

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

August 18, 2025

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

STAFF: Deputy Chief Blake; Deputy Chief Melissa Lepore; Deputy Chief Joseph Dinho

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:44 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 21, 2025

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Levin said that he understands the commission chairman will not allow him to ask whether they have received his messages. Mayor Rilling said that he has explained to Mr. Levin that if he wishes to ask any commissioner any questions, he can contact them directly. He also asked the Chief to poll each commissioner to see whether they would like a city email. Mr. Levin met with Commissioner Collier-Clemmons and Commissioner Paladino, and he was briefed on that meeting. If there is any other time, he would like to discuss anything with a commissioner, he is more than able to contact them.

RECOGNITION

JULY- OFFICER OF THE MONTH- OFFICER DANIEL VAZQUEZ

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

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Board of Police Commissioners
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I am honored to inform you that you have been selected as Officer of the Month for July 2025. You were chosen due to your swift life-saving actions on July 14th, 2025, in which you assisted in the life-saving efforts of a one-year-old infant who had drowned at a Vollmer Avenue residence.

On Saturday, July 14, 2025, at approximately 1545 hours, Norwalk Dispatch received a call that a one-year-old infant was unconscious, blue, and not breathing. This infant was found in a small kiddie-type pool in the backyard when momentarily left unattended. Officer Vazquez was traveling north on Cross Street toward North Avenue when receiving the dispatch. He responded forthwith to the location. Upon arrival, Officer Vazquez was waved down by individuals outside the residence. Officer Vazquez immediately ran to the front steps of the house, where he observed a small child limp and unresponsive in the arms of his mother. Officer Vazquez took the child from the mother and immediately performed lifesaving techniques. Officer Vazquez turned the child onto his stomach and positioned him vertically along his body to perform back blows. He held the child at a downward angle and delivered several firm back blows. Shortly thereafter, the child began to respond and vomited water, which cleared his airway. The child started breathing and let out a weak cry. Officer Vazquez observed that while the child was breathing, his face remained bluish. He delivered several more back blows, resulting in the child vomiting again. Within minutes, Norwalk Fire and Norwalk EMS arrived on the scene. Officer Vazquez carried the child to the ambulance and assisted the Paramedic in placing the child onto the stretcher. EMS personnel began treatment and prepared the child for transport to Norwalk Hospital. The infant made a full recovery that day and was admitted to Norwalk Hospital for further evaluation. Due to Officer Vazquez's immediate response, quick thinking, and implementation of his training, he was able to save the life of the one-year-old child and prevent a tragedy. Due to his actions, he was named the July 2025 Officer of the Month.

(The commissioners congratulated Officer Daniel Vazquez)

CHIEF'S EXECUTIVE REPORT- MAY EXECUTIVE REPORT

Sworn Personnel Updates

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the patrol staffing as of July 30, 2025, and said there are 183 sworn personnel. One officer is on administrative leave pending an Internal Affairs Investigation, and two officers are on extended workers' compensation.

Deputy Chief Blake said 190.5 sick days, and 50.75 workmen's compensation days were used. Deputy Chief Blake stated that Officers Blair Kim and Clayton Corkins began the POST academy.

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Civilian Personnel Updates

Deputy Chief Blake provided an update on the civilian personnel, stating that 20 telecommunicators/supervisors are assigned to combined dispatch. There is currently one open position, and one conditional job offer that was given to the candidate was denied by the applicant after further discussions and scheduling conflicts with the position. A new background investigation has begun on the next candidate. There are 14 civilian employees assigned to support staff positions, and they are fully staffed. There were no further civilian personnel changes.

Departmental Initiatives

Deputy Chief Blake reported on departmental initiatives and current issues for July, noting the department successfully implemented the monthly online interactive dashboard. The dashboard provides a transparent view of the department's operations and activities, and offers valuable community information. There was a 45% drop in stolen cars; however, 63% of the cars had their keys inside and were left unlocked. The preparation for the four-year CALEA review is ongoing.

Finance and Current Fiscal Year Budgeting

Deputy Chief Blake stated that Mr. Docimo from Administrative Services oversees all budgets. Deputy Chief Blake provided an overview of the July 2025 budget status and noted that uniform patrol was up 25% from July 2024 due to extensive prisoner watches and use of vacation, compensatory time, and sick time.

OPERATIONS REPORT

PATROL STAFFING (JULY)

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Detective Bureau activity and said that 11 cases were opened in July, and noted that a suspect was arrested on five burglary warrants, as that individual was doing extensive burglaries in the Connecticut Avenue and Scribner Avenue area. A suspect was arrested for larceny in the first degree involving the theft of a motor vehicle. They assisted the Darien Police with arresting a resident of Ridge Street for sexual assault in the second degree. There was a weapon compliance for the subject of a protective order. Eight firearms were recovered, and the individual is supposed to be turning those firearms in, as they did not pass the compliance check.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 25 cases in July and noted that a suspect was arrested on four warrants charging with the sale of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance, and conspiracy. A suspect was arrested on two warrants charging the sale of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance.

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Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Victims activity and stated that they handled 33 cases, and noted that a suspect was arrested by warrant for sexual assault in the first degree of a victim under 10 years old, and risk of injury to a minor. A suspect was arrested by warrant and charged with assault in the third degree and risk of injury to a minor. A suspect was arrested by warrant and charged with robbery in the second degree, larceny in the third degree, conspiracy, and risk of injury to a minor. The School Resource Officers and Public Safety Cadets attended the NEERLEA Police Academy in Massachusetts. There were 34 family violence cases.

Deputy Chief Blake said 1232 citations were issued in July, for a total of 8,912 for the year.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Marine Unit's activity for July. There were 67 calls for service, and 148 year-to-date, with 14 people rescued.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Patrol Division's highlights, stating that there were 96 calls for service, resulting in 24 vehicles being towed. Deputy Chief Blake provided an overview of the calls for service by platoon.

Deputy Chief Blake said there were 6,920 calls for service, 145 total arrests, and 1232 motor vehicle stops in July.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TRAINING REPORT (JULY)

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Community Police Services Division, stating that they handled 1,284 calls for service in July. He said 20 events were attended and provided an overview of the major events they had attended/assisted with during July.

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Traffic Unit and stated that for July, they had conducted 652 motor vehicle stops, installed 17 child car seats, issued 29 parking violations, located three abandoned vehicles, made six DUI arrests, and cited 39 cell phone violations.

Deputy Chief Dinho said there was an accident reconstruction team investigation for the fatal motor vehicle accident that occurred in the parking lot of Baci Deli, located at the corner of Connecticut Avenue and Cedar Street. A search warrant for phone records was submitted and is awaiting the results. The investigation is ongoing.

Deputy Chief Dinho stated that there were 78 selective enforcement locations and identified some of them.

Deputy Chief Dinho provided an overview of the Behavioral Health Unit, which opened 46 cases in July, addressed 46 cases, closed 29 cases, hospitalized 20 cases, partnered with the state's attorney on one case, referred 12 cases for services, and worked with families on 12 cases.

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Deputy Chief Dinho provided an overview of the July training, stating that there was one subject area and 20 officers in attendance.

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on Animal Control that 17 incidents were addressed, six animal bite incidents were reported, and four enforcement/infractions/summons were issued.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT (JULY)

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the grants and inspections, stating that there were three eight-hour DUI grant hires for July, resulting in 12 motor vehicle stops, 25 infractions issued, and two DUI arrests. There were 36 8-hour speed and aggressive hires in July, resulting in 357 motor vehicle stops, 416 infractions issued, and one arrest. They received a preliminary award for the Project Safe Neighborhoods grant and are awaiting formal confirmation. They continue to monitor funding through new state and federal grants.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the staff inspections, stating that no new staff inspections were conducted in July. The training division will be inspected in September.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Crime Scene Unit that 117 people were fingerprinted (51 were for pistol permits). She said 17 DVDs / photographs were created for case requests, 19 cases were processed for evidence, 93 patrol cases required camera/photograph downloads of scenes, nine cases were delivered to the State Forensic Lab for processing, 26 were returned to the police department, and 16 vehicles were stored for court cases. One background check was conducted for the Hand and Stone Spa. Two solicitor permits were issued for Frontier, and there were two requests for pawnbroker/precious metal permits for Yankee Peddler. The CSI unit vehicle was not deployed during July.

Deputy Chief Lepore said they assisted the Corporation Counsel with one ongoing civil case.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the body and dashboard cameras, stating that there are three BWC hardware replacements for the month of July. One was a software malfunction, and two were case containment issues.

Deputy Chief Lepore stated that there were 37 new requests for case videos. Additionally, 16 cases were either transferred to 26 discs or USB drives, 18 electronic shares were sent to Stamford Court, and three internal requests were received. Performance audits are conducted monthly on officers' equipment usage and video tagging. The activation rate for the month was 85.4%, which is consistent with the rate in June. Communication occurs regularly to address any issues, concerns, and troubleshooting needs.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the accreditation, stating that they continually collect evidence and review CALEA standards for compliance, as well as conduct annual audits. This year will include the fourth-year electronic file review in September and the physical on-site audit in October. The State of Connecticut Accreditation is a four-year file review and will be conducted during the week of September 15th.

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Mayor Rilling said the Norwalk Police Department has been accredited since 1995 and is the largest municipal police department in the state that is accredited. Commissioner Lopez asked if there is a seal for achieving such a milestone. Deputy Chief Lepore said she would need to inquire and report back to the commission. Mayor Rilling suggested she work with Ms. Woods-Matthews on a brief op-ed about national accreditation for law enforcement, acknowledging that this department has been accredited for over 30 years.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

COURSE APPROVAL-OFFICER MARK VOZZELLA

****COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO COURSE FOR OFFICER MARK VOZZELLA.
THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMPLEMENTARY LETTERS

Deputy Chief Blake stated that Chief Walsh received a complimentary letter from The State of Connecticut, Division of Criminal Justice, complimenting the Norwalk Police Department's Detective Bureau, particularly Sergeant John Taranto.

(The commissioners congratulated the Detective Bureau and Sergeant John Taranto)

ADJOURNMENT

****COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd