

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Harry W. Rilling

Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

Commissioner Tony Lopez

CITY OF NORWALK BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING May 23, 2022

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

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

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:20PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- APRIL 18, 2022

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2022, AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OPERATIONS REPORT

PATROL STAFFING

Deputy Chief Walsh reported and said that for the month of April the staffing was at 168 and there are 16 vacancies in patrol. He said a total of 138.5 sick days and 183 workers compensation days were used by sworn personnel and eight officers are on long term workers compensation.

SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the detective bureau activity and significant cases and noted that 30 cases were opened. He said they arrested one individual for carrying a pistol without a permit, completed several background investigations, and served PRAWN warrants.

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Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the Special Services activity and said they also opened 30 cases for the month and participated in operation penalty box for a statewide warrant apprehension and made four felony FTA arrests. He said that US Marshal Task Force Officer Geismar arrested a fugitive wanted by SVU for sex assault in the first degree and was located in New York City, and Officer Geismar continues to do excellent work. He said that six temporary liquor applications were also issued.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the Special Victims activity and said they opened 58 cases in April and investigated a parent/security guard disturbance at Kendall School and a parent was arrested. He said they also have one ongoing assault investigation; an investigation of students consuming alcohol at West Rocks Middle School and are investigating a suspicious subject who approached a student walking to Brian Mc Mahon High School and that person has been identified and an arrest warrant is pending.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the traffic unit and said there were 205 stops made, 63 citations were issued, three misdemeanor arrests were made, and 110 written warnings and 26 verbal warnings were issued. He noted that they concentrated most of their selective enforcement locations on Wilson Avenue @ Crest Street, Witch Avenue @ Hunt Street, Strawberry Hill Avenue, Fox Run Road, Carlin Street @ Dry Hill Road and Beach Road and were mostly due to citizen complaints.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on Community Policing and noted they participated in the mayor's clean initiative and installed 43 seats at the car seat event. He said they also participated in autism awareness and conducted extra security for Passover.

Deputy Chief Walsh said there were 175 criminal arrests made for the month, there were a total of 4359 calls for service, and 374 total infractions issued. Mayor Rilling asked if there has been an increase in calls for service or if they are stable compared to pre-Covid. Deputy Chief Walsh said he researched back to 2018/2019 prior the Covid and are below calls for service.

Mayor Rilling asked over the past month and half how many police officers have been hired.

Deputy Chief Zecca said that five officers have started the police academy, five officers will go to the police academy in June, and they have hired three out of state officers and will be hiring four lateral Connecticut certified officers for a total of 17 officers. She said in addition to that there are still two officers at the police academy that started in January and are currently doing interviews for the September police academy. Commissioner Lopez asked if the staffing shortage has had an impact on operations. Chief Kulhawik said this past weekend was a challenge to get staffing for patrol as well as special events and is becoming untenable and have been looking into other alternatives. He said that other communities are having the same challenges.

Mayor Rilling said he has started to get a lot of reports in the areas of Seaview Avenue, Washington Street and Beach Road for noises from motorcycles and cars that have been adjusted to be louder. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said the same issue is happening on Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard south of Lowe Street and is very annoying. Mayor Rilling said he knows the traffic unit is working hard, and the police department is currently down personnel, but he

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has also noticed people disregarding red lights. Mayor Rilling suggested, if possible, to assign an officer for the noise issues.

Mayor Rilling asked if there is any violation for motorcycles riding on one wheel. Deputy Chief Walsh said it can be considered reckless operation.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

APRIL TRAINING REPORT

Deputy Chief Zecca reported and said they are continuing the annual firearms training and low light shooting training and have completed the monthly training for the emergency services team, the SCUBA team, the crisis negotiation team, and the canine unit.

Deputy Chief Zecca reported on the review credit training and said and that a third of the department is currently doing review credit training cycle and there were classes held on housing matters, police and the law, gangs, narcotics and drugs, weapons and permits, holding facilities, autism awareness, de-escalation training, and that recertification training was also held. She said that two officers attended an instructor class for firearms, two of the cadet advisors attended a leadership training related to the cadet program and three officers attended a more extensive DUI training class.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- LIEUTENANT JOSEPH DINHO

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR LIEUTENANT JOSEPH DINHO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$317.25.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- SERGEANT SOFIA GULINO

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR SERGEANT SOFIA GULINO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,323.74.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- OFFICER DANIEL VAZQUEZ

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR OFFICER DANIEL VAZQUEZ IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,505.00.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COURSE APPROVAL- OFFICER DANIEL VAZQUEZ

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE APPROVAL FOR OFFICER DANIEL VAZQUEZ.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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DROP REQUEST- SERGEANT LEE YOUNG

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE DROP REQUEST FOR SERGEANT LEE YOUNG.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DROP REQUEST DATE CORRECTION- DETECTIVE COURTNEY DOWNER 12/ 31/ 2026

Chief Kulhawik said this was approved by the commission at the January meeting however, when it was being processed, they realized there was a typo on the date and the correct date is December 31, 2026.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE DROP REQUEST DATE CORRECTION-FOR DETECTIVE COURTNEY DOWNER 12/ 31/ 2026.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary letter from a New York City resident regarding the response to a wellness check where unfortunately the officers found the resident deceased, but the family send a nice letter commending the officers on how they handled the situation.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email commending Animal Control Supervisor Robert Sirico regarding a child being bitten by a dog while visiting Norwalk but could not identify the dog and Mr. Sirico did a phenomenal job and located the dog and found it had the proper vaccinations.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email regarding an infant who had fallen and was believed to have a fractured skull and were bringing her to the hospital and she was becoming more seriously injured and had flagged down an officer and was escorted to the hospital and they wanted to thank the officer. He said unfortunately he has not been able to track down who the officer was that provided the escort.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:49PM

Respectfully submitted,
Dilene Byrd

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