

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

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

CITY OF NORWALK BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING May 15, 2023

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

STAFF: Chief James Walsh; Deputy Chief Terry Blake; Lieutenant O'Connor

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- APRIL 17, 2023

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

APRIL OFFICERS OF THE MONTH- OFFICER JUSTIN CULLMER, OFFICER MATTHEW MITCHELL, AND OFFICER ANDREW RONCINSKE

Chief Walsh said that the officers proactively spotted an individual who was a suspect in a shooting the night before and were able to detain him and locate the firearm and place him under arrest without incident. He went on to say that on April 15, 2023, Officer Justin Cullmer was patrolling Day Street which was the site of the shooting that occurred on April 14, 2023, and observed a male standing on the sidewalk who fit the description and the three officers worked together to apprehend the suspect and Sergeant DeLallo has nominated these officers for officer of the month and he concurs with his nomination.

(The commissioners congratulated Officer Cullmer, Officer Mitchell, and Officer Roncinske)

HONORABLE MENTION-OFFICER STEPHEN JAEGER AND OFFICER JOHN BELL

Chief Walsh said that on April 2, 2023, Officers Jaeger and Bell responded to a building fire at 296 Main Avenue and as they arrived and saw smoke from the apartments on the second floor

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Harry W. Rilling

Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

Commissioner Tony Lopez

and quickly rushed in to help evacuate the residents, and 10 residents were displaced but no one was hurt. The officers acted swiftly to make sure that everyone was out of their apartment. Chief Walsh said that on April 1, 2023, there was a suicidal individual that attempted to jump off the Stroffolino bridge and officers from the third platoon Officer Maxon, Officer Acosta, Officer Williams, and Officer Shizume did a complete team effort and were able to crisis negotiate with the individual while removing him from a suicidal position and did a wonderful job. Chief Walsh said that on April 26, 2023, Officer Bell and Officer Cowf responded to an unconscious person and realized he was suffering from an opioid overdose and administered Narcan, and the person began to regain consciousness and was transported to the Norwalk Hospital by Norwalk EMS.

OPERATIONS REPORT

PATROL STAFFING (April)

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the patrol staffing for the month of April and said the staffing was at 180 sworn personnel and there is one vacancy in patrol. He said a total of 157.75 sick days and 91.25 workers compensation days were used by sworn personnel, and two officers remain on long term workers compensation.

SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT REPORT (April)

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Detective Bureau activity and said that 44 cases were opened in the month of April and noted that they had arrested both suspects that damaged the cable line on Broad Street and were charged with larceny and criminal mischief in the first degree. They also made arrests in three fraud related cases and there was larceny in the third-degree charges for all and there was a sizable amount of money stolen by each of them. He said a robbery suspect was arrested and charged with robbery in the second degree, assault in the third degree, and false statement.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 32 cases and noted and made a warrant arrest on an individual that had nine warrants and was wanted for several domestic violence violations and during the arrest there was some violence from the suspect and ended up biting an officer. They also arrested a suspect and charged him with two counts of sale of narcotics and during the arrest the suspect was found to be in possession of a handgun and the individual is a felon.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Victims activity and said they opened 14 cases for the month and noted that after doing significant surveillance they located and arrested an individual for sexual assault in the first degree on a minor and was charged with risk of injury to a minor. He said there is also ongoing DARE instruction for fifth grade students.

City of Norwalk
Board of Police Commissioners
May 15, 2023

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Harry W. Rilling

Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

Commissioner Tony Lopez

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Behavioral Health Unit and said that 40 cases were opened in April and addressed 57 total cases and 38 cases were successfully closed. He said that unit continues to be busy and is very successful.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Traffic Unit and said that 212 citations were issued as well as 149 written warnings, made two arrests, installed several car seats, and were very active with selective enforcement based on citizen complaints and locations observed by officers.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on community policing and said they had Coffee with A Cop at Pausa Café on Main Street, celebrated at the Vaisakhi Temple, attended the autism event at the Norwalk Green, and gave safety presentations at the Norwalk Senior Center. He said that they have also been meeting with the management company of 20 Day Street regarding noise complaints.

Deputy Chief Blake said that there were 6,600 calls for service and 197 total arrests in April. Deputy Chief Blake there was recently some work done at the combined dispatch center and have replaced the consoles as part of the radio upgrade project and it has been completed and he invited the commissioners to see the updates.

Deputy Chief Blake said there has been a significant increase in motor vehicle stops and citations issued which is due to the increase in the traffic unit and a very active approach in the patrol division. He noted that there were 245 cell phone tickets given in the month of April and had a full two weeks of distracted driving enforcement which was funded by a state grant.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

APRIL TRAINING REPORT

Chief Walsh provided an overview of the training that was held in the month of April and said that it was once again a very active training month.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- DEPUTY CHIEF BLAKE

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR DEPUTY CHIEF BLAKE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,032.50.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- SERGEANT RYAN EVARTS

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR SERGEANT RYAN EVARTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,505.00**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Harry W. Rilling

Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

Commissioner Tony Lopez

COURSE APPROVAL- SERGEANT NATHANIEL PAULINO

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE APPROVAL FOR SERGEANT NATHANIEL PAULINO.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COURSE APPROVAL- OFFICER ABIGAIL OHLSEN

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE APPROVAL FOR OFFICER ABIGAIL OHLSEN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION- LATERAL CANDIDATES AND PERSONNEL MATTERS

Lieutenant O'Connor requested that while in executive session that the date of retirement be considered as a separate conversation for Officer Frattaroli.

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING LATERAL CANDIDATES AND PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Executive session began at 4:45PM.

Executive session ended at 5:18PM.

There were no motions made and no votes were taken.

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO ACCEPT THE APPLICATION FROM STEPHANIE JAMES AS A PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICER TO THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2023.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO ACCEPT THE APPLICATION FROM STEVEN ANUSZKIEWICZ AS A PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICER TO THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2023.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO ACCEPT THE DISABILITY PENSION FOR OFFICER FRATTAROLI EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2023.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Rilling thanked Officer Frattaroli for his service to the Norwalk Police Department and wished him well.

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

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

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS- COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS

Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary email from Mr. Ritz Officer Billings for her hospitality at the front desk and wished her well on the balance of her career.

Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary email from Connecticut Municipal Animal Control Officer Association recognizing Animal Control Officer Felner and Animal Control Officer Sirico for their hard work and dedication to the community and well-being of the animals.

Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary email from Dawn Marsico for Officer Barrett for finding her cell phone that she lost on I-95.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:27PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd