

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

BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
May 18, 2020

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

STAFF: Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Deputy Chief Susan Zecca; Deputy Chief James Walsh; Lieutenant David O'Connor

OTHERS: Harold Cobin

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:42PM. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 24, 2020

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 24, 2020 AS AMENDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Cobin said he was just checking in and it is good to see everyone.

RECOGNITION

FEBRUARY OFFICERS OF THE MONTH (Officer David Busch & Officer George Daley)

Chief Kulhawik said that on February 8, 2020, the officers were dispatched to a report of a person threatening to jump onto the highway from the Fairfield Avenue overpass. The officers responded and conducted an intervention and eventually did talk him out of jumping and were able to pull him back and get him medical attention. He said based on the information we have it is clear that it probably prevented the individual from jumping and they also risked their own safety by reaching out over the railing to pull the individual back to safety.

(The commissioners offered the officers congratulations)

APRIL OFFICERS OF THE MONTH (Detective John Toranto & Detective Fitzmaurice)

Chief Kulhawik said that on April 2, 2020, there was a 70 year old individual that was reported missing. It turned out that he had been stopped by the state police for erratic driving and was brought to the Norwalk Hospital. It was determined that he had dementia and had left the hospital after he was treated and disappeared. The detectives looked at surveillance video and were able to track him to Bridgeport and was eventually returned to his family safely. They had gone above and beyond and used a lot of interesting investigatory techniques to locate the individual.

(The commissioners offered the detectives congratulations)

OPERATIONS REPORT

Patrol Staffing

Deputy Chief Walsh reported and said that for the month of February there were currently 178 sworn personnel; and one vacancy. He said that 76.5 workers compensation days were used by a total of 12 operations personnel; three officers are on extended workmen's compensation and 207 sick days were used.

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Deputy Chief Walsh said there were two car burglaries and the detectives made significant impact making several arrests to the juveniles responsible. They also arrested two individuals for the armed robbery at the Chick-fil-A restaurant on Connecticut Avenue that occurred earlier this winter.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the Special Services and said activity still remained active for February and have arrested three livery drivers for the delivery to a local hotel of 40 bags of fentanyl as well as cocaine and other prescription pills.

Selective Enforcement Report

Deputy Chief Walsh reported and said the traffic unit remained active for February and had issued 128 moving citations, and also installed a speed analytical sign for six days on Heather Lane and determined there was not a significant speeding issue and the average speed was 22 miles per hour. He said they did do enforcement in the area and had given out five infractions and six verbal warnings in the area of Strawberry Hill, Heather Lane and Rome Street.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the patrol division and said there were 4,044 calls for service and still remained active. There were at total of 297 infractions issued and were mostly for speeding and DUI's.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Training Report (February, March and April Training Reports)

Deputy Chief Zecca reported and said for the month of February the main item of note is that blue line shooting trailer which is a decision making use of force scenario that a bulk of the officers did and it was a phenomenal training. Additionally, EMR training was held for recertification.

Deputy Chief Zecca said in March there was more medical training held and they started to do some more online training, and in April did legal updates training and MCI recertification training which was also held online due to the pandemic. She said in April they started to train all of the officers in the Connecticut Information Sharing System which will assist in investigations, as well as NCIC recertification, and training all of the department on doing review credit in search and seizure laws.

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PERSONNEL MATTERS

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- DEPUTY CHIEF ZECCA

*** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR DEPUTY CHIEF ZECCA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,664.00**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- SERGEANT RYAN EVARTS

COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR SERGEANT RYAN EVARTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,445.00

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- OFFICER EDGAR GONZALEZ

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR OFFICER EDGAR GONZALEZ IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,467.50**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- OFFICER DANIEL VAZQUEZ

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR OFFICER DANIEL VAZQUEZ IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,445.00**

MASTERS DEGREE ANNUAL STIPEND- SERGEANT DAVID ORR

Chief Kulhawik said that Sergeant Orr has completed his master's degree and is requesting the contractual stipend of \$1,100 which will be added to his base salary.

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APROVE THE MASTERS DEGREE ANNUAL STIPEND FOR SERGEANT DAVID ORR.**

COURSE APPROVAL- LIEUTENANT JARED ZWICKLER

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**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE APPROVAL FOR LIEUTENANT JARED ZWICKLER.**

COURSE APPROVAL- SERGEANT RYAN EVARTS

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE APPROVAL FOR SERGEANT RYAN EVARTS.**

COURSE APPROVAL- OFFICER EDGAR GONZALEZ

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE APPROVAL FOR OFFICER EDGAR GONZALEZ.**

COURSE APPROVAL- OFFICER DANIEL VAZQUEZ

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE APPROVAL FOR OFFICER DANIEL VAZQUEZ.**

The Commissioners thanked the officers for their level of commitment and said it is above and beyond their requirements. Mayor Rilling noted that the police officers are taking time to educate themselves to enable them to perform their duties with greater knowledge and greater experience, and that the knowledge that the police department has or will have is quite impressive.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Complimentary Letters

Chief Kulhawik said Officer Gonez who is the school resource officer at Brien McMahon High School helped to investigate a complaint regarding possible gang activity. He had determined that is not the case but he went above and beyond and the school appreciated his efforts.

Chief Kulhawik said that he received a complimentary letter from Reverend Mann and she had a relative in Norwalk that had her electricity turned off and were without heat. She was grateful for Officer Williams, Officer Holmes and one of the dispatchers for providing her relative with assistance and got them into the Norwalk Inn.

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Chief Kulhawik said that he received a complimentary letter Officer Abruzzini for his work with outreach to the youth even during the pandemic and wanted to acknowledge his efforts.

Chief Kulhawik said that he received a letter from a resident concerning the first responders during the crisis saying thank you.

Chief Kulhawik said that he received a complimentary letter for Officer Daily for pushing a car off of the road and had sent a photo along with the letter.

Chief Kulhawik said that he received another complimentary letter for Officer Abruzzini for going above and beyond with his efforts with the school kids.

Chief Kulhawik said he has received several letters from residents who attend Fairfield Prep thanking the police for their efforts during this pandemic.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary letter for the police department and the emergency room and EMT staff concerning a call that was responded to and had helped a family that had a medical emergency.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:08PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd