

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

SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE

Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to provide “live comments” will need to register in advance and use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the “raise your hand indicator” and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.

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 Tony Lopez, Commissioner Ronald Paladino, Commissioner Nate Sumpter, Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 5:08 PM.

I. ROLL CALL

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

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ONTO THE AGENDA:**

- 1. DISCUSS HOW THE POLICE COMMISSION PROPOSES TO ADDRESS THE PUBLIC INQUIRY ON THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE POLICE COMMISSION AS ENUMERATED UNDER THE REVISED CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORWALK, SECTION 72 B 2.A.**

**** THE MOTION FAILED WITH TWO (2) IN FAVOR AND THREE (3) OPPOSED- MAYOR RILLING, COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS, AND COMMISSIONER SUMPTER.**

- 2. UPDATE ON THE INFORMATION ON DETAILED FACTS HE RECEIVED PERTAINING TO THE RECENT DETENTION AND APPREHENSION OF THREE CRIMINALS WHO WERE ILLEGAL ALIENS BY ICE IN NORWALK ON AUGUST 12TH THROUGH AUGUST 15, 2025.**

**** THE MOTION FAILED WITH TWO (2) IN FAVOR AND THREE (3) OPPOSED- MAYOR RILLING, COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS, AND COMMISSIONER SUMPTER.**

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2025

On page 1, change “Commissioner Collier-Clemmons met with Mr. Levin” to “Commissioner Paladino, Commissioner Lopez, and Mayor Rilling, Chief Walsh, and Deputy Blake met with Mr. Levin”

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR AND (1) ABSTENTION- COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS.**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

John Levin

Mr. Levin said he is here to speak on the public comment item. Mayor Rilling stated that a specific item would need to be addressed, as the public comment item on the agenda allows people to speak.

Connie Cooper

Ms. Cooper said she would like to speak about ICE. Mayor Rilling stated that it is not on the agenda and therefore cannot be discussed, but noted that an Immigration meeting is scheduled for this evening at 6:30 PM at City Hall.

IV. RECOGNITION

AUGUST- OFFICER OF THE MONTH- OFFICER JAMES YANG

Chief Walsh read the following letter into the record:

I am honored to inform you that you have been selected as Officer of the Month for August 2025. You were chosen due to your arrest of a domestic violence kidnapping suspect who had assaulted his domestic partner and then kidnapped her, fleeing with her in his vehicle.

On August 30, 2025, at approximately 2:20 AM.. Officer James Yang was dispatched to the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel located at 560 Main Ave. in response to a disturbance complaint. Upon investigating, he determined that the incident was a minor domestic violence situation, and both parties involved were arrested on a misdemeanor summons. The male party was given a ride back to his house on Riverside Ave. in Norwalk, and agreed not to have any further contact with the other involved party.

A short time later, Dispatch received a 911 call reporting that the male party had returned to the hotel in a black vehicle. It was further noted that the male party violently assaulted and then forced the female into the car before driving off with her. While responding to the call, Officer James Yang located the suspect vehicle in the area of Main Ave and Broad Street and conducted a motor-vehicle stop. The male suspect was taken into custody without incident. The suspect was subsequently charged with kidnapping in the first degree in addition to assault.

Officer James Yang's attentiveness and quick response resulted in the swift arrest of a violent domestic suspect who had assaulted the victim and kidnapped his domestic partner before further harm could have been done to the victim. As a result of his great police work, I have named Officer James Yang as August 2025 Officer of the Month.

(The commissioners congratulated Officer James