

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 March 21, 2022

BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE

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

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

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:17PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- FEBRUARY 28, 2022

On page 2, paragraph 1, line 3 change “severed” to “served”

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 28, 2022, AS AMENDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OPERATIONS REPORT

PATROL STAFFING

Deputy Chief Zecca reported and said for the month of February the staffing was at 161 and that there are 20 vacancies in patrol, two officers have resigned and there were two disability retirements. She said a total of 169 sick days were used by sworn personnel, 180 workers compensation days were used, and there are eight officers that are out of extended workers compensation and two officers on light duty that have been assigned administrative tasks within the department.

SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Deputy Chief Zecca reported on the Detective Bureau activity and significant cases and noted that there was an arrest made for the November 7, 2021, TD Bank robbery and were charged with first degree robbery and fifth degree larceny, and there was also an arrest made for the burglary of St. Joseph’s church rectory and were charged with burglary in the first degree and larceny in the third degree.

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Deputy Chief Zecca reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 23 cases for the month, made 15 felony arrests, nine misdemeanor arrests, and there were 15 warrants and four search warrants. She said as of note they handled compliance checks with the Department of Mental Health, Tobacco, Prevention, and enforcement program for sale to minors and due to that operation eight of the ten establishments they visited were cited for violations.

Deputy Chief Zecca reported on the Special Victims activity. They opened 60 cases in February and made four felony arrests, one misdemeanor arrest, and served five search warrants. She noted that a subject was extradited from Florida on a 2009 warrant for sexual assault charges in the third degree and risk of injury to a minor, a juvenile was arrested for breach of peace related to a teacher and a juvenile was arrested for reckless endangerment in the first degree for the sale of a controlled substance and for providing another juvenile with Adderall.

Deputy Chief Zecca reported on community policing and said there were 91 stops made, 45 citations were issued, made five misdemeanor arrests, gave 25 written warnings and 17 verbal warnings. She said in addition to enforcement efforts they provided two funeral escorts, provided selective enforcement for motor vehicle violations on Fox Run, Friendly Road and Rowayton Avenue and installed nine car seats. Mayor Rilling said as the weather gets warmer there will be an increase on the load vehicles traveling down Washington Street and Calf Pasture Beach Road and requested that the officers keep an eye out for those offenders. Deputy Chief Zecca said a refresher training will be scheduled for the officers who are trained in the noise meter.

Deputy Chief Zecca said there were 129 criminal arrests made for the month, there were a total of 3422 calls for service and 162 total infractions issued.

Commissioner Collier- Clemmons asked how the public gets informed on where they can get car seats installed. Deputy Chief Zecca said they would be put in touch with the Community Services Officers who are trained to install car seats. Commissioner Collier- Clemmons asked how the public gets the information that the police department offers this. Chief Kulhawik said it is on their social media page and the local hospitals will direct them for anyone that has a new baby, as well as AAA and other motor vehicle safety organizations. Mayor Rilling said in the past there was a clinic at the DPW open house and suggested that be done again because it is critical that those car seats are installed properly.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

FEBRUARY TRAINING REPORT

Deputy Chief Zecca reported and said they annual firearms training is continuing, and the lowlight training that is done annually and qualifications have been continuing and will continue through the end of the year as the entire department gets qualified. She said someone was recertified in N.C.I.C. and they also trained another panelist for the entry level interviews as recruitment is a priority and they have been interviewing on an ongoing basis so have been training more people to conduct those interviews to keep the process moving as quickly as

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possible. She said the review credit driver training was also held and “police and the public” is part of the review credit cycle as well as sexual harassment prevention training. Additionally, there was monthly emergency services team training.

Mayor Rilling said there seems to be an outreach for regional firearms training and asked Chief Kulhawik to provide an overview of that. Chief Kulhawik said WESTCOG is spearheading a movement and has hired a consultant to do a study on a regional firearms range, but the issue is a lot of the local ranges have either reduced hours, or and are not allowing police anymore due to complaints regarding the amount of shooting that occurs at the ranges so WESTCOG is working on a grant to fund a regional training facility somewhere in Fairfield County and there is a meeting scheduled at the end of this week to review the study and discuss possible location.

PERSONNEL MATTERS- COURSE APPROVAL- OFFICER SCOTT RUSSO

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE APPROVAL FOR OFFICER SCOTT RUSSO.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complementary email regarding Officer Acosta who was on light duty and was assigned to communications and his supervisor Cory Robinson noted that his work ethic and attitude helped both the dispatchers and patrol.

Chief Kulhawik said the next two complementary emails he received are from an individual who is an anti-mask person and as a result there were a couple of instances where businesses and city locations called the police because he refused to put a mask on and officers responded, and the individual had highlighted Officer Gonez and Officer Vazquez for handling the situation very professionally.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complementary email from a teacher at Norwalk High School who had an issue with an email from a student that she was concerned about, and Sergeant Orr was assigned to that investigation and followed up to clear it and she was very impressed on how he handled the situation with such professionalism and how he worked with her and the student regarding that complaint.

Mayor Rilling said he is always pleased when people take the time to write these letters and recognize good police work and professionalism and are willing to write of their experience. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons agreed and said she too appreciates them taking the time to write and explain their interactions with our police officers because it is good for the commissioners to know and while they commend a few of the officers each month it is good to

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see those that don't get commendations but still do good work for the department and for the community.

PROMOTION- OFFICER JAMES BARRON TO DETECTIVE

Chief Kulhawik said that Detective Brenden Collins has resigned from the department to accept a position with the FBI as a special agent, so they had an opening to fill, and Officer James Barron scored number one on the detective exam and is in line for that promotion and is well deserving of it and has been a tremendous officer and he thinks it's only fitting that he be promoted to detective.

Mayor Rilling said there are two openings for detective but due to staffing shortages they have opted not to fill the second vacancy at this time and asked when the detective list expires. Chief Kulhawik said it is new and just got implemented and he is hoping to fill the vacancy shortly. Mayor Rilling said on behalf of the commission he would like Chief Kulhawik to sit with the person who scored second on the promotional exam to let them know that this commission will make sure that he or she gets promoted.

(The commissioners congratulated Officer James Barron on his promotion)

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROMOTION OF OFFICER JAMES BARRON TO DETECTIVE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION – REVIEW OF BACKGROUND OF PROSPECTIVE OFFICER CANDIDATES. DISCUSSION OF DISABILITY PENSION ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICER JOSEPH FRATTAROLI.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO REVIEW THE BACKGROUND OF PROSPECTIVE OFFICER CANDIDATES AND THE DISCUSSION OF DISABILITY PENSION ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICER JOSEPH FRATTAROLI**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Executive session began at 4:45PM.

Executive session ended at 5:48PM

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

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO RESCIND THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION ON FEBRUARY 28, 2022, IN REFERENCE TO THE DISABILITY PENSION FOR OFFICER JOSEPH FRATTAROLI.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT TO KADEN DARROW TO JOIN THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT PENDING COMPLETION OF ANY FINAL TESTING ON A DATE TO BE DETERMINED BY CHIEF KULHAWIK.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT TO MAXWELL RUNES TO JOIN THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT PENDING COMPLETION OF ANY FINAL TESTING ON A DATE TO BE DETERMINED BY CHIEF KULHAWIK.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT TO MARK VOELTZ TO JOIN THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT PENDING COMPLETION OF ANY FINAL TESTING ON A DATE TO BE DETERMINED BY CHIEF KULHAWIK.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT TO JONATHON BRANCIFORTE TO JOIN THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT PENDING COMPLETION OF ANY FINAL TESTING ON A DATE TO BE DETERMINED BY CHIEF KULHAWIK.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:59PM

Respectfully submitted,
Dilene Byrd