

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 January 22, 2024

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

STAFF: Chief James Walsh; Deputy Chief Melissa Lepore; Deputy Chief Joseph Dinho

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:46PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- DECEMBER 18, 2023

On page 3, change “entails” to “entail”

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2023, AS AMENDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

NOVEMBER OFFICERS OF THE MONTH- LIEUTENANT ARTHUR WEISGERBER, DETECTIVE DANIEL FITZMAURICE, AND OFFICER TAYLOR EQUI

Chief Walsh said on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at approximately 5:00AM a male victim was attempting to cross Dr. Martin Luther King Drive Blvd. near Madison Avenue when he was struck by an unknown vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. The victim was sent 127 feet from the point of impact and is now a paraplegic. Officer Equi of the Accident Investigation Unit and Lieutenant Weisgerber processed and investigated the accident. While processing the scene Officer Equi began to examine evidence and numerous vehicle parts that were strewn along the roadway. Officer Equi recovered a small plastic part and was able to identify the vehicle as a new model Toyota SUV.

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Due to the condition of the victim and the severity of the accident, Detective Fitzmaurice assumed the criminal aspect of the investigation. Detective Fitzmaurice, Officer Equi, and Lieutenant Weisgerber all worked together exchanging important information which led Detective Fitzmaurice to identify the vehicle as a black Toyota Highlander. Detective Fitzmaurice worked tirelessly and was able to obtain a list of black Toyota Highlanders registered in Connecticut and one by one he worked the list and visited the addresses of the registered vehicles, subsequently locating a vehicle that had sustained heavy front and passenger side damage. That vehicle was towed to NPD where a search warrant was obtained for processing.

Lieutenant Weisgerber and Officer Equi continued processing the vehicle and were able to use several parts recovered from the scene to reconstruct the broken headlight and bumper assemble and because of their attention to detail and diligent investigation, they were able to positively place that said vehicle at the scene of the accident. Detective Fitzmaurice was able to contact and interview the suspect and because of Detective Fitzmaurice's interviewing skills, he was able to get the suspect to place himself as the driver of the vehicle when it struck the victim.

Detective Fitzmaurice, Officer Equi, and Lieutenant Weisgerber all worked together as a team to gather all relevant evidence during this investigation. As a result, Detective Fitzmaurice was able to secure an arrest warrant for the operator Anounce Souffrant charging him with evading responsibility. Anounce Souffrant was arrested on December 26, 2023, where he was held on a \$100,000 bond.

Chief Walsh said he believes that Detective Fitzmaurice, Officer Equi, and Lieutenant Weisgerber should be recognized for the exemplary work they did during this investigation as this crime would remain unsolved if not for the efforts of these dedicated and professional officers.

(The commissioners congratulated Lieutenant Weisgerber, Detective Fitzmaurice,
and Officer Equi)

Lieutenant Weisgerber thanked the commission for their recognition and said the main thing was that the scene was forensically mapped with the new FARO scanner and we were able to clear the road faster than they normally would have.

PATROL STAFFING (December)

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the patrol staffing for the month of December and said the staffing was at 180 sworn personnel and there are two vacancies in patrol due to the two retirements in December. She said a total of 192 sick days and 62 workers compensation days were used by sworn personnel, and three officers remain on long term workers compensation.

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SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT REPORT (December)

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Detective Bureau activity and said that 40 cases were opened in the month of December and noted that a suspect was arrested for evading which resulted in a serious injury, a sex offender was arrested via a warrant for 11 counts of failure to register, and a stabbing suspect was arrested and charged with Assault one.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 47 cases for the month of December and noted that a suspect was arrested for a murder on Lexington Avenue, vape shop compliance checks were conducted, and nine businesses were cited for violations, and there was a prostitution arrest made at 99 New Canaan Avenue.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Special Victims activity and said they opened 56 cases for the month of December and noted that there was an investigation into an injured infant which was determined to be accidental, there was an investigation into a juvenile that was injured when struck by a tree which was also determined to be accidental, and there are several ongoing criminal investigations.

Deputy Chief Lepore said that there were 5,615 calls for service and 210 total arrests in December. She said that 572 total citations, summons, and written warnings were issued for the month and a total of 8,152 for the year. She said the numbers from the part A offenses went down from 318 in 2022 to 284 in 2023. Chief Walsh said there was an 11% decrease in crimes that were investigated by the Detective Bureau from 2022 to 2023, but at the same time there were 77,000 calls for service in 2023, and approximately 16,000 of the calls were self-initiated activities, and the calls for service increased by 8,000 from 2022 to 2023.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TRAINING REPORT (DECEMBER)

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Community Police Services Division and said during the month of December they had attended three stuff cruiser events, several tree lightings, Menorah lightings, and a Kwanzaa celebration at City Hall. He also said that coffee with a cop was held at Donut Delight.

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Traffic Unit and said for December they had conducted 204 motor vehicle stops. He said for the major selective enforcement locations were held on Riverside Avenue, Wilson Avenue, Wall Street, Highland Avenue, Connecticut Avenue, New Canaan Avenue, and Newtown Avenue and the locations are based on the data from the UCONN crash data repository as well as resident complaints.

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Behavioral Health Unit and said they opened 27 cases in December, addressed 27 cases and closed out 22 cases. He said one case was referred to by outside agencies, 24 cases were received from within the police department, and two cases were self-initiated.

Deputy Chief Dinho provided an overview of the training report for December and said various training courses were conducted and attended by many of the police officers.

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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT (DECEMBER)

Deputy Chief Lepore reported and said the DUI grant had six hires throughout the holiday season and will be hiring for the weekends through the spring for holidays, special events etc. She said the auto theft grant was completed in December and the grant is now closed. Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the staff inspections and said the cash audits were completed for the Detective Bureau and Special Services and there were no discrepancies found. She said there are no other inspections scheduled until April which will be the dispatch staff inspection. She said the NPD annual report is being complied on and organized.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Crime Scene Unit and said that 93 persons were fingerprinted (43 were for pistol permits and the year-end total persons that were fingerprint was 1320 and of this, 440 were for pistol permits. She said 30 DVD's were created for case requests, 12 cases were processed for evidence, and 97 patrol cases required camera/photograph downloads.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the professional standards and accreditation and said that the Detective Bureau test will be held in February 2024, and 12 officers are scheduled to take the test, but she expects that number to increase. She said the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) electronic system went live on January 7, 2024, for probable cause hearings and there were no issues found and the next step will be for the submission of digital evidence which will be rolled out later this month.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the body and dashboard cameras and said there have been no issues, and that ten kits are stocked and ready for installation of the next set of cars, and there have been 25 new requests for case videos.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the accreditation and said they are compiling the year-end reporting requirements for CALEA and assisting in the collection of paperwork for the NPD Annual Report.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked what it means that the DUI grant had six hires throughout the holiday season. Deputy Chief Lepore said it means that six extra officers were on the road over the holiday season for DUI enforcement due to the funding from the DUI grant. Chief Walsh said that resulted in 11 DUI arrests for the month of December.

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PERSONNEL MATTERS

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- LIEUTENANT ROBERT ZWILLICH

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT-
FOR LIEUTENANT ROBERT ZWILLICH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,240.00.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

COURSE APPROVAL- OFFICER MICHAEL MACARI

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE
APPROVAL FOR OFFICER MICHAEL MACARI**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- OFFICER MICHAEL MACARI

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION
REIMBURSEMENT FOR OFFICER MICHAEL MACARI IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,737.50**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

COURSE APPROVAL- OFFICER ESLAM ELLISY

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE
APPROVAL FOR OFFICER ESLAM ELLISY**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- OFFICER ESLAM ELLISY

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION
REIMBURSEMENT FOR OFFICER ESLAM ELLISY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 5,737.50**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

2023 SICK TIME ATTENDANCE

Chief Walsh presented the names of the police personnel who have attained perfect attendance in 2023 as follows:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Year(s)</i>
Chief James Walsh	2020-2023
Deputy Chief Terrence Blake	2023
Detective David Geismar	2022-2023
Officer Paul Wargo	2023
Officer David Busch	2023
Officer Michael Macari	2023

Chief Rilling requested that a letter be sent to the officers from the commission thanking them for their service.

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INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS

Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary letter for the impressive efforts by Sergeant Moquin, Officer Wargo, and Officer Rivera for rescuing a deer that was tangled in a fence.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:23PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd