

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 20, 2023

BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE

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

STAFF: Chief James Walsh; Deputy Chief Terry Blake; Dispatcher Stephanie Del Rosario

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:25PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- FEBRUARY 27, 2023

On page 1, change "Robison" to "Robinson"

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

RECOGNITION- CIVILIAN AWARD- DISPATCHER STEPHANIE DEL ROSARIO

Chief Walsh said that Lieutenant Podgorski sent a letter regarding the outstanding performance by dispatcher Stephanie Del Rosario for providing prearrival CPR instructions and as a result of her early intervention and lifesaving treatment by the Norwalk Police, the Norwalk Fire Department, and EMS the victim had survived, and is a great example of the system working. Lieutenant Podgorski recommended that dispatcher Del Rosario receive a civilian award for her performance and noted that she was also recognized for a CPR save on September 24, 2022, after providing prearrival CPR instructions in which Norwalk EMS said made the difference in saving the victims life. This will be her second award since she began her career in April 2022.

City of Norwalk
Board of Police Commissioners
March 20, 2023

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

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(The commissioners congratulated dispatcher Stephanie Del Rosario)

FEBRUARY OFFICERS OF THE MONTH: LT. WILLIAM LOWE, SGT. PETER WHITE, OFF. BRIAN BARRETT, OFF. JAIMIE ACOSTA, AND OFF. ANDREW RONCINSKE

Chief Walsh said the officers responded to a very intense situation involving an emotionally disturbed person and were able to deescalate an active and violent situation. On February 16, 2023, patrol division officers were dispatched for a man with mental illness who had assaulted family members and was inside the residence with a baseball bat and a knife. The arriving officers had located the victim and rendered aid and the male aggressively approached officers Roncinske and Officer Barrett, but they remained calm and worked to calm the male down and were able to build a rapport with the male while officer Acosta who is a member of the crisis negotiating team assisted them. The male allowed officer Roncinske and Officer Barrett to enter the residence and check for a victim who was unaccounted for, and the officers continued to talk to the male, but the male became distressed again when he was told he would need to be evaluated at the Norwalk Hospital, but they were able to calm him down and got him to agree to go to the hospital. Chief Walsh said they did a great job on de-escalating the situation.

(The commissioners congratulated LT. William Lowe, Sgt. Peter White, Off. Brian Barrett, Off. Jaimie Acosta, and Off. Andrew Roncinske)

HONORABLE MENTION: OFF. JONATHAN ZAVITZ

Chief Walsh said on February 22, 2023, Officer Zavitz responded to a commercial structure fire at 48 Westport Avenue and upon his arrival he saw flames shooting out of the roof at a strip mall and helped to evacuate all the canine puppies and with the business filling with smoke he assisted the employees by placing the puppies into large garbage cans and carrying them out to safety.

(The commissioners congratulated Officer Zavitz)

OPERATIONS REPORT

PATROL STAFFING (FEBRUARY)

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the patrol staffing for the month of February and said the staffing was at 181 sworn personnel and there are no vacancies in patrol. He said a total of 139 sick days and 87.50 workers compensation days were used by sworn personnel, and three officers remain on long term workers compensation.

SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT REPORT (FEBRUARY)

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Detective Bureau activity and said that 46 cases were opened in the month of February and noted that they made a third arrest from the January 6th

City of Norwalk
Board of Police Commissioners
March 20, 2023

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

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Commissioner Tony Lopez

shooting investigation and arrested a suspect on three counts of failure to register as a sex offender.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 44 cases and noted that they had executed a search warrant for 261 Ely Avenue and arrested a suspect on numerous sales of narcotics charges and made an arrest on an individual who had seven arrest warrants that included the sale of multiple firearms and narcotics.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Victims activity and said they had opened 51 cases for the month including an investigation of a teacher choking a student at Brookside Elementary School that has led into an arrest. He said there is also ongoing DARE instruction.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Behavioral Health Unit and said that 64 cases were opened in February and 62 out of the 64 cases have been addressed and 42 of the cases have been successfully closed. He said the Behavioral Health Unit continues to increase their numbers from referrals from the officers and people calling in for assistance.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Traffic Unit and said that 28 citations were issued as well as 40 written warnings, and 7 verbal warnings, and made four arrests. He said they also conducted motor vehicle enforcement throughout the city including selective enforcement at Norden Place for drag racing as well as assisting with the Norwalk Fire Department funeral. Mayor Rilling asked if anymore reports have been received for drag racing at Norden Place. Deputy Chief Blake said “no” and that there has been significant presence by the police and the complaints have ceased.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on community policing and said they coffee with a cop at Hometown Deli and attended the Shorefront Park Association meeting.

Deputy Chief Blake said that there were 5,159 calls for service and 123 total arrests in February, and that 240 citations were issued in February which is an increase of 100 compared to January.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

FEBRUARY TRAINING REPORT

Chief Walsh reported and said that 15 officers attended a DUI review credit training and NCIC recertification was held for officer Russo and officer DeLeon. He said they are continuing the OSHA fire extinguisher training and all the training notices were sent to OSHA and they were pleased, and they are working with OSHA on a hazardous communication plan. He said that four officers were sent to crisis intervention technique training, four officers did de-escalation training, two officers were sent to use of force training at the police academy so that they can do a train the trainer mode, and one of the ESU supervisors went to the emergency services swat supervision and management school. He said Lt. Cunningham attended an ethics review credit training, there was additional DUI review credit, three officers attended the online communications training, and the SCUBA team did their winter training. He said they had recently purchased a FARO scanner which is a three dimensional scanner used for crime scenes

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

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Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons
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and they had sent two of the accident investigators, two detectives and Lt. Weisgerber and Sgt. Tolnay for the training, and the ICAD training is ongoing.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

2022 Sick Time Attendance

Chief Walsh reported on the 2022 sick time attendance and noted that Lynn Sullivan has not taken a sick day since 2011. Mayor Rilling said that a special letter of recognition should be sent to her.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE SELECTION FOR DEPUTY CHIEF BLAKE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS- COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS

Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary email from Paul Kaminki, Manager of Safety and Security for the Norwalk Hospital and he expressed his gratitude to Lt. Markert and Sgt. Calise for working with Homeland Security and Norwalk Hospital administration on the onsite security assessment.

Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary letter from an individual who suffered a cardiac arrest and dialed 911 and the officers swiftly responded and were able to supply oxygen and other first aid measures and keep him secure until the paramedics arrived. Chief Walsh said he spoke to the individual last week, and he has fully recovered.

Chief Walsh said that he received a complimentary email for an incident that occurred on February 25th and ACO Felner orchestrated an intense rescue of a cat that had been missing for several days and discovered it was stuck near the roof. He said that Sgt. Orr and Officer Bardos along with the Norwalk Fire Department had assisted.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:52PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd

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