

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Harry W. Rilling
Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons
Commissioner Tony Lopez
Commissioner Nathan Sumpter
Commissioner Ron Paladino

CITY OF NORWALK BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS Regular Meeting May 19, 2025

ATTENDANCE: Commissioner Collier-Clemmons; Commissioner Tony Lopez;
Commissioner Ronald Paladino

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

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES APRIL 21, 2025

****COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

APRIL- OFFICERS ANDREW MANCINI, KADEN DARROW, AND OMAR RIVERA

Chief Walsh read the following letter into the record:

I am honored to inform the commission that Officers Andy Mancini, Kaden Darrow, and Omar Rivera have been named Officers of the Month for April 2025. They were chosen for your heroic actions on April 30, 2025, at a house fire at 30 Lexington Avenue. They responded quickly to an active structure fire, entered the building, and evacuated a resident under hazardous conditions.

On April 30, 2025, Officers Andy Mancini, Kaden Darrow, and Omar Rivera were dispatched to an active structure fire at 30 Lexington Avenue. The reports were that smoke could be seen billowing from the house and that parties could still be inside. Upon arrival, all three officers quickly forced entry to the first floor and found multiple residents seemingly unaware of a fire on the third floor due to a lack of smoke detectors. They quickly evacuated the first-floor residents, efficiently making their way to the third floor, scaling the rear fire escape to the third floor, and forcing entry, ensuring that all residents were evacuated as they made their way to the top floor. The Norwalk Fire Department arrived on the scene and extinguished the fire, which took well

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over an hour to combat due to the hoarder-type living situation inside. It was a multi-apartment structure, which made the fire difficult to fight.

Officer Andy Mancini, Officer Kaden Darrow, and Officer Omar Rivera acted calmly and without hesitation when entering the structure and putting themselves in harm's way to evacuate the occupants of 30 Lexington Avenue. In addition, the occupants had no idea there was an active fire on the third floor of the residence. Due to their heroic response on April 30, 2025, and their continued dedication to the City of Norwalk, I have named Officer Mancini, Officer Danow, and Officer Rivera as the officers of the month for April 2025.

(The commissioners congratulated Officers Andy Mancini, Kaden Darrow, and Omar Rivera)

CHIEF'S EXECUTIVE REPORT- FEBRUARY EXECUTIVE REPORT

Sworn Personnel Updates

Chief Walsh reported on the patrol staffing for the end of April and said there are 181 sworn personnel (2 open sworn positions). There were no personnel changes. One officer is on administrative leave pending an Internal Affairs Investigation, and two are on extended workmen's compensation leave. Chief Walsh said 137.7 sick days and 42.75 workmen's compensation days were used. Chief Walsh said lateral transfer, Hans Boah's background investigation concluded, and the Police Commission interviewed him in April, and his start date was May 8, 2025.

Civilian Personnel Updates

Chief Walsh provided an update on the civilian personnel and said 19 telecommunicators/supervisors are assigned to combined dispatch, and two are open positions. Two conditional job offers were given to two candidates, and we will be moving forward with one of the candidates, so we are still down one dispatcher. There are 14 civilian employees assigned to support staff positions, and they are fully staffed.

Departmental Initiatives

Chief Walsh reported on departmental initiatives and current issues for April. He noted a 40% decline in stolen cars in 2025 and that 60% of the stolen cars had their keys left inside. That is still a major issue within the city, and they are still trying to educate people to lock their cars and take the fobs inside. They find that most stolen cars are just joyriders because the keys are left inside the car.

Finance and Current Fiscal Year Budgeting

Chief Walsh said that Mr. Docimo of Administrative Services monitors all budgets. Chief Walsh provided an overview of the April 2025 budget status and noted that all operating salaries and overtime budgets are tracking in the green. He said that 77% of the salaries have been used 10 months into the

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fiscal year so that is still tracking below, and only 58% of the overtime budget has been used so they are still tracking in the green in both of those accounts while still providing a lot of overtime within April, especially for training. Compensation for overtime salary from July 2024 through April 2025 remains consistent, and most of the overtime is centered around training and other initiatives. There has been a significant decrease in sick time from March to April, but it does fluctuate by the season and other factors.

OPERATIONS REPORT

PATROL STAFFING (APRIL)

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Detective Bureau activity and said that 16 cases were opened in April, and noted that a suspect was arrested by warrant and charged with criminal possession of a firearm, reckless endangerment, criminal attempt of assault in the first, and illegal discharge of a firearm. A suspect was arrested at Westchester County jail and extradited to Norwalk and charged with robbery in the first and conspiracy to commit robbery in the second.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 39 cases in April and noted a suspect was arrested during a car stop after officers located crack cocaine, fentanyl, and heroin. A search warrant was executed at a residence where crack cocaine was seized, and the suspect was arrested for possession of narcotics. A search warrant was executed at Clever Smoke Shop on New Canaan Avenue. The suspect was arrested for marijuana possession; 13 pounds of marijuana products were seized.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Special Victims activity and said they opened 47 cases in April and noted that a total of 48 family violence incidents were reported in April, and there are several ongoing criminal investigations.

Deputy Chief Lepore said 1,884 citations were issued in April, for a total of 5,126 for the year

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Marine Unit's activity for April and noted that they had met with the Maritime Center and Seaport Association.

Deputy Chief Lepore said there were 7,292 calls for service and 157 total arrests in April. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if a yearly comparison chart of the monthly patrol division calls exists. Deputy Chief Lepore said "Yes" and can include it in next month's report.

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COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TRAINING REPORT (APRIL)

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Community Police Services Division and said they handled 1,319 calls for service in April. He said 18 events were attended and provided an overview of the major events they had attended/assisted with during April. Commissioner Paladino said he had attended the Earth Day Event and found it concerning that the police vehicles were following behind the pedestrians going against traffic. Deputy Chief Dinho said they could switch the route for next year and follow the pedestrians with the traffic flow.

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Traffic Unit and said that for April, they had conducted 842 motor vehicle stops, installed five child car seats, issued 13 parking violations, found two abandoned vehicles, and made two DWI arrests. The accident reconstruction team handled two motor vehicle accidents; there was a fatality on West Avenue on April 13th, where a vehicle had collided with a stopped moped at the intersection of West Avenue and Reed Street. The operator of the moped was transported to the Norwalk Hospital, where he died soon after due to his injuries. Investigators processed the scene for evidence, and the results are pending from the State's toxicology lab and the State Medical Examiners' Office. The unit expects to go to warrant by the end of this month. The second accident was a serious injury on Wilson Avenue on April 19th, and is also an ongoing accident investigation. A bicyclist on Wilson Avenue was struck by a vehicle, causing serious injuries, and was transported to Norwalk Hospital. The accident investigators processed the scene for evidence, and an arrest warrant application was submitted to the court for the vehicle operator. The operator turned himself in, and the arrest warrant was served.

Deputy Chief Dinho said there were 96 selective enforcement locations and noted some of them.

Deputy Chief Dinho provided an overview of the Behavioral Health Unit and said they opened 60 cases in April, addressed 60 cases, closed out 34 cases, hospitalized 27 cases, partnered with the state's attorney in four, referred 15 cases for services, and worked with the families on 12 cases.

Deputy Chief Dinho provided an overview of the April training, saying there were five total subject areas, and 24 officers attended.

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on Animal Control that 67 incidents were addressed, five animal bite incidents were reported, six enforcement/infractions/summonses were issued, and two dogs were adopted.

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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT (APRIL)

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the grants and inspections and said the DUI grant had six grant hires for April for 56 hours worked. The officers made 36 car stops, issued 32 infraction tickets, and made five DUI arrests. The JAG grant funds were utilized to purchase two handheld radar devices. The lieutenant attended the Project Safe Neighborhoods grant submission meeting and has received word that they will receive some funding. They are just waiting on the written confirmation, which will be included in next month's report. The distracted driver grant began on April 1st and runs through April 30th. No other grant funding was utilized during April, and we are continually monitoring opportunities and applying for funding.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the staff inspections and said the Detective Bureau was inspected in April. No discrepancies were found. The evidence fund in Special Services was audited for the commander transition. No discrepancies were found.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Crime Scene Unit that 112 people were fingerprinted (41 were for pistol permits). She said 24 DVDs / photos were created for case requests, 23 cases were processed for evidence, 118 patrol cases required camera/photograph downloads of scenes, 13 cases were delivered to the State Forensic Lab for processing, and 14 vehicles were stored for court cases. Seven background checks were conducted on massage therapists. Three solicitor permits were issued in April for Trinity Solar Co., and there were no pawnbroker/precious metal permit requests. She said the CSI unit vehicle was deployed three times in April for serious or fatal motor vehicle accidents.

Deputy Chief Lepore said they assisted the Corporation Counsel with two civil cases. One intern from Sacred Heart University has completed her hours, and one intern working with the Special Victims Unit will transition to the Behavioral Health Unit due to her double major and would like to continue her internship.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the body and dashboard cameras and said that one BWC, one dashboard camera, and one vehicle hub were returned for issues, and two taser replacements were received back from Axon.

Deputy Chief Lepore said there were 36 new requests for case videos, 29 disks burned with videos, and 13 electronic shares with Stamford Court. Performance audits on officers' equipment usage and video tagging are conducted monthly. Activation rates for the month were 86.9%. Communication takes place regularly for any issues or concerns.

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Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the accreditation and said they continually collect proofs and review CALEA standards for compliance and annual audits. This year will include the fourth-year electronic file review in September and the physical on-site audit in October.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT-LIEUTENANT SOFIA GULINO

****COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR LIEUTENANT SOFIA GULINO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 2,597.50**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT-LIEUTENANT ROBERT ZWILLICH

****COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR LIEUTENANT ROBERT ZWILLICH OF \$ 2,335.00.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMPLEMENTARY LETTERS

Chief Walsh said that while working the front desk, Officer Bell received a call from Judith Durham complimenting Officers Macari and Nelson for their kindness and attentiveness in handling her issues on consecutive nights. She was pleased with their compassion.

Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary email from Olimbi Hoxha praising Officer Seitz for his presence and support on April 24, 2025, when she was in an accident on Westport Avenue.

Chief Walsh said Lieutenant Zwillich received a complimentary call from Judith Durham praising Officer Murdoch regarding a domestic situation with her sister. She expressed her thanks and could not believe how patient he was.

Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary email from Tim Jensen expressing his thanks for Officer Anuszkiewicz's tremendous assistance when his car broke down on his way home from his son's wedding. He had determined that the car had a leak and ran out of oil, and much to his surprise, the officer returned the oil from Valvoline. He said that Officer Anuszkiewicz went above and beyond the call of duty and is a top-notch officer.

Chief Walsh said he received a complimentary email from one of the prosecutors at the Stamford Courthouse regarding Officers Holmes, Wargo, and Macari for their quick and professional work.

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ADJOURNMENT

****COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Dilene Byrd