

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC SAFETY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON
COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 24, 2025**

Attendance: Jalin Sead, Chair; Josh Goldstein; Nicole Eaddy; Douglas Sutton

Absent: James Frayer; Nicol Ayers; Heather Dunn

Staff: Michele DeLuca, Deputy Director, Emergency Management; Melissa Lepore, Deputy Chief, Norwalk Police Department; Tom Livingston, Chief of Staff

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Sead called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Sead called the roll, and all members listed were in attendance. There was a quorum present.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. SPECIAL MEETING: 2/27/25

**** MS. EADDY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH (3) THREE IN FAVOR AND (1) ONE ABSTENTION-
MR. GOLDSTEIN**

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation this evening.

V. NEW BUSINESS

**A. AUTHORIZE THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT TO UTILIZE A
NONCOMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT JUSTIFICATION FORM WITH**

**MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS FOR THE PURCHASE OF INVESTIGATIVE
EQUIPMENT WITH A TWO-YEAR SUPPORT SUBSCRIPTION. FUNDING IS
PROVIDED BY THE BJA FY 24 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE
GRANT (JAG) AWARD# 15BJA-24-GG04596-JAGX**

Deputy Chief Lepore said the Norwalk Police Department is requesting the purchase of investigative equipment from Motorola Solutions. The equipment will interface with other agencies that have it, and it is for covert operations, and the funding is available through the grant. Mr. Goldstein asked if the funding is available or will be made available once approved. Deputy Chief Lepore said they were awarded the grant for \$18,000 for equipment and personnel hours. Once they decide to purchase equipment, it needs to be approved to create a purchase order, which will be reimbursed through the grant. The grant was accepted and approved at the January 14, 2025, Common Council meeting.

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**B. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE A SECOND
AMENDMENT TO THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) BY AND
BETWEEN THE RECOVERY NETWORK OF PROGRAMS INC. AND THE
CITY OF NORWALK COMMENCING ON OCTOBER 19, 2024 AND ENDING
JUNE 30, 2025, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$209,958 TO BE PAID FROM ACCOUNT#
031026-5258**

Deputy Chief Lepore said the MOA is with the Recovery Network Program Inc. and funds the Behavioral Health Unit for the social workers assigned to the Police Department. The MOA does not have a termination date, but the staff was increased in 2022 to two social workers, so there needs to be an amendment to the MOA, which expired in October, stating that they would like to continue to use the two full-time social workers. The funding is in place.

Mr. Goldstein said this program seems to have been a phenomenal success and requested that Department Chief Lepore elaborate on it. Deputy Chief Lepore provided an overview of the program and said that each month, the two social workers go out on 55-60 cases and help people with services that the City of Norwalk or the State of Connecticut offers, and help to get people in the right direction.

Mr. Sead thanked the Deputy Chief for providing an overview of the program and said it is wonderful and leading in the state.

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED VAPE SHOPS FEES RE VAPE SHOPS ORDINANCE

- **APPLICATION FEE \$250**
- **RENEWAL FEE \$250**
- **DUPLICATE LICENSE FEE \$30**

Mr. Livingston said this is simply a matter of having the Common Council acting first through this committee to approve the fees established by the city clerk for the license, license renewal, and replacement fee for a vape shop license. The license will be administered through the city clerk's office, and the ordinance will go into effect on August 1, 2025. The goal is to have the ordinance up and running no later than the middle of next month, and we are well on the way to setting up the license process.

Mr. Sead said he thinks this ordinance is very important. Each week, the police respond to vape shops selling dangerous products, and this is a step in making the community safer.

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MS. EADDY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING TO SIGN THE US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS, THE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE GRANT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 LOCAL SOLICITATION AND ITS CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES FORM.

Deputy Chief Lepore said the JAG grant awarded by the Department of Justice in January 2025 was missing a certification and assurances form, so she requested that she forward it to the committee this week so it can go to the Common Council for approval. She presented and read the form to the committee, which indicates that the Norwalk Police Department may utilize the grant funds to pay overtime for increased patrols, improve safety and security, and reduce crime at multiple locations throughout the city. The JAG funds may also be used to purchase equipment necessary to assist in policing, protecting the public, conducting investigations, and improving citizens' compliance with the laws. The mayor has already signed off on the grant, which has already been accepted and approved.

**** MR. SUTTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI.

Mr. Sead said he thinks it's important to discuss the work that the police department is doing, especially in the community services division. Community policing is an important part of building trust in the community, and the Norwalk Police are doing a great job.

Deputy Chief Lepore said last month the Community Police Division took 1,041 calls for service. The Community Police Division includes three traffic unit officers, three patrol officers, two sergeants, a lieutenant who oversees the division, the Behavioral Health Unit, which also has an officer assigned, and the Animal Control Division. She provided an overview of the events that the Community Police Division attended. She said they also did selective enforcement at 86 locations throughout the city, and all of the locations are based upon requests from citizens and high-accident areas to hopefully reduce the number of accidents in those locations. The traffic officers are certified in installing children's car seats, assisting with two-car seat installations, and giving out seven DUIs over March.

Deputy Chief Lepore said the Behavioral Health Unit opened 55 cases in March, addressed 55 cases, closed out 45 cases, hospitalized 31 cases, partnered with the state's attorney in three, referred 24 cases for services, and worked with the families on 22 cases.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on Animal Control that 64 incidents were addressed, four animal bite incidents were reported, six enforcement/infractions/summonses were issued, and three dogs were adopted.

Mr. Sead said it is really good to see the Norwalk Police Department entrenched in the community and a part of its fabric, with children, senior citizens, etc. He was very excited to see all of the great things they are doing and thanked them for that.

Mr. Goldstein agreed with Mr. Sead's comments and said the Community Police Officers are everywhere, which makes such a big difference, and he always appreciates that.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. SUTTON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd