

CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
October 20, 2025

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Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via e-mail in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Ben Yeung at byeung@norwalkct.gov to provide written comments prior to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Rilling; Commissioner Tony Lopez; Commissioner Ronald Paladino; Commissioner Nate Sumpter; Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

STAFF: Chief James Walsh; Deputy Chief Joseph Dinho; Deputy Chief Melissa Lepore; Ben Yeung, Senior Engineer, TMP; Rebecca Kovacs, Recreation and Parks

OTHERS: Erin Foley

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Rilling called the roll, and all those listed in the attendance were present.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Diane Cece- East Norwalk Neighborhood Association

Ms. Cece said the East Norwalk Neighborhood Association continues to receive correspondence from Howard Avenue residents regarding the previously authorized parking changes. Mayor Rilling said he could appreciate the concerns and suggested she draft a letter to the Traffic Authority so it could be reconsidered. This item is not on tonight's agenda, so it cannot be discussed, as it would be a violation of FOI.

Ms. Cece said she has a number of questions regarding Cemetery Street and had a conversation with Mr. Yeung this afternoon to clarify some aspects of this plan. She said they have been under the impression early on in this development plan that what was going to become parallel parking was intended to be paid parking, metered parking, but she sees that is not the case, with the explanation that this is going to fall in line with other street-level parking in the area. She said it would solve the issue of commuters, but it is not going to solve the problem that they had originally raised about these spaces being for the development itself, so in the absence of any restriction from overnight parking, the bulk of the time these spaces will most likely go to both the residents and guests and possibly contractors and other service people for the development. She is hoping that the commission will discuss and prevent it from happening.

Mr. Yeung said he had received a written email comment regarding Bouton Street. Mayor Rilling said it is not an agenda item and requested that he forward it to the Traffic Authority members.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Approve Minutes from the Regular Traffic Authority Meeting on September 15, 2025.

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Approve Minutes from the Special Traffic Authority Meeting on October 14, 2025.

**** COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVE PROPOSED FULL/PARTIAL ROAD CLOSURES FOR THE ANNUAL RCA TURKEY TROT EVENT

Ms. Erin Foley provided a brief overview of the event, noting there are no changes from last year. It is a Thanksgiving morning fundraiser, and the route is the same as in prior years.

Mayor Rilling asked if there would be police officers on site. Ms. Foley said “Yes” along with fire and EMT personnel.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. APPROVE PROPOSED FULL ROAD CLOSURES FOR THE RCA LIGHT UP ROWAYTON EVENT

Ms. Foley provided a brief overview of the event and said it is also a fundraiser for a local 501(c)(3) and that closing the road makes it safer for those attending.

Mayor Rilling asked whether the event is the same as in past years. Ms. Foley said it is slightly different, but has the same basic structure with a few extra participants.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said she recalls the sale of liquor being discussed last year and thought it had been included. Ms. Foley said she does not believe it was included last year, but it is part of the event this year and will be purchased as part of the fundraiser. Mayor Rilling asked if this had been discussed with the State Liquor Commission. Ms. Foley said she believes it has been, but she will need to confirm. Chief Walsh said he will need to check with Ms. Dixon regarding the special event permit to see if the State Liquor Commission has been contacted for a temporary permit and what restrictions have been put in place. Mayor Rilling requested that Chief Walsh verify with the State Liquor Commission that they are satisfied with how this will be handled.

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM CONTINGENT UPON APPROVAL FROM THE STATE LIQUOR COMMISSION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. APPROVE THE SIDEWALKS/BIKE LANE CLOSURES FOR THE ANNUAL NORWALK RIVER FUN RUN

Ms. Kovacs provided a brief overview of the event and said it is an annual event conducted with Recreation and Parks and the Norwalk Public Schools. It is a 1.2-mile run that begins at Veterans Park and ends at the Maritime Aquarium. There will be no road closures; runners will only be on the sidewalks, and an officer will help them cross Route 136.

Commissioner Lopez asked about the impact on the drawbridge. Ms. Kovacs said they work with CTDOT bridge operations on a permit for a 30-minute to 1-hour bridge closure, but the runners will only cross it on the way to the Maritime Center, so it will only need to be closed for that portion.

**** COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. APPROVE THE PARTIAL ROAD CLOSURES FOR THE ANNUAL JINGLE BELL 5K RUN

Mayor Rilling said this is also an annual event and asked if there have been any changes. Ms. Kovacs said “No,” which is the same as it was last year.

**** COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Commissioner Sumpter moved the item.

E. APPROVE PROPOSED PARKING REGULATION CHANGES ON PORTIONS OF EAST AVENUE, CEMETERY STREET, AND GREGORY BOULEVARD

Mr. Yeung said they have been working with the CTDOT and the developer on streetscape improvements for one Cemetery Street and on the new plan for the entirety of Cemetery Circle. He presented the proposed regulations for on-street parking resulting from these changes. The proposed regulation is for two-hour parking from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday, with the exceptions of holidays and weekends. It is consistent with existing parking regulations on Van Zant Street and Rowan Street. The purpose of the two-hour maximum is to encourage turnover for retail use and discourage commuter parking. The reason it is only Monday through Friday is to allow use by some nearby religious congregations. This will apply to the parking spaces created along Cemetery Street, the new parking spaces along the east side of East Avenue, and future parking spaces along the east side of Gregory Blvd., which is across from the cemetery. This is meant to create a consistent, predictable parking regulation landscape for people coming to the East Norwalk neighborhood to park near retail and restaurant uses, and is

not meant to serve any particular residential development; it is open to everyone in the public. The parking spaces will be unmetered and, outside of 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM, technically unrestricted.

Mayor Rilling asked about the mindset behind closing the right lane on Cemetery Street and about the authority for doing so. Mr. Yeung said that having a slightly narrower street serves traffic-calming purposes, reduces speeding, provides space for loading and unloading, and allows for a bike lane on the south side of Cemetery Street. Mayor Rilling said he does not believe that has come before the Traffic Authority. Mr. Yeung said he will check the records and provide a separate presentation regarding the traffic changes around Cemetery Circle. Mayor Rilling said he would have been interested in having a traffic study done because Cemetery Street, especially during the summer, is the main way to the beach. Mr. Yeung said he will follow up on some questions regarding the reduction of lanes along Cemetery Street, as well as on what has been specifically studied as part of the traffic impact study for One Cemetery Street.

Commissioner Lopez proposed that staff address Ms. CeCe's issues.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING FOLLOWING THE COMMISSION'S RECEIVING THE PERTINENT INFORMATION THAT WAS DISCUSSED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

F. APPROVE PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT CHANGES FROM 30 MPH TO 25 MPH ON VARIOUS NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS IN CRANBURY

Mayor Rilling asked where it originated and why. Mr. Yeung said there are a few roads in the Cranbury neighborhood where they have received various complaints through the click-and-request system, and they wanted to address them holistically. The streets include West Rocks Road, Bayne Street, Half Mile Road, Kensett Avenue, and Field Street, to promote a safer, lower-speed environment where families can feel comfortable walking or biking.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd