

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 JULY 15, 2024

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

STAFF: Chief James Walsh; Deputy Chief Terry Blake; Deputy Chief Melissa Lepore; Lieutenant Sofia Gulino; Officer Justin Cullmer

OTHERS: Aldo Ojeda

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:40PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES JUNE 17, 2024

On page 1, change “agenda’s” to “agendas”

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION- COMMISSIONER SUMPTER**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments this evening.

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JUNE OFFICER OF THE MONTH- OFFICER JUSTIN CULLMER

Chief Walsh said he is honored to announce that Officer Justin Cullmer has been named the June 2024 officer of the month. Justin was recognized for his dedication and efforts in Behavioral Health Unit in June 2024, and throughout the year. Below are just a few examples of how Officer Cullmer has demonstrated his dedication to the residents in Norwalk.

A resident of the City of Norwalk had suffered from mental health for a very long time, and the Norwalk Police Department had a long history of assisting this individual before the creation of the Behavioral Health Unit. In June, Officer Cullmer was able to secure a long-term bed at Connecticut Valley Hospital. This full-time hospital specializes in addressing the needs of those with severe mental illness. With this transfer, this individual will be given the resources needed to live a higher quality of life. Up until this time, they had been a resident of Cassena Care, and while it is a full-time nursing home, the individual still had over 25 calls for service in calendar year 2024 alone.

Another case of Officer Cullmer's dedication to our community members in need includes an individual who suffers from schizophrenia, where Officer Cullmer spoke with the supervising officer at Norwalk Probation and the State's Attorney at Stamford Court to assist in the individual being properly assessed by Stamford Court for a lack of complying with his conditions of release.

Officer Cullmer also provided aid to an individual who suffers from opioid addiction. Within a couple of days, we received two overdose calls for service where the individual was given Narcan. During the second incident, Officer Cullmer responded and followed the ambulance with the individual to the hospital. In collaboration with the Norwalk Hospital and Liberation Programs, the resident was successfully admitted to a 3-month rehabilitation program for opioid addiction through Liberation Programs. The family was given additional resources for them to cope with their loved one's ongoing struggles.

Finally, another example of Officer Cullmer's dedication to the Norwalk community comes from a case where a 5-month pregnant female was reportedly drinking vodka daily. Patrol had received multiple calls for service on consecutive days for intoxication. Officer Cullmer and the BHU became involved and collaborated with outside agencies (including a PEER Engagement Specialist from Norwalk Hospital), a private interventionist, and a treatment center in Pennsylvania, helping the woman to be transferred from the hospital directly to the treatment center for long-term rehabilitation.

Additionally, Officer Cullmer and the BHU have handled 284 cases this year, with a 54% connection rate to services. Also, Officer Cullmer routinely remains in constant contact with over 25 community agencies to arrange for additional care for Norwalk residents in need, including 14 overdose cases with the Liberation Program.

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For these reasons, and a continued dedication to his job and the Norwalk residents, Officer Justin Cullmer is an excellent candidate for officer of the month.

(The commissioners congratulated Officer Cullmer)

Officer Cullmer said he appreciates being recognized but that it is not just him alone and that he has two great clinicians that work with him, as well as the joint effort from the chiefs and his sergeant for being instrumental and Lieutenant Gulino who paved the groundwork.

PATROL STAFFING (JUNE)

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the patrol staffing for the month of May and said the staffing was at 183 sworn personnel and there are no vacancies in patrol. He said a total of 144 sick days and 45 workers compensation days were used by sworn personnel with one officer on long term injury, and three officers on administrative leave.

SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT REPORT (JUNE)

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Detective Bureau activity and said that 48 cases were opened in the month of June and noted that a suspect was arrested and charged with burglary, interfering with a 911 call, disorderly conduct after entering an occupied home overnight, and a suspect was arrested via warrant for three counts of failure to register as a sex offender and has been involved in sex trafficking of minors in the past.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 52 cases for the month of June and noted that a search warrant was executed at Exotic Smoke Shop and SONO One Stop Smoke Shop. There were two arrests made and hundreds of products containing above the legal limit of THC were seized.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Victims activity and said they opened 23 cases for the month of June and noted that that a suspect was arrested by warrant and charged with sexual assault the 4th and two counts of risk of injury for sexually assaulting a child, and a juvenile was arrested at home for possession of a ghost gun and several narcotics charges.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Marine Unit activity and said they had 65 cases for the month of June and noted that 14 persons were rescued, one boat was towed, and there were 14 boating violations.

Deputy Chief Blake said there were 6,696 calls for service, and 256 total arrests in June, and that 838 total citations, summons, and written warnings were issued for the month which has increased from last year. Commissioner Paladino asked how that compares year to date to 2023. Deputy Chief Blake said he will get that information and report back.

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COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TRAINING REPORT (JUNE)

Chief Walsh reported on the Community Police Services Division and said they handled 741 calls for service. He said the major events they attended/assisted during the month of June included the NPD Community Forum, FBI symposium presentation, Gun Violence Month Recognition, Touch a Truck event, Filling in the Blanks food pantry, Rowayton community meeting, Chaplain appreciation event, Mayors Veteran Honoring of Pinstripes, Ryan Park graduation day, Juneteenth celebration, and the complete streets events.

Chief Walsh reported on the Traffic Unit and said they had conducted 303 motor vehicle stops. He said some of the major selective enforcement locations were held on Calf Pasture Beach Road, Connecticut Avenue, Rampart Road, Highland Avenue, East Avenue, Silvermine Avenue, and Westport Avenue.

Chief Walsh provided an overview of the Behavioral Health Unit and said they opened 44 cases in June, addressed 44 cases and closed out 26 cases. He said one case was referred to by outside agencies, 34 cases were referred from within the police department, and nine cases were self-initiated.

Chief Walsh provided an overview of the training for June and said there were a total of 13 subject areas with 38 attendees. Mayor Rilling said the community services division joined him on June 13, 2024, at Pinstripes and there was a gentleman there who was a WWII veteran, and it was his 105th birthday and he gave him a proclamation and it was remarkable.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT (JUNE)

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the grants and inspections and said that they had seven DUI grant hires for the month of June for a total of 63.5 hours. She said they conducted 10 field sobriety tests and 10 breathalyzer tests, leading to 10 DUI arrests. She said officers made 55 car stops and issued 44 infraction tickets. She said that the speed and aggressive driving grant began on July 1st and during week one had funded a total of 96 hours and officers made 153 car stops and issued 146 infractions. She said the port security grant was completed and submitted to FEMA for various scuba and marine unit equipment, and the awards will be announced sometime in September.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the staff inspections and said that an unannounced property room inspection was conducted and there were no major discrepancies found but there

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were recommendations suggested to maximize storage capacity concerns. She said there are no other divisional inspections scheduled until September.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Crime Scene Unit and said that 104 persons were fingerprinted (38 were for pistol permits. She said 38 DVD's were created for case requests, 44 cases were processed for evidence, and 116 patrol cases required camera/photograph downloads, backgrounds were conducted for one massage therapist for the Coco Healthy Spa, and there were no solicitor permits requested for the month of June. She said the CSI unit responded and processed two scenes in June.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the body and dashboard cameras and said that one dashboard camera was returned to Axon for repair/replacement. Deputy Chief Lepore said that there were 31 new requests for case videos, 11 disks were burned with videos.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the accreditation and said the directives are constantly being reviewed for updates to coincide with any federal, state, and local policy changes. She said they are continually collecting proof and review of CALEA standards for compliance and annual audits.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if the unannounced property room inspection was part of CALEA or if it was internal. Deputy Chief Lepore said it is in their policy, but it is also a part of the CALEA accreditation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- CANDIDATE REVIEW

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Executive session began at 5:03PM

Executive session ended at 5:29PM

During the executive session there were no motions made and no votes were taken.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

VOTE FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO PROBATIONARY OFFICER.

**** COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO ACCEPT OFFICER OJEDA AS A PROBATIONARY OFFICER OF THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2024.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENTS- LIEUTENANT ROBERT ZWILLICH

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**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR LIEUTENANT ROBERT ZWILLICH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,335.00.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VACATION CARRYOVER- DEPUTY CHIEF MELISSA LEPORE

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE VACATION CARRYOVER REQUEST FOR DEPUTY CHIEF MELISSA LEPORE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

BACHELOR OF ARTS STIPEND-OFFICER PRZEMYSŁAW RUDZKI BACHELOR OF ARTS STIPEND-OFFICER PRZEMYSŁAW RUDZKI

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE BACHELOR OF ARTS STIPEND FOR OFFICER PRZEMYSŁAW RUDZKI**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS

Chief Walsh said that Deputy Chief Blake received a complimentary letter from Congressman Jim Himes thanking him for his critical role he played in coordinating the security for the nominating convention at City Hall in June.

Chief Walsh said that he received a complimentary letter from Harry Bergen stating that he and his wife were stopped at a red light on Connecticut Avenue when their hybrid lost all power, both from the battery and the engine and were so appreciative of Officer Green for the courteous service he provided.

Chief Walsh said last week there was a missing child at Calf Pasture Beach which was resolved quickly by the third platoon. He said he received a complimentary email from Megan Billmeyer stating the positive experience involving the Norwalk Police Department and extended her gratitude to Officer Rivera and the entire team that was involved.

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Mayor Rilling said he also received an email from Ms. Billmeyer suggesting that PA system be installed at the beach and he thinks it's a laudable idea and he will bring it to the attention of the Recreation and Parks Commission and team.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd