

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 May 17, 2021

BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:47PM. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 19, 2021.

On page 1 change "commissioner's" to "commissioners".

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2021 AS AMENDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

RECOGNITION

(April Officers of the Month- Officer Kelly Haddy, Officer Tiffany Ortiz, Sergeant Kevin Markert, & Officer Christopher Wasilewski)

Chief Kulhawik said that Officer Ortiz and Officer Haddy were dispatched to a domestic dispute on April 2, 2021, as they arrived that found a male acting erratically in the area and found a

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women screaming a short distance away and when the male heard her screaming began to run towards her. The officers chased him and found he had a brick in one hand and a knife in the other and the officers were able to maintain the safety of the female and deescalate the situation. Chief Kulhawik said that on April 19, 2021, Sergeant Markert and Officer Wasilewski were working distracted driving enforcement and were in the area of East Avenue near City Hall and while they were issuing a citation another vehicle had pulled up and advised them that their passenger was suffering from a medical emergency. The officers determined it was a drug overdose and administered Narcan while requesting additional assistance and continued CPR until the ambulance arrived. He said their training along with their quick actions had saved the individuals life.

(The commissioner's offered Officer Kelly Haddy, Officer Tiffany Ortiz, Sergeant Kevin Markert, & Officer Christopher Wasilewski congratulations)

Mayor Rilling said the situation that occurred last night on Chatham Drive must have been difficult for the officers who had responded. He thanked the officers and said it was a difficult situation and the officers performed the duties as they were trained to do but unfortunately prior to the officer's arrival the situation had gotten to a point that there was nothing that they could do except to protect the neighbors and contain the situation. He said the department will be offering the officers counseling for what they had encountered and how to deal with it emotionally.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Patrol Staffing

Deputy Chief Walsh reported and said for the month of April there were currently 175 sworn personnel and that there are six patrolmen vacancies and Officer Brent Crawford resigned. He said the sworn personnel used 156.75 sick days, 183.25 workers compensations days and seven officers are on extended workmen's compensation and three officers are on light duty.

Selective Enforcement Report

Deputy Chief Walsh said Detective Bureau remained steady and had 17 motor vehicle burglaries and there was a spike in April of catalytic converters theft throughout the town as did the region. He said there was a robbery at the CVS on Connecticut Avenue and there were no weapons displayed and the investigation is ongoing. He said there was a shooting incident at 125 Suncrest Road and three parked vehicles were stuck by gunfire but there were no injuries and the investigation is ongoing. He said there were also two non-fatal overdoses.

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Deputy Chief Walsh said that Special Services opened 48 cases and made 28 felony arrests and executed 31 warrants and four search warrants. He said they arrested three individuals on a total of 14 counts of sale of narcotics, and a liquor compliance investigation found that Saltwater Bar and Grille was operating with no liquor license and they are still investigating and the restaurant is currently closed.

Deputy Chief Walsh said the Special Victims Unit remained busy with 40 open cases in the month of April, and Officer Holms assisted Side by Side and Columbus School to alleviate a traffic issue caused by the construction in the area of Chestnut Street. He said they also investigated a possible abduction of a child from Norwalk to Georgia but was resolved as a family/civil issue and there was no abduction.

Deputy Chief Walsh said the Traffic Unit remained busy and 399 stops which resulted in 71 citations; 3 misdemeanor arrests; 258 written warnings and 30 verbal warnings. He said that the drag racing initiative continues and has slowed down but are still targeting the area of the connector and Grist Mill. He said that there was selective enforcement on Fox Run Road, Main Avenue and Beach Road for speeding and diagnostic signs have been installed to record speed and hours and the number of traffic violations. He said there was also selective enforcement done on Senga Road, Avenue E, East Rocks @ Bayne Street and Ward @ Union Avenue for stop sign violations. He said there was also a department wide distracted driving enforcement in the April.

Deputy Chief Walsh said that Community Services continue to work with Councilman Heuvelman and the residents on Clinton Avenue regarding the volleyball issue and it seems to have slowed down and the neighbors are pleased and are still monitoring it. He said Sergeant Gulino is working with City Hall regarding the E-permit system and Coffee with a Cop has started again at Stew Leonard's and it was successful. He said selective enforcement continues at Ryan Park with the community services van.

Deputy Chief Walsh said the total criminal arrests for the month of April was 180 and there were 4690 patrol division calls for service. He said the total enforcement for the month resulted in 771 infractions and enforcement and activity continued to be strong.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Training Report- April

Deputy Chief Zecca reported and said they are well into the credit review training and the emergency services unit also held their monthly trainings which keeps them ready for crisis such as the one that occurred yesterday. She said they are continuing with the annual firearms training and rotating the officer through the annual qualifications. She said of note that many of the officers were recertified for their emergency medical/first responder and held annual legal

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updates training for all of the officers through an online platform. She said there were also five new officer's trained for school resource officers to fill in for the gaps as school begins to go back fulltime.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said although we receive these reports each month we don't realize the importance of the training and application by the officers and is a tremendous effort on the part of Deputy Chief Zecca on keeping the officers current.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Tuition Reimbursement- Deputy Chief Susan Zecca

****COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR DEPUTY CHIEF ZECCA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,764.00**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Master's Degree Annual Stipend- Deputy Chief Susan Zecca

****COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MASTER'S DEGREE ANNUAL STIPEND FOR DEPUTY CHIEF SUSAN ZECCA.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Vacation carry-over request- Deputy Chief Susan Zecca

Deputy Chief Zecca said she is requesting to carry over days from this fiscal year to next fiscal year and said that she had carried over more days last year into this year so she is working on using the time but due to responsibilities she hasn't been able to use all of them.

Mayor Rilling encouraged Deputy Chief Zecca to try and start using the vacation days because they tend to build up. Deputy Chief Zecca said she did use this fiscal's year's vacation allotment in full and some that she had carried over from the previous year.

****COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS 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

Deputy Chief Walsh said last summer was very busy due to Covid-19 and other social issues and was not able to use all of his vacation time but plans to take off as much as he can this year.

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**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE VACATION CARRY OVER REQUEST FOR DEPUTY CHIEF JAMES WALSH.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Complimentary Letters

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email for Detective Serio from someone that he had arrested two years ago stating that he is doing really well and appreciated how he was treated by Detective Serio.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email from a resident that lives near Ryan Park stating she ran into an officer that was paroling the area and said he was an amazing officer but he was unable to determine who that officer was.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email from a citizen thanking Officer Silva for his assistance for an incident that occurred in Harborview.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email from James Brubaker of the Norwalk EMS for National Law Enforcement Week thanking the officers for the cooperation between the officers and EMS staff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-

Discussion and evaluation of proposed officers, including a review of their background application for appointment to the department.

Discussion of revision to the Norwalk police department manual.

Drop Request- Lt. Arthur Weisgerber

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER- CLEMMONS MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

Executive session began at 5:18PM.

Executive session ended at 5:42pm.

Mayor Rilling said during executive session there were no motions made and no votes were taken.

****COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE TO APPOINT SAMANTHA BARDOS TO THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE JUNE 3, 2021.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

****COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE TO APPOINT CHEALSEY ORTIZ TO THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE JUNE 3, 2021.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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****COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE TO APPOINT MARIO PECIREP TO THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE JUNE 3, 2021.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

(The commissioners offered the officers congratulations)

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
The meeting adjourned at 5:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dilene Byrd