

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 APRIL 19, 2021

BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Rilling; Commissioner Straniti

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 5:05PM. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 15, 2021.

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2021 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

RECOGNITION

(March Officers of the Month- Officer Andrew Roncinske, Sergeant Drew Sedlock & Officer Kimberly Prada)

Chief Kulhawik said there was a domestic call received on March 7, 2021, and while the officers were in route dispatch was told that the male subject was threatening suicide and when the officers arrived on scene they had found an individual with a crowbar and a women and child in

City of Norwalk
Board of Police Commissioners
April 19, 2021

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Harry W. Rilling

Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

Commissioner Kelly Straniti

a car next to the person. The officers were able to safely remove the woman and child from the car and Officer Roncinske proceeded to negotiate with the individual with the crowbar and did a tremendous job deescalating the situation and definitely is deserving of officer of the month. Mayor Rilling suggested that Chief Kulhawik share the body cam video with the other officers. He also suggested that it be part of the officer's review credit training.

(The commissioners offered the officer Roncinske congratulations)

Chief Kulhawik said the two civilian awards also accompany this recognition and that on March 23, 2021, Officer Prado and Sergeant Sedlock responded to Walmart on a report of an individual not conscious in one of the aisles and when they arrived found Michael Rajotte and Krystal Colon the two Walmart employees performing CPR on the subject and when Officer Prado arrived took over the CPR and gave them instructions to secure the area. He said that when Sergeant Sedlock arrived he took over performing CPR until medical help arrived and the individual was resuscitated and the last he heard had survived so we felt that Sergeant Sedlock and Officer Prado were deserving of officers of the month and also issued civilian awards on behalf of the department to the two Walmart employees.

Commissioner Straniti again said if anyone has any ideas on how to get this information out to the public to bring them to the commission.

CIVILIAN AWARD

(Michael Rajotte & Krystal Colon)

(The commissioners offered the Sergeant Sedlock, Officer Prado and Michael Rajotte and Krystal Colon congratulations)

OPERATIONS REPORT

Patrol Staffing

Deputy Chief Walsh reported and said for the month of March there were currently 176 sworn personnel and that there are five patrolmen vacancies and Officer Brent Crawford is still on a leave of absence. He said the sworn personnel used 163.75 sick days, 162.75 workers compensations days and six officers are on extended workmen's compensation.

Selective Enforcement Report

Deputy Chief Walsh said Detective Bureau opened 49 cases in the month of March and 13 of those were burglaries into unlocked motor vehicles which accounted for the arrest of two

City of Norwalk
Board of Police Commissioners
April 19, 2021

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Harry W. Rilling

Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

Commissioner Kelly Straniti

individuals on a warrant for the firearms that were stolen from the unlocked cars. He said there were four overdoses for the month and one was fatal. The Detective Bureau had several ongoing investigations for sworn officers and civilian dispatch personnel, and Leroy Pressley was arrested on an arrest warrant for violation of a deadly weapons registry.

Deputy Chief Walsh said that Special Services opened 31 cases in the month of March and executed a search warrant and arrested Walter Davis and 348 bags heroin/fentanyl were recovered. He said that Sylvester Edwards was arrested in a joint operation with the Bridgeport Police Department and he was arrested on several warrants and a large quantity of heroin and fentanyl were recovered. He also said that a search warrant was executed in Roodner Court and that Rasheem Thompson was arrested and a large amount of cocaine, methamphetamine and marijuana was recovered.

Deputy Chief Walsh said the Special Victims Unit remained busy with 43 open cases in the month of March, and that most were sexual assault investigations and there was an investigation brought forward by the Norwalk Public Schools on a possible child abuse allegation and the investigation is ongoing. He said they also still have an ongoing investigation involving a road rage disturbance and a school bus on Lowe Street.

Deputy Chief Walsh said the Traffic Unit remained busy and 394 stops which resulted in 98 citations; 6 misdemeanor arrests; 267 written warnings and 23 verbal warnings. He said the Traffic Unit is also working with the Connecticut State Police in trying to stem some of the drag racing that is occurring on the Route 7 connector late on Friday and Saturday nights and have made 38 arrests over the past four to six weeks.

Deputy Chief Walsh said that Community Services continue to work with the E-permit system upgrade, attended the Gregory Point Neighborhood ASSC meeting, participated in Read across America and coordinated with the Board of Health and Community Health care on COVID vaccine sites.

Deputy Chief Walsh said the total enforcement for the month resulted in 503 infractions and that the production in total over the police department seems to be picking up and was a significant increase from the past two months and from last year.

Deputy Chief Walsh said the Patrol Unit investigated 5,276 calls for service and had 206 total criminal arrests for the month of March.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Training Report- March

Deputy Chief Zecca reported and said they have continued with the annual firearms training and it is moving along nicely. She said some of the specialty teams have had their monthly training in ESU and SCUBA and the most significant training that was done for the month was and eight

City of Norwalk
Board of Police Commissioners
April 19, 2021

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Harry W. Rilling

Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

Commissioner Kelly Straniti

hour de-escalation training for everyone who had not taken it in 2015, and also had a four hour refresher training for those that had taken it and overall trained almost 140 personnel. She said that annual legal updates training was also done and was done through an online training.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Tuition Reimbursement- Sergeant Rafael Fonseca

****COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR SERGEANT RAFAEL FONSECA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,447.50**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Tuition Reimbursement- Detective Christopher Imperato

****COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR DETECTIVE CHRISTOPHER IMPARATO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,517.00**

**** 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**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Course Approval- Officer Daniel Vazquez

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE APPROVAL FOR OFFICER DANIEL VAZQUEZ.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Master's Degree Annual Stipend- Officer Taylor Equi

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MASTER'S DEGREE STIPEND FOR OFFICER TAYLOR EQUI**

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Harry W. Rilling

Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

Commissioner Kelly Straniti

Bachelor's Degree Annual Stipend- Officer James Barron

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE ANNUAL STIPEND- OFFICER JAMES BARRON**

ADMINISTRATIVE LIST

APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION FEES SCHEDULE

Chief Kulhawik the State of Connecticut is increasing their fingerprinting from \$10 to \$15 per person as of July 1, 2021, and Lieutenant Weisgerber is requesting to also increase our fee from \$10 to \$15.

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE TO INCREASE THE FINGERPRINTING FEE FROM \$10 TO \$15 EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OLD BUSINESS

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Complimentary Letters

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email from the Scott Vetare thanking a number of officers in the Traffic Unit and Honor Guard for participating in the services for his father retired Officer Vetare.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email from Maria Faucher thanking Sergeant Moquin for his outstanding performance at the Covid-19 site at Vets Park.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email from Sean Peltier complimenting the dispatch center and Officer Proto along with another officer who responded to an alarm at his residence.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary email from Chief Michael Lombardo of the Trumbull Police Department for assisting in a suicidal individual call in their jurisdiction

City of Norwalk
Board of Police Commissioners
April 19, 2021

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Harry W. Rilling

Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

Commissioner Kelly Straniti

because they do not have a negotiating team. Lieutenant Lepore, Officer Williams and Officer Busch from our Crisis Negotiating Team responded and assisted them in successfully concluding that incident.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary voice mail for Officer Monteleone for assisting her to resolve a situation regarding a restraining order against her husband.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complimentary letter regarding Officer Proto on his investigation in being able to identify the garbage company who had damaged their mailbox.

DROP REQUEST-LIEUTENANT ART WEISGERBER

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE DROP REQUEST FOR LIEUTENANT ART WEISGERBER.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Executive session began at 5:40PM

Executive session ended at 5:50PM.

There were no motions made and no votes were taken.

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO TABLE THE DROP REQUEST FOR LIEUTENANT ART WEISGERBER.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dilene Byrd

City of Norwalk
Board of Police Commissioners
April 19, 2021