

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

**Mayor Harry W. Rilling
Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons
Commissioner Kelly Straniti**

CITY OF NORWALK BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING June 15, 2020

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling; Commissioner Collier-Clemmons; Commissioner Straniti

STAFF: Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Deputy Chief Susan Zecca; Deputy Chief James Walsh

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- MAY 18 & 29, 2020

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER- CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2020 AS AMENDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINTUES OF MAY 29, 2020 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

RECOGNITION

(May Officers of the month: Sergeant Peter Lapak, Officer Mike Silva and Officer Brent Crawford)

Chief Kulhawik said the Deputy Chief noted that on May 6, 2020 Sergeant Lapak and Officer Silva had responded to a sinking boat and that the Coast Guard and Norwalk Fire were also there but their boats were not able to get close enough to access the sinking boat. Deputy Chief Walsh noted that they were able to lift their engines which allowed the boat to drift and get close enough to remove the people and bring them to safety. Deputy Chief Walsh also noted that based on his experience in the marine unit and as a boater that the conditions were such that it was not a simple rescue.

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Chief Kulhawik said Officer Crawford is a new officer that had come to Norwalk from Orange and on May 27, 2020, while on regular patrol Officer Crawford observed a suspicious vehicle in the Walmart parking lot on Connecticut Avenue and after further investigation discovered loaded weapons and 131.5 grams of marijuana. He said he did a great job which resulted in the removal of a number of weapons and contraband and the arrest of two subjects. He said which is why he was told by the Chief of Police in Orange that he was sorry to lose him and that he is a tremendous officer. Mayor Rilling asked how long has he been in Norwalk. Chief Kulhawik said approximately six months.

Sergeant Lapak and Officer Silva came forward and were offered congratulations by the Board. Pictures were taken and Sergeant Lapak and Officer Silva received a certificate.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Patrol Staffing

Deputy Chief Walsh reported and said that for the month of May there were currently 176 sworn personnel and there are three vacancies in patrol. He said that 94.5 workers compensation days used by a total of nine operations personnel, and four officers are on extended leave and 164 sick days were used which is down from previous months.

Selective Enforcement Report

Deputy Chief Walsh said that Covid-19 precautions have begun to lift in the month of May and they have seen a slow uptick in self-initiated activity following safety precautions. The operations division has been busy involved in the reopening of the beaches and park and extra work officers were hired to enforce new parking restrictions.

Deputy Chief Walsh said the detective bureau had a busy month especially with the car burglaries at night and have arrested two juveniles close to 15 times in the past month and they are responsible for at least two thirds or more of the all of the car burglaries.

Deputy Chief Walsh said that special services activities remain slow but have assisted greatly with some of the Covid-19 restrictions.

Deputy Chief Walsh said that the special victims unit has seen a decline in domestic violence compared to May 2019. He said they had also had done a nice job in returning a missing juvenile

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who was subject to some human trafficking issues in New York City and was safely returned to Norwalk.

Deputy Chief Walsh said the traffic unit had issued 21 infractions and some of the major complaints were on East Rocks Road, West Rocks Road and Calf Pasture Beach Road and are putting traffic signs at those locations to slow people down. He said that there a total of 135 infractions for the month of May compared to 29 in April, and most were for moving violations so activity is beginning to pick back up.

Commissioner Collier- Clemmons asked how the blocking the box calculations are captured in the report. Deputy Chief Walsh said currently they can't take any enforcement because the marking have to be painted on the road and were paved over so we are waiting for the marking to be reapplied and will then take enforcement.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

May Training Report

Deputy Chief Zecca reported and said the review credit training has been on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions, but were however able to complete the annual patrol rifle qualifications as well as some of the medical training. Mayor Rilling asked if there have been any reports back on the academy training. Chief Kulhawik said it will be going back to normal with certain changes.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Tuition Reimbursement- Deputy Chief James Walsh

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR DEPUTY CHIEF JAMES WALSH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,999.70.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Tuition Reimbursement- Officer Kelly Haddy

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR OFFICER KELLY HADDY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$883.25**

Tuition Reimbursement- Lieutenant Jared Zwickler

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR LIEUTENANT JARED ZWICKLER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$893.75**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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ADMINISTRATIVE LIST

Approval of Administrative Fee Schedule

Chief Kulhawik said some of the administrative fees are set by the state and some by the city and have not yet been officially approved by the Police Commission. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said the fee for police reports is set by the State of Connecticut and asked if they receive the funds. Chief Kulhawik said “no” but they limit the fee to a maximum of .50 cents per page. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if the fingerprint fees for employment is for anyone. Chief Kulhawik said “yes”. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said the fee is \$10.00 for up to two cards and asked what the fee is for after two cards. Chief Kulhawik said that two cards is the maximum.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE FEE SCHEDULE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Complimentary Letters

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email regarding Officer Cornell who has been going around giving books to kids, and they have received a lot of complimentary letters about him for a variety of things. The email also complimented Officer Lipeika for his involvement with helping on an incident.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email from the Connecticut Food Bank regarding the food distribution.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email regarding Lieutenant Lepore on how he had handled a situation at the beach.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email and birthday greeting from the Principal at Columbus School for Officer Holms.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email regarding Officer Arvanitakis on how he has helped someone during a big rain storm.

Chief Kulhawik said he received another complimentary email for Officer Abruzzini for his outreach with the kids during the distant learning.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email regarding Detective Collins on how he had handled an incident that he had been investigating.

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Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email from a women who had gotten sick on the side of the road and was assisted.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email regarding Officer Sauer and Officer Bell regarding a wellness check.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email from someone who had attended the first protest on Sunday, May 31, 2020, thanking the police on how it was handled and the interaction they had with the people.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email from a resident on Ambler Drive for participating in her sons drive by birthday party.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email regarding Officer Silva for helping people in a kayak.

Mayor Rilling said it is so nice to see so many of these letters and is a tremendous outpouring of thanks for the department.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said because of the times we are in and what we have all witnessed and how sensitive we are thanked Chief Kulhawik and the Deputy Chiefs for the job that they are doing. She said in these trying times the officers are still professional, still have compassion and still have empathy and still do their jobs professionally.

Mayor Rilling also commended the officers that were at the demonstration on Connecticut Avenue and at City Hall.

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:46PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd