

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Harry W. Rilling
Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons
Commissioner Tony Lopez
Commissioner Nathan Sumpter

CITY OF NORWALK BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING Monday, May 20, 2024

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

STAFF: Chief James Walsh; Deputy Chief Terry Blake; Deputy Chief Lepore;
Deputy Chief Dinho

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:39PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-APRIL 15, 2024

On page 1, change "Collier Clemmons" to " Collier-Clemmons"
On page 1, change "the" to "that"
On page 2, change "instated" to "instructed."

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

APRIL OFFICER OF THE MONTH- OFFICER WILLIAM LOWE III & OFFICER BRETT DERI

Chief Walsh said on April 18, 2024, Officer Lowe and Officer Deri were working an extra duty assignment on Rocky Point Road. An employee of the company they were working for came running towards Officer Lowe and advised him that another worker was having a medical emergency. Officer Lowe alerted combined dispatch and got his medical bag and Officer Deri observed what was happening and ran toward the employee who needed assistance.

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The male who needed assistance was down inside a sewer where he was working. The male was hoisted out of the sewer and moved away from the manhole. The worker was unconscious, his skin was purple, and he had no pulse.

Both officers Lowe and Deri performed CPR and compressions and provided oxygen through a non-breather mask. The worker regained a pulse and began to breathe on his own before again losing consciousness. Officers Lowe and Deri continued CPR compression alternating between each other every few minutes.

The Norwalk Fire Department arrived on scene with an AED which was attached to the patient and a shock was administered. Norwalk Paramedics arrived and took over care of the patient who was shocked two additional times. While on the stretcher, the patient regained consciousness and wanted to know what was happening. He was transported to the Norwalk Hospital.

Chief Walsh said he believes the quick actions taken by Officers Lowe and Deri contributed to saving the life of the construction worker. Both officers were able to provide swift and professional rescue efforts to the worker who has made a full recovery. Since the incident, he has spoken to family members of the stricken worker who relayed great thanks and appreciation and that he is on a good road to recovery.

(The commissioners congratulated Officer Lowe III and Officer Deri)

PATROL STAFFING (APRIL)

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the patrol staffing for the month of April 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 54 workers compensation days were used by sworn personnel and there are still two officers on long term injury.

SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT REPORT (APRIL)

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Detective Bureau activity and said that 46 cases were opened in the month of April and noted that a suspect was arrested by warrant for a swatting incident and was charged with falsely reporting an incident, risk on injury to a minor, and breach of peace in the second. He said a suspect was also arrested for assault in the first and breach of peace in the second for his actions during a stabbing incident on South Main Street.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 118 cases for the month of April and noted that there was a joint investigation with DEA Bridgeport conducted for drug trafficking in the greater Norwalk area and 14 suspects have been arrested on state charges, six suspects were arrested on federal charges, and four search warrants were executed at multiple residences. He said they also assisted the FBI on an arrest for a federal wire fraud larceny and executed a search warrant at The Smokehouse vape shop on Connecticut Avenue and seized seven pounds of marijuana, and thousands of products containing THC above

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the legal limit, and two suspects were arrested. Mayor Rilling asked if they are allowed to sell any products containing THC. Deputy Chief Blake said a smoke shop is not supposed to be selling THC, but these products were above the limit prescribed by the Department of Health for the State of Connecticut.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Victims activity and said they opened 38 cases for the month of April and noted that that a suspect was extradited from Florida for a warrant charging sexual assault in the third of a juvenile and there were also several ongoing investigations of a sensitive nature.

Deputy Chief Blake said there were 7,248 calls for service, and 184 total arrests in April, and that 1,723 total citations, summons, and written warnings were issued for the month which makes a total of 4,136 for the year which has increased from last year. He said he imagines the totals by the end of the year will be significantly higher than last year's totals which were on a record pace so the officers are remaining proactive in motor vehicle enforcement and are hopeful with this proactivity will come a decrease in accidents with injuries which is the focus of motor vehicle enforcement. He noted that there were 32 citations issued for loud mufflers and unnecessary noise from vehicles so the proactivity is there for that as well while coming into open window/summer outdoor dining months and they will remain vigilant doing that.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TRAINING REPORT (APRIL)

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Community Police Services Division and said they handled 1,072 calls for service. He said the major events they attended during the month of April included an autism awareness event, SONO school groundbreaking ceremony, Rowayton community meeting, SONO food drive event, Sikh Festival, community outreach at Marvin Preschool, community outreach for Child Abuse Prevention Month, Coffee with a Cop, the Earth Day celebration, and the little league opening ceremony.

