

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 February 28, 2022

BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE

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

STAFF: Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Deputy Chief Susan Zecca

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:41PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- JANUARY 24, 2022

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2022, AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION- MR. LOPEZ**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

OPERATIONS REPORT

PATROL STAFFING

Deputy Chief Zecca reported and said at the end of January 31, 2022, the staffing was at 165 and that there are 16 vacancies in patrol but have hired two officers and one officer has resigned. She said a total of 135.75 sick days were used by sworn personnel, and 216.25 workers compensation days were used and there are 10 officers that are out of extended workers compensation and two officers on light duty.

SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Deputy Chief Zecca reported on the detective bureau activity and significant cases and noted that there was one homicide and there was an arrest of the suspect whose bond was raised to \$2.5 million dollars.

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Deputy Chief Zecca reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 18 cases for the month, made 15 felony arrests, one misdemeanor arrest and all of the arrests were via arrest warrants and no search warrants were served for the month. She said they also assisted the Stamford Police Department with a narcotics sales arrest.

Deputy Chief Zecca reported on the Special Victims activity and said they have been very busy and opened 49 cases in January and made one felony arrest, two misdemeanor arrests, served two arrest warrants and four search warrants and the most notable arrest was for a child pornography case.

Deputy Chief Zecca reported on community policing and said they issued 15 infractions, seven summons, 13 written warnings and five verbal warnings. She said two traffic enforcement officers have been out on injury and the third traffic officer was in school for a good portion of the month as well as investigating a fatal accident.

Deputy Chief Zecca said there were 111 criminal arrests made for the month, there were a total of 3587 calls for service and 113 total infractions issued. She noted that the class of the traffic unit officer is taking is a drug recognition training class to become an instructor and it is a class to detect people who are under the influence of drugs.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

JANUARY TRAINING REPORT

Deputy Chief Zecca said Officer Wasilewski has been attending the drug recognition expert training class. She said they are also doing review credit training and the tactical response team attended specialty teams training and the crisis negotiators and SCUBA team also had their training. She said that two new members have been added to the ESU team, so they are doing additional training to get their basic training. She said a few officers also did their N.C.I.C. re-certification training.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

There were no personnel matters discussed.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

2021 SICK TIME ATTENDANCE

Chief Kulhawik presented the list of officers and civilians that took no sick time in 2021, and on behalf of the commission he will be sending a letter to each of them acknowledging that and including a copy into their personnel files. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons noted that Officer James Kassimis hire date should be changed to 2021. Deputy Chief Zecca noted that there is one civilian who has not taken a sick day in 10 years.

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PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF SAFE LIFE DEFENSE UNIFORM VEST

Chief Kulhawik said that Officer Prada had brought this to their attention requesting that the uniform policy be adjusted. He said a sample of the vest is included in the agenda packet and currently this vest is not authorized for use, but as they have gotten more complicated with equipment and issuing additional equipment the belt is now weighing over 20 pounds and has caused some back injuries. He said there are many agencies that have now allowed the use of this vest if the officers so choose but limit what items can be placed on the vest. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said she would recommend that the taser be on the vest rather than the belt so that officers would not be prone to choose the wrong item when apprehending a suspect.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE VEST AS DISPLAYED IN THE PACKET.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complementary email regarding the service officer Russo had provided and stated that she is so lucky to live in Norwalk and have him on the force.

Chief Kulhawik said he received a complementary email from the United States Marshal's Office for the great work and value of Officer Geismar who is assigned as a part time task force officer for the US Marshals in their fugitive apprehension unit.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – DISCUSSION OF DISABILITY PENSION ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICER JOSEPH FRATTAROLI

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE DISABILITY PENSION ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICER JOSEPH FRATTAROLI.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Executive session began at 5:07PM.

Executive session ended at 5:16PM

During executive session there were no motions made and no votes were taken. Mayor Rilling said during executive session the commission wished Officer Frattaroli well and thanked him for his service and expressed their deepest regrets for him leaving the department.

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**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE DISABILITY PENSION FOR OFFICER JOSEPH FRATTAROLI BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2022, PURSUANT TO SPEAKING WITH HUMAN RESOURCES.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:15PM
Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd