

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC SAFETY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON
COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 22, 2023**

Attendance: Jenn McMurrer, Chair; Heidi Alterman; Nicol Ayers

Absent: Josh Goldstein; Bryan Meek; Diana Revolus

Staff: Michele DeLuca, Deputy Director Emergency Management; Chief James Walsh; Pamela Raila, Recreation and Parks

I. WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

McMurrer called the meeting to order at 7:03PM.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES- MAY 25, 2023

The minutes were tabled due to a lack of a quorum.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no public comments this evening.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTATING BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT AND LIBERATION PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE A PART-TIME CLINICIAN TO OUR CURRENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT. THIS PARTNERSHIP WILL EXPAND OUR CURRENT B.H.U. SERVICES BY ADDING CLEAR (COMMUNITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR ADDICTION RECOVERY PARTICIPANTS) PROGRAM TO THE CITY OF NORWALK. THE GOAL OF THIS PROGRAM IS TO BUILD A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LIBERATION PROGRAM FOR THE PREVENTION OF OVERDOSES AND TO PROVIDE CLINICIANS

FOR ADDICTION SERVICES. THIS IS A NO COST PROGRAM FOR THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT AND WILL PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED SERVICES TO THE CITY.

Chief Walsh said a few months ago he was approached by the Administration of Liberation which is a program that is very successful at the Stamford Police Department. He said the proposal is a no cost proposal to the City of Norwalk, and they will be sending a part time clinician twice per week on days that are mutually conducive based on scheduling, and they will follow up on all of the overdoses that the police department has responded to and will provide further services that the police cannot provide that include recovery and addiction prevention, and hosting events where addiction services literature and will include other outreach services within the community. Ms. McMurrer asked what the timeline is on the federal grant. Chief Walsh said he does not know but it is an ongoing program and there was no mention of an expiration date and is a very active program from New Haven to Stamford.

Ms. Alterman said she is in big support of this program, and they do great work.

Ms. McMurrer said due to the lack of a quorum this item will be moved to the next Common Council agenda.

FIRE DEPARTMENT- NO ACTION ITEMS

V. DISCUSSION

WATER/MARINE SAFETY- PAM RAILA

Ms. Raila thanked the committee for having this discussion item and it is so important that people enjoy the water as much as possible but take it seriously. She said there is already a long list of drownings in communities around Norwalk. She said there are things people can do to be safe in, on, and around the water and the first on her list is to always swim in a supervised area by either lifeguards or responsible adults, if possible, learn how to swim or wear a US Coastguard approved lifejacket. She said if it is too cold the time in the water needs to be limited and don't go too far out, and don't go in the water too close to the time someone has eaten and to wait 30 minutes after eating, and adults should not go in the water after consuming alcoholic beverages. In closing, she said to have fun in the water but to also be respectful of the water.

Ms. Ayers thanked Ms. Raila and said the discussion is so very important as residents in Norwalk live near the water and sometimes forget that Norwalk is a water community. She asked Ms. Raila if she had any tips for people that have pools. Ms. Raila said most of the things that had discussed also apply to pools and one of the most important things is supervision and to be sure the pool area is safely secured when there is not adult supervision.

Ms. DeLuca said the summer safety spotlight is on the city's main webpage that includes a lot of safety tips and some activity books for kids and there will also be one that will be posted in August/September for Hurricane safety, one for winter safety and one for holiday safety. She said if there is a topic that someone would like to see to contact her, and she can add a link.

Ms. McMurrer reminded everyone that fireworks are illegal for use by non-professional, non-licensed users in Connecticut and can cause serious injuries or worse and is asking all the public to attend public fireworks displays that are put on by professionals and not taken into their own hands. According to the National Fire Protection Association children ages 10-14 have the highest rate of fireworks injuries. She said if sparklers are used to keep a distance from others to avoid injuries and they can burn at 1200 degrees Fahrenheit, and wood ignites at 356 degrees Fahrenheit and burns at 575 degrees Fahrenheit. She also said to keep pets inside during fireworks as they can have a negative impact on them. She said if more fireworks safety tips and facts are needed to visit www.nfpa.org

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was no discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. ALTERMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd