

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 June 27, 2022

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Rilling; Commissioner Lopez

STAFF: Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Deputy Chief Susan Zecca

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:15PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- MAY 23, 2022

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public participation this evening.

PROMOTION- OFFICER MICHAEL SELLAS PROMOTED TO SERGEANT

Chief Kulhawik said that Sergeant Scully recently retired leaving a sergeant rank vacancy in patrol and the promotional exam has been given and is requesting that the commission approve the promotion of Michael Sellas to sergeant as he finished number one on the exam. Mayor Rilling asked when the promotion will be effective. Chief Kulhawik said it will be effective this Thursday.

(The commissioners congratulated Officer Sellas on the promotion to Sergeant)

RECOGNITION

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May officer of the Month- Officer Raul Aldarondo

Chief Kulhawik said that on May 14, 2022, there was a vehicle stolen in South Norwalk and Officer Aldarondo was off duty but was in the area and located the vehicle and the suspect was later located and apprehended without incident.

(The commissioners offered their congratulations to Officer Aldarondo)

Civilian Recognition- Supervisor Tina Rawls, Dispatcher Andrew Hines, Dispatcher Christopher Lazar and Dispatcher David Schulman

Chief Kulhawik said that on May 14, 2022, there was a tragic fire on Nelson Avenue and LT. Blake had provided the write up for the four combined dispatch personnel that were working that shift. He said there were a number of 911 calls that had come in and they had to dispatch mutual aid from surrounding towns for both fire and EMS and during this there was also a serious multi-vehicle crash on I-95 that also required additional fire, police and EMS mutual aid sources and despite the chaos the dispatchers were able to get the staff needed. He said that LT. Blake would like to recognize Dispatch Supervisor Tina Rawls, Dispatcher Andrew Hines, Dispatcher Chris Lazar and Dispatcher Schulman on behalf of the department and the commission for their outstanding work in a very difficult situation.

(The commissioners offered their congratulations to Supervisor Tina Rawls, Dispatcher Andrew Hines, Dispatcher Chris Lazar and Dispatcher Schulman)

OPERATIONS REPORT

Patrol Staffing

Chief Kulhawik reported and said as of June 6, 2022, there are currently five vacancies but many of the positions that were recently filled are not available to work on the street and are in a variety of academies and in different levels of training. He said 173 sick days were used; 252 workers compensation days and a majority of that is due to 10 officers that are on long term workers compensation and have been. Mayor Rilling asked if they are keeping in touch with CIRMA to see if they will be returning and when because 10 officers being out on long term workers compensation is a concern. Chief Kulhawik said that CIRMA recently had a change in personnel and there is a new liaison for the city and she is very responsive and has been doing a great job keeping them informed as well as working with the officers so he is confident that everything that can be done is being done.

Selective Enforcement Report

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Chief Kulhawik reported on the detective bureau activity and said there were three burglary arrests, two ongoing shooting investigations but the parties are uncooperative, and are conducting a number of background checks for the new hires. He said the overall statistics from 2021 are still trending down.

Chief Kulhawik reported on the Special Services Activity and said year to date are investing four overdose investigations and the Special Victims Unit have been heavily involved with added school security. Mayor Rilling thanked Chief Kulhawik and the department for the added school security and Norwalk provided more security than most. Chief Kulhawik commended Deputy Chief Walsh for putting the added school security plan together in such a short amount of time and assuring that all of the assignments were filled.

Chief Kulhawik said the Traffic Unit issued 115 citations at various locations. He said that Community Policing handled a lot of events that included Sergeant Calise coordinating the escort and security for The Wall that Heals at Veterans Park, coordinating the Police Memorial, Memorial Day Parade and the Mental Health Day on the green as well as having the outreach van at Ryan Park several times over the month. Mayor Rilling said that Sergeant Calise is a great representative of the department and community policing certainly suits him well.

Chief Kulhawik said that there were 166 criminal arrests for the month and 5300 calls for service.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Deputy Chief Zecca reported and said they were finishing up the review credit cycle so there was de-escalation training; DUI training; Holding Facility Officer (HFO) training; mental health training and a new training was held this year on railroad safety. She said the monthly ESU training teams for SCUBA and NTRT were held as well as the annual firearms and use of force training and shot gun training for some of the new officers as well as NCIC re-certifications. She said the review credit cycle will be completed this month and will start the review credit training for the next group of officers.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Vacation Carry-Over Request- Deputy Chief Susan Zecca

Deputy Chief Zecca said she had carried over a substantial amount of time last year into this year and although she took some vacation time but due to added responsibilities as well as at times, she was covering for operations was not able to get the number of carryover days down. Mayor Rilling asked if she had a plan to draw the number of days down so that it won't be so extreme next year and requested, she work with Chief Kulhawik and Deputy Chief Walsh so that she can draw down as many as possible. Chief Kulhawik pointed out that they are not all vacation days and that there are also holidays and

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administrative days that are a part of that. Mayor Rilling asked for a periodic report on the progress of Deputy Chief Zecca drawing down the days.

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE VACATION CARRY-OVER REQUEST FOR DEPUTY CHIEF SUSAN ZECCA.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Vacation Carry-Over Request- Deputy Chief James Walsh

Chief Kulhawik said that Deputy Chief Walsh was away at the FBI academy for 12 weeks and there has been a lot going on in operations and has been hectic over the last couple of months, but he is on vacation this week and the balance of 33 days does not encompass that. Mayor Rilling requested that Deputy Chief Walsh also work on drawing down his vacation days as well.

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE VACATION CARRY-OVER REQUEST FOR DEPUTY CHIEF JAMES WALSH.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Bachelor's Degree Stipend- Officer Abigail Ohlsen
Bachelor's Degree Stipend- Officer Eslam Ellisy
Bachelor's Degree Stipend- Officer Jonathan Branciforte**

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE STIPEND FOR OFFICER ABIGAIL OHLSEN, OFFICER ESLAM ELLISY AND OFFICER JONATHON BRANCIFORTE.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Complimentary Letters

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary letter from the Fairfield Police Department thanking Officer Wasilewski for his help with the escort.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary letter from the Wilton Police Department thanking Lieutenant Blake, Officer Rensberg, and K9 Raza for assisting the Wilton Police Department in locating a missing teenager who had threatened suicide and could not be located, but with the help of the K-9 were able to locate the missing teenager.

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Chief Kulhawik said there was a complimentary post sent to the Facebook page regarding Officer Devito and Officer Figueroa from a person that was experiencing some mental issues regarding bullying and the officers responded to do a welfare check and she was very thankful and appreciative of the officers' efforts and how they had handled that situation.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary letter for Officer Roncinske regarding his handling of a car accident at the SONO mall and commended him for his outstanding work.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary letter for Officer Acosta from Common Council member Goldstein and that he did a ride along with the officers and observed officer Acosta involved in interviewing a victim in Spanish and was impressed on how he had handled the incident.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary letter from the Maritime Aquarium for Lieutenant Blake, Officer Lee and Ryan Harold from Norwalk Public Schools in helping prepare for a drill and were very pleased with the safety drill and thanked them for their efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:47PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd