling \$400,000 and both were charged with larceny 1st.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 30 cases for the month and noted that a suspect was arrested in Ryan Park with heroin and crack cocaine and assisted the FBI safe streets with two arrests related to an ongoing investigation.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Victims activity and said they opened 81 cases for the month and noted that approximately 60 of those cases were school resource officer involved cases. He said they also investigated a DCF complaint of parental assault on a child, investigated a juvenile overdose of THC. He said there was also ongoing DARE instruction.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Behavioral Health Unit and said that 49 cases were opened in May and addressed 59 total cases and 29 cases were successfully closed. He said that unit continues to be busy and is very successful.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Traffic Unit and said that 356 citations were issued as well as 130 written warnings, 20 verbal warnings, and made two arrests. He said they also participated in commercial vehicle enforcement with the CT state police, performed citywide loud vehicle enforcement, and held a child passenger safety clinic.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on community policing and said they had ongoing meetings with the Norwalk Housing Authority and Soundview Landing, participated in the first book event at Norwalk High School, coordinated the Rowayton and Norwalk Memorial Day Parades, and participated in the Norwalk Police Department's Memorial Day coordination.

Deputy Chief Blake said that there were 6,811 calls for service and 210 total arrests in May.

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Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said she was thankful for the citywide loud vehicle enforcement and that it seems to be working.

Commission Collier-Clemmons requested the numbers that are on the pie chart for the different shifts be done in white going forward.

PATROL STAFFING (June)

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the patrol staffing for the month of June and said the staffing was at 183 sworn personnel and there are no vacancies in patrol. He said a total of 143.25 sick days and 78 workers compensation days were used by sworn personnel, and three officers remain on long term workers compensation.

SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT REPORT (June)

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Detective Bureau activity and said that 33 cases were opened in the month of June and noted there was an arrest made in an ID theft investigation and the suspect was charged with two counts of ID theft, forgery, and larceny.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 51 cases for the month and noted that there was a joint investigation with the DEA and an arrest was made and 600 grams of fentanyl and 1000 fentanyl pills were seized. He said they also assisted in CT drug control with prescription fraud investigation and executed an arrest warrant on the suspect.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Victims activity and said they opened 46 cases for the month and noted they participated in home visits conducted with the Domestic Violence Crisis Center, arrested a juvenile on probation and was taken into custody, and the SRO's finished the 2022/23 school year and summer school will begin in July.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Behavioral Health Unit and said that 28 cases were opened in June and addressed 35 total cases and 11 cases were successfully closed.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Traffic Unit and said that 278 citations were issued as well as 77 written warnings, 6 verbal warnings, and made one arrest. He said they also assisted the Greenwich Police Department with POTUS escort, and Operation Clear Track with the MTA and the CTDOT.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on community policing and said they supported the Special Olympics Torch Run through Norwalk, participated in the Touch a Truck at the American Legion, and had Coffee with A Cop at Ryan Park.

Deputy Chief Blake said that there were 6,541 calls for service and 223 total arrests in June.

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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TRAINING REPORT (MAY AND JUNE)

Chief Walsh provided an overview of the training that was held in the month of May and noted that they were busy completed the review credit for this year's cycle that was due in July.

Chief Walsh provided an overview of the training that was held in the month of June and noted that they used the old Cranbury School for an active shooter drill.

Mayor Rilling said the wide variety of training is impressive and he would put the Norwalk Police Department's training program up against any police department anywhere.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COURSE APPROVAL- OFFICER MICHAEL MACARI

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE APPROVAL FOR OFFICER MICHAEL MACARI.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- OFFICER ABIGAIL OHLSEN

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR OFFICER OHLSEN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 457.50 AND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$893.50 FOR A TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT OF \$1,351.00**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- LIEUTENANT JOSEPH DINHO

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR LIEUTENANT DINHO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 343.25**

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said in the past the commission has considered the total amount of tuition costs and have reimbursed half of that, and the total cost is \$760.00 but did not take into consideration the tuition discount of \$73.50 that was given by the school so his reimbursement amount should be \$380.00.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR LIEUTENANT DINHO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 380.00**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- DEPUTY CHIEF TERRY BLAKE

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR DEPUTY CHIEF TERRY BLAKE IN THE AMOUNT \$1,032.50.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VACATION CARRY-OVER- DEPUTY CHIEF ZECCA

Mayor Rilling asked how many vacation days Deputy Chief Zecca will have in total effective July 1, 2023. Chief Walsh said her exhaustion date is at the end of August and as previously discussed she will be retiring at that time.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE VACATION CARRY-OVER FOR DEPUTY CHIEF ZECCA.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS- COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS

Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary email from Mr. Beyer thanking the officers for helping him to recover his stolen moped. He said the Mr. Beyer found the moped for sale of Facebook Marketplace and the officers helped his to recover it.

Chief Walsh said that Deputy Chief Blake received a call from Rachel Joyce, who works for Ability and Beyond complementing Officer Brian Barrett who had responded to a medical call for one of her clients. She had said that Officer Barrett was kind, gently and had made a connection with the client who had suffered a seizure.

Chief Walsh said that Deputy Chief Blake he received a complimentary email from Stacey Christoforides, expressing her deepest appreciation for Officer Roncinske, Officer Simkims, and Officer Tomei for being so kind and caring when they had responded to a call at her residence.

Chief Walsh said that Deputy Chief Blake he received a complimentary email from Mr. Pazio thanking Officer Deri for his assistance when his vehicle broke down on RT. 7 and said he was incredibly professional, polite, and helpful.

Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary email from Chief DiFederico of New Canaan commending the Norwalk Police Department for assisting in locating suspects in a fraud investigation. He said that Sergeant Moquin went above and beyond by responding to the scene himself and overseeing the investigation and remained on continuous contact as the situation was developing and his courtesy, professionalism, and willingness to help a neighboring jurisdiction is commendable.

Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary letter for Sergeant Sherry and other officers for their help when a greyhound bus that broke down on West Avenue.

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ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:52PM., Respectfully submitted, Dilene Byrd