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Traffic Unit and said they had conducted 487 motor vehicle stops. He said some of the major selective enforcement locations were held on West Avenue, East Avenue, Grist Mill Road, Rampart Road, Wilson Avenue, Dr. Martin Luther King Drive, Fox Run Road.

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Behavioral Health Unit and said they opened 52 cases in April, addressed 52 cases and closed out 37 cases. He said one case was referred to by outside agencies, 35 cases were referred from within the police department, and 16 cases were self-initiated.

Deputy Chief Dinho provided an overview of the training for April and said there were a total of 22 subject areas taught in April and a total of 52 attendees for training.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT (APRIL)

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the grants and inspections and said that LT. Orr continues his work with organizing and reporting all department grants. She said there were 12 DUI grant hires for the month resulting in 95 car stops and conducted 25 field sobriety tests, subsequently leading to 13 DUI arrests and 57 infraction tickets. There were 71 distracted driver grant hires for the month resulting in 717 car stops and there were 431 infractions issued for cell phone violations, 35 for speeding, and 187 other violations. Deputy Chief Lepore said The Project Safe Neighborhood grant was awarded in the amount of \$18,000 for the purchase of automatic license plate reader.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the staff inspections and said combined dispatch was inspected with no major discrepancies or concerns, and the next inspections will be unannounced for the property room and will take place sometime in June.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Crime Scene Unit and said that 104 persons were fingerprinted (48 were for pistol permits. She said 52 DVD's were created for case requests, 20 cases were processed for evidence, and 108 patrol cases required camera/photograph downloads, backgrounds were conducted for seven massage therapists permits, and 10 solicitor permits for home repairs workers were issued.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the professional standards and accreditation and said the Powertime software continues to be rolled out and tailored toward our departmental needs and is working great.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the body and dashboard cameras and said Lieutenant and Sergeant attended for four-day Axon (body/dashboard camera) biennial certification training.

Deputy Chief Lepore said that two body cameras were returned to Axon for repair, and that eight more dashboard cameras were installed in the new Tahoes.

Deputy Chief Lepore said that there were 39 new requests for case videos, 18 disks were burned with videos, and 15 electronic shares were completed.

Deputy Chief Lepore said the Axon performance software for videos was installed into the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD system, with parameters being set and utilization underway.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the accreditation and said a new directive for the Continuity of Operations (COOP) is currently being developed and are continually reviewing directives for policy compliance and updates in accordance with CALEA standards and federal/state laws.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked how the license plate readers works. Deputy Chief Lepore said with the award that was received of \$18,000 it should allow us to purchase six units that can be placed throughout the city, and can either be standalone or fixed to an object such as a telephone pole and can be used in different areas of the city and will be connected to one central database that other towns can also use if they buy into the same system and will be able to utilize them for investigations.

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Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if the increase in fees for the DVD's has been implemented. Deputy Chief Lepore said "yes".

PERSONNEL MATTERS

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT-OFFICER MICHAEL MACARI

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR OFFICER MICHAEL MACARI IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,737.50**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COURSE APPROVAL- OFFICER ESLAM ELLISY

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER- CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE APPROVAL FOR OFFICER ESLAM ELLISY.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- OFFICER ESLAM ELLISY

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR OFFICER ESLAM ELLISY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 5,737.50.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

BACHELOR'S DEGREE STIPEND- OFFICER KESMAR CLARKE

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE STIPEND FOR OFFICER KESMAR CLARKE.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION- CONTRACT DISCUSSION FOR DEPUTY CHIEF MELISSA LEPORE

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Executive session began at 5:05PM

Executive session ended at 5:20PM

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

****COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT FOR DEPUTY CHIEF MELISSA LEPORE.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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DROP PLAN- LIEUTENANT MARC LEPORE

**** COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE DROP PLAN FOR
LIEUTENANT MARC LEPORE EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2024, THROUGH JULY 31, 2029.
THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS

Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary letter for Officer Lowe and Officer Deri from the wife of the employee that had a medical issue thanking them for stepping up so quickly to save his life and is eternally grateful for what they did, and often it does not seem police officers get the recognition for the good work they do.

Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary letter for Officer Scarpelli for noticing a Shop Rite tag on a set of keys that were brought to the police department and tracking the owner down as his actions were beyond the call of duty.

Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary letter for Officer Prada commending her for stopping her as she ran a red light which was a mistake, and as a result became emotionally distraught and the officer was very clear in her explanation and advised her to use caution in the future and thankfully was not issued a ticket. She said she has the highest regard for her professionalism and feels gratitude that she will always remember.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd