

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
FEBRUARY 24, 2020

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling; Commissioner Collier-Clemmons; Commissioner Straniti

STAFF: Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Deputy Chief Susan Zecca; Deputy Chief James Walsh; Lieutenant David O'Connor

OTHERS: Allen Fedor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:45PM. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 5, 2020

On page 5, add course approval for Sergeant Ryan Evarts

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2020 AS AMENDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

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OPERATIONS REPORT

Patrol Staffing- January

Deputy Chief Walsh reported and said that for the month of January there were currently 177 sworn personnel and there are two vacancies in patrol. He said that 75 workers compensation days were used by a total of 14 operations personnel; two officers are on extended workmen's compensation and 180.25 sick days were used.

Selective Enforcement Report

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the Detective Bureau activities and said there was a spike in the burglaries to motor vehicles to 28. Detective Fitzmaurice arrested an individual for arson and conspiracy related to the arson fire of a barbershop on Connecticut Avenue. There was also on arrest of two juveniles related to several of the burglaries occurring in South Norwalk and the lower Connecticut Avenue area.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the Special Services and said they had conducted a liquor operations with the state investigators and had three arrests for sales to underage persons, and they also conducted inspections to several of the bars and restaurants and had several administrative violations. Mayor Rilling asked if letters are sent to business owners who sell to underage people, and to the establishments that are inspected and don't sell a letter to saying thank you for being a responsible establishment. Deputy Chief Walsh said "no" but agreed it was a good point and suggested issuing a press release noting the establishments that were in compliance.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the Special Victims Unit and said there was an attempted robbery of a student at the NOAP location on Academy Street and there were two arrests made. Activity within the schools remains busy with the SRO's and the SRO at Norwalk High School has been doing the parking enforcement on Alrowood due to resident complaints.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported on Community Policing and Community Services and said that 10 infractions were issued for speeding on East Rocks Road and the traffic unit gave out 64 citations for January. The total infractions for the month of January were 215 with traveling too fast being the most significant.

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Deputy Chief Walsh reported on the Patrol Division and said that they had received 4,375 calls for service.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Training Report (January)

Deputy Chief Zecca reported and said they are completing the annual firearms qualifications and monthly tactical training. Two SRO's were sent to school shooting seminar and additionally did a training on the pursuit policy. Chief Kulhawik said that the state has mandated a new policy that the police cannot chase for misdemeanor offenses.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- DETECTIVE BRENDAN COLLINS

*** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENTS FOR DETECTIVE BRENDAN COLLINS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1485.00**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- JAMES BARRON

COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENTS FOR DEPUTY FOR JAMES BARRON IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,299.50

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COURSE APPROVAL- SERGEANT RYAN EVARTS

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO REMOVE THE ITEM FROM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Complimentary Letters

Chief Kulhawik said that a complimentary letter was received for Officer Nieves for helping someone with a disabled vehicle on I-95.

Chief Kulhawik said that he received a complementary email thanking Officer Nyquist for her for professionalism during when responding to a motor vehicle accident.

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Chief Kulhawik said that Fodor's Towing Companies taxes are not current and are in arrears three years, and as such they do not qualify to be on the list to be an authorized wrecker company. He said there was also an issue with the registrations on the trucks and were temporarily suspended from the list, but were put back on the list but were then notified by tax officer regarding the unpaid taxes and should not be on the list. Deputy Chief Zecca said they had to be skipped a few times over the last few months for different issues. Mr. Fedor said he was unaware of the issues and he is personally handling the situation and the taxes will be paid within the next two weeks, and when he found out about the registrations the trucks were pulled off the road immediately and was an oversight on his part and he is personally responsible.

Chief Kulhawik said there is also an issue with the barnacles and have received a number of complaints. Deputy Chief Walsh said there have been occasions where a person is standing at their car door and having the barnacles installed and that there were two issues just last week on the day shift due to minor disturbances occurring due to the barnacles. Mr. Fedor said that parking is a huge problem in Norwalk and by installing the barnacle rather than towing is the lesser of the two evils. Commissioner Straniti said that she thought we were able to do away with a very similar situation which is the boot. Chief Kulhawik said that is in a statute and the barnacle is not covered in the statute and is not regulated.

Mayor Rilling asked when Fedor Towing is next on the list for towing. Chief Kulhawik said April 2nd. Mayor Rilling asked if there are any company's on the waiting list for towing. Lieutenant O'Connor said there is one company who would like to be included if a vacancy

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becomes available. Mayor Rilling suggested giving Mr. Fedor an opportunity to bring his taxes current by the April meeting, but in the meantime be suspended from the towing list and strongly encouraged whoever is installing the barnacles receive some customer service training.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE MOVING FEDOR TOWING FROM THE TOWING ROTATION AND WILL BE READDRESSSED AT THE APRIL MEETING 2020 AND IF THE TAXES ARE PAID IF FULL WILL RECONSIDER REINSTATING.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION- DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION OF PROPOSED OFFICERS, INCLUDING A REVIEW OF THEIR BACKGROUND APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT.

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

****MOTION BY COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS-SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STRANITI TO AUTHORIZE THE HIRING OF PROBATIONARY OFFICER RAWLIN AMPARO, ON A DATE TO BE DETERMINED BY THE CHIEF PENDING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.**

Executive session began at 5:15PM

Executive session ended at 5:22PM

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd