

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 27, 2023

BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE

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

STAFF: Chief James Walsh; Deputy Chief Terry Blake; Corey Robinson

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:45PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- JANUARY 23, 2023

On page 5, Add "Collier-Clemmons" to the motion.

On page 5, change "Tomasz Podgorski" to "Kevin Markert"

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

RECOGNITION- CIVILIAN AWARD- SUPERVISOR DISPATCHER COREY ROBINSON

Chief Walsh said that Deputy Chief Blake has nominated Supervisor Robinson for this award and said that he is a 13-year veteran of the combined dispatch center and in addition to his supervisory duties he manages the 911 system. In 2022, he requested training with NexGen to better serve the department and the training allowed him to update the response protocols for the Norwalk Fire Department and in working with Asst. Fire Chief Ed McCabe he had placed additional information and updates into NexGen. The project has been no small task and has been ongoing for months and his knowledge, aptitude, and hard work have improved the quality of the center which makes the community safer.

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(The commissioners congratulated supervisor dispatcher Corey Robinson)

JANUARY OFFICERS OF THE MONTH: SGT. RAMON TEJADA, OFF. RICHARD MONTANEZ, OFF. AKEEM BYRCE, OFF. WILLIAM LOWE III, OFF. JAMES YANG, OFF. JONATHAN BRANCIFORTE, OFF. MICHELLE MCSALLY, OFF. CHRISTOPHER SGRITTA, OFF. JONATHAN SMITH, OFF. TAYLOR EQUI, AND OFF. LAM NGUYEN

Chief Walsh said on January 1, 2023, Sergeant Ramon Tejada, Officer Richard Montanez, Officer Akeem Byrce, Officer William Lowe III, Officer James Yang, Officer Jonathan Branciforte, Officer Michelle McSally, Officer Christopher Sgritta, Officer Jonathan Smith, Officer Taylor Equi, and Officer Lam Nguyen responded to a report of shots fired at a bar on Van Zant Street, upon their arrival they quickly gathered information on the suspect that fired the gun after an altercation and were able to locate evidence and began to track the suspect who fled on foot and found the suspect hiding on a property on Rowan Street and took him into custody without incident. He said based on their swift apprehension of the suspect and the preservation of the crime scene the suspect was arrested in his role in the altercation and shooting. Based on their teamwork, professionalism, and dedication to the community they were able to locate the dangerous individual and take him into custody and he is honored to recognize them as the January 2023, officers of the month.

(The commissioners congratulated Sergeant Ramon Tejada, Officer Richard Montanez, Officer Akeem Byrce, Officer William Lowe III, Officer James Yang, Officer Jonathan Branciforte, Officer Michelle McSally, Officer Christopher Sgritta, Officer Jonathan Smith, Officer Taylor Equi, and Officer Lam Nguyen)

OPERATIONS REPORT

PATROL STAFFING (JANUARY)

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the patrol staffing for the month of January and said the staffing was at 178 sworn personnel and there are 3 vacancies in patrol. He said a total of 186 sick days and 121.50 workers compensation days were used by sworn personnel, and three officers remain on long term workers compensation.

SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT REPORT (JANUARY)

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Detective Bureau activity and said that 59 cases were opened in the month of January including a shooting case on Garner Street in which they made two arrests.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 59 cases and noted that they had executed a search warrant on a residence on Osborne Avenue and recovered

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a handgun as well as narcotics and had arrested an individual that was wanted on six failures to appear warrants. In addition to that they also made two fugitive arrests.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Victims activity and said they opened 78 cases for the month and noted that they made some arrests after some threatening messages were left at West Rocks School and Brien McMahon High School. He also said the Dare program is ongoing.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Behavioral Health Unit and said that 32 cases were opened in January and since December 46 cases have been addressed and 14 cases have been successfully closed. He said a part time social worker has now joined the unit in the month of January.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Traffic Unit and said that 51 citations were issued as well as 51 written warnings, and 22 verbal warnings. He said they also conducted illegal school bus passing enforcement multiple times in January and conducted selective enforcement operations at Norden Place due to complaints of racing and reckless operation.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on community policing and said they did outreach at the Malta House as well as the Roodner Court leaning center and conducted a meeting along with Chief Walsh with the local cub scouts.

Deputy Chief Blake said that there were 5,877 calls for service and 147 total arrests in January, and there was an increase in motor vehicle infractions in January.

Mayor Rilling asked if anyone was located at Norden Place. Deputy Chief Blake said “yes” and that Chief Walsh was driving through and two individuals were sighted and were issued trespassing and motor vehicle violations for those individuals, and they have been working closely with the management and have a good solution to stop the behavior.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if there is better job of policing be done since there is a great increase in activity compared to last year or are people just more active. Chief Walsh said there has been an increase in larcenies and that there has been a lot a fraud and check crimes and the detective bureau has been investigating, and they are also seeing the results of officers graduating the academy with the number of traffic stops, and more messaging went out to the supervisors and shift commanders and are seeing an uptick in self initiating activity.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

JANUARY TRAINING REPORT

Chief Walsh reported and said that CIRMA provided a drive training refresher and sexual harassment prevention education and training. He said that a de-escalation class was also held, and remedial directive training, and the crisis negation team did hostage education training, and all personnel had a fire extinguisher training class as required by OSHA. He said additional body cam training was also done and the ESU team also trained twice in the month of January.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

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DISCUSSION OF DISABILITY PENSION FOR OFFICER MICHAEL MANCINI

There was no discussion.

LANGUAGE STIPEND- OFFICER KAISER HERRERA

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE LANGUAGE STIPEND FOR OFFICER KAISER HERRERA.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

BACHELOR'S DEGREE STIPEND- OFFICER NEIL MURDOCH

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE STIPEND FOR OFFICER NEIL MURDOCH.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

BACHELOR'S DEGREE STIPEND- OFFICER RAUL DELEON

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE STIPEND FOR OFFICER RAUL DELEON.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

BACHELOR'S DEGREE STIPEND- OFFICER SHAWN SEGAL

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE STIPEND FOR OFFICER SHAWN SEGAL.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

BACHELOR'S DEGREE STIPEND- OFFICER ONUR SENGU

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE STIPEND FOR OFFICER ONUR SENGU.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

BACHELOR'S DEGREE STIPEND- OFFICER WILLIAM DELIMA

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO CONDITIONALLY APPROVE THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE STIPEND FOR OFFICER WILLIAM DELIMA BASED UPON VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION THAT HE AND WILLIAM GOOLART ARE INDEED THE SAME PERSON.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COURSE APPROVAL- SERGEANT RYAN EVARTS

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE APPROVAL FOR SERGEANT RYAN EVARTS.**

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**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Rilling said he is very impressed with the level of education that the officers have and how they continually strive for higher education to improve their ability to service the City of Norwalk.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- PERSONNEL MATTERS

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Executive session began at 5:16PM.

Executive session ended at 6:02PM.

There were no motions made and no votes were taken.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO DENY THE DISABILITY PENSION FOR OFFICER MICHAEL MANCINI.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS- COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS

Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary email from the Maritime Aquarium for Officer Lee and Lieutenant Markert for a drill that they had done for their staff in regard to an active shooter.

Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary letter from Reverend Dormevil for Lieutenant Dinho and the community policing officer for participating in a funeral service at St. Joseph Church.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:04PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd

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