

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

JUNE 16, 2025

BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE

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Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.

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 Chief James Walsh at jwalsh@norwalkct.gov to provide written comments prior to the meeting.

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

STAFF: Deputy Chief Melissa Lepore; Deputy Chief Joseph Dinho

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 5:11 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2025

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE (3) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION-COMMISSIONER SUMPTER.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

RECOGNITION

MAY- SCOTT RUSSO AND DANIEL VAZQUEZ

Deputy Chief Lepore read the following letter from Chief Walsh into the record:

I am honored to inform you that you have been selected as Officers of the Month for May 2025. You were chosen for your proactive arrest of three individuals who were found in possession of two illegally possessed semi-automatic handguns during a car stop.

On May 20, 2025, Officer Scott Russo initiated a motor vehicle stop in the area of Cudlipp Street on a vehicle with multiple passengers because the vehicle's windows were illegally tinted. During the stop, Officer Russo became aware that the driver was a supervised person on the deadly weapon registry. After receiving this information, backup units arrived on the scene. As Officer Russo approached the car and began the initial interview of the operator, he noticed what Officer Russo believed was a handgun under the driver's side seat. For officer safety purposes, upon the discovery of the gun, Officer Daniel Vazquez removed the passenger from the car. Officer Vazquez quickly discovered that this passenger also had a gun in his waistband. Officer Vazquez was able to safely and rapidly place the subject under control, remove the handgun, and handcuff the subject. The second firearm was recovered from under the seat by Officer Russo and discovered to have an etched-out serial number to disguise the identification for tracing purposes. All individuals were arrested safely and quickly without injuring any officer or citizen. The handguns were later determined to have high-capacity magazines. A search of the car, after the arrest, also yielded illegally possessed narcotics. Two of the individuals arrested had extensive criminal histories.

Due to your professional investigative tact and approach, both of you were able to arrest three armed individuals with extensive criminal histories safely. Your ongoing dedication to the safety and security of Norwalk's residents is recognized as being the May 2025 Officers of the month for your bravery on May 20, 2025.

(The commissioners congratulated Officers Scott Russo and Daniel Vazquez)

CIVILIAN AWARD- DISPATCHER DAVID SHULMAN

Deputy Chief Lepore read the following letter from Supervisor Joshua Wrinn into the record:

On 05/10/2025 at 23:04, Norwalk Police/Fire/EMS responded to a structure fire at 5 Elmcrest Terrace, a multi-occupant apartment complex. During this shift, Dispatcher Shulman was working the FD Station. Dispatcher Shulman answered the initial 911 call, determined the correct location,

call type, and gave good instructions to the caller. He also quickly queued the call and dispatched Norwalk Fire and EMS. When Car 2 arrived on scene, he quickly upgraded the call from a first alarm fire to a working third alarm fire. Dispatcher Schulman did an excellent job upgrading the call type, dispatching the correct apparatus to the scene, getting station coverage going to all the correct locations, and making all the correct notifications.

I'm writing you this because I believe Dispatcher David Schulman did an excellent job handling the call from start to finish. During this call, he also had to give out other EMS calls that came in from the city (which included a mutual-aid FD response) and handled it all very well on his own. Dispatcher Schulman's actions assisted in a quick response, a smooth and seamless operation, and the best possible outcome for the situation.

(The commissioners congratulated Dispatcher David Schulman)

CHIEF'S EXECUTIVE REPORT- MAY EXECUTIVE REPORT

The Chief Executive's report was provided to the commission but was not read into the record due to Chief Walsh's absence. The commissioners had no comments or questions regarding the report.

OPERATIONS REPORT

PATROL STAFFING (MAY)

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Detective Bureau activity and said that 19 cases were opened in May, and noted that a suspect was arrested by warrant and charged with sexual assault 2nd. A suspect was extradited from Westchester County Correctional and charged with robbery in the 1st, conspiracy, and larceny in the 3rd. A suspect was arrested by warrant for two counts of failure to register as a sex offender.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 32 cases in May and noted a suspect was extradited from New York for failure to appear, engaging in pursuit, and evading. A suspect was arrested by warrant and charged with sexual assault in the 1st. A prostitution investigation led to an arrest. A suspect was charged with promoting prostitution.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Special Victims activity and said 61 family violence cases were opened in May, and noted that a suspect was arrested by warrant and charged with four counts of sexual assault in the 4th, and risk of injury to a minor. A suspect was arrested by warrant and charged with sexual assault in the 4th and risk of injury to a minor.

Deputy Chief Lepore said 813 citations were issued in May, for a total of 5,939 for the year.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Marine Unit's activity for May. There were 20 calls for service. Two kayakers were distressed, two rescued, and a sailboat drifting in Norwalk Harbor.

Deputy Chief Lepore said there were 6,543 calls for service and 195 total arrests in May. She said last month, Commissioner Collier-Clemmons had requested the year-to-date calls for service. From January

2025 through May 2025, the day shift had 14,545, the evening shift had 9,131, and the midnight shift had 8,473.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TRAINING REPORT (MAY)

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Community Police Services Division and said they handled 901 calls for service in May. He said 14 events were attended and provided an overview of the major events they had attended/assisted with during May. Commissioner Lopez requested that the major events for the following month be included in the commission packet. Deputy Chief Dinho said they usually send an email each week for the upcoming events for that week, because on a monthly basis, the events are not approved that far out. Still, he can include the commissioner in the email.

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Traffic Unit and said that for May, they had conducted 402 motor vehicle stops, installed five child car seats, issued 40 parking violations, found six abandoned vehicles, and made five DWI arrests. Deputy Chief Dinho said there were 73 selective enforcement locations and noted some of them.

Deputy Chief Dinho provided an overview of the Behavioral Health Unit, which opened 57 cases in May, addressed 57 cases, closed out 29 cases, hospitalized 24 cases, referred 29 cases for services, and worked with the families on 16 cases.

Deputy Chief Dinho provided an overview of the May training, saying there were nine total subject areas, and 31 officers attended.

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on Animal Control that 59 incidents were addressed, five animal bite incidents were reported, 11 enforcement/infractions/summonses were issued, and one dog was adopted.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT (MAY)

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the grants and inspections and said the DUI grant had eight grant hires for 64 hours worked in May. The officers made 52 car stops, issued 46 infraction tickets, and made four DUI arrests. The Click it or Ticket grant was also completed, and the officer made 51 car stops and issued 52 infractions. The JAG grant funds were utilized for 28 hours of additional patrol units during the Memorial Day Parade. The Project Safe Neighborhoods grant was awarded approximately \$21,000 to be used in conjunction with our school safety initiative. They are applying for a Community-Oriented Policing Services Microgrant for officer training opportunity. They continually monitor funding through new state and federal grants.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the staff inspections and said no new staff inspections were conducted in May. A follow-up to the property division's annual inspection was conducted. The minor issues were all corrected.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Crime Scene Unit that 75 people were fingerprinted (27 were for pistol permits). She said 22 DVDs / photos were created for case requests, 8 cases were processed for evidence, 124 patrol cases required camera/photograph downloads of scenes, nine cases were delivered to

the State Forensic Lab for processing, and 14 vehicles were stored for court cases. Four background checks were conducted on massage therapists for Hand and Stone Co. One solicitor permit was issued in April for Trinity Solar Co., and there were no requests for pawnbroker/precious metal permits. The CSI unit vehicle was not deployed during May.

Deputy Chief Lepore said they assisted the Corporation Counsel with one civil case. Directive changes are being updated, and two new ones are being composed for June distribution.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the body and dashboard cameras and said there were no returns or replacements in May.

Deputy Chief Lepore said there were 43 new requests for case videos, 12 disks burned with videos, 22 electronic shares with Stamford Court, and two internal requests. Performance audits on officers' equipment usage and video tagging are conducted monthly. Activation rates for the month were 88.1%. Communication and troubleshooting take place regularly regarding any issues or concerns.

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-SERGEANT NATHANIEL PAULINO

****COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR SERGEANT NATHANIEL PAULINO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 2,280.00.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT-OFFICER MARK VOZZELLA

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said the date of the course approval from the commission was not included. Mayor Rilling requested that the commission receive a copy of that.

****COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR OFFICER MARK VOZZELLA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 2,239.00.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VACATION CARRY OVER REQUEST- CHIEF JAMES WALSH

Mayor Rilling said that frequently, circumstances prevent the higher-ranking staff from taking vacation due to workload, etc. He said he has spoken with Chief Walsh and he has assured him that they will do everything they can with the vacation days they request by the fiscal year's end.

****COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE VACATION REQUEST FOR CHIEF JAMES WALSH AS REQUESTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VACATION CARRY OVER REQUEST- DEPUTY CHIEF TERRANCE BLAKE

****COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE VACATION REQUEST FOR DEPUTY CHIEF TERRANCE BLAKE AS REQUESTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VACATION CARRY OVER REQUEST- DEPUTY CHIEF MELISSA LEPORE

****COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE VACATION REQUEST FOR DEPUTY CHIEF MELISSA LEPORE AS REQUESTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VACATION CARRY OVER REQUEST- CHIEF JOSEPH DINHO

****COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE VACATION REQUEST FOR DEPUTY CHIEF JOSEPH DINHO AS REQUESTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

COMPLEMENTARY LETTERS

Deputy Chief Lepore said that Chief Walsh received a complimentary letter from Mary Oster, who lives at 3 Leann Drive and is the early childhood development coordinator for the City of Norwalk. She said that Officer Sietz has been very proactive and helpful in getting the signs posted so that the high school kids park safely, and she appreciates his response.

Deputy Chief Lepore said Chief Walsh received a complimentary letter from Jamie Kennedy, the CEO of Kings' Daughters and Sons Housing Inc., who owns the Kingsway Senior Housing on Westport Avenue. She commended Officer Sietz for professionalism, instincts, and sensitivity during a culmination of several recent matters that involved difficult and sensitive situations with resident mental health episodes, deceased residents, his interaction with family members, and resident substance abuse.

Deputy Chief Lepore said Chief Walsh received a letter of gratitude from Matthew and Laura Nelson to the traffic division for the recent enforcement on Rampart Road over the past week. They thanked the whole department for its efforts to keep Norwalk safe.

(The commissioners congratulated the Officers)

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd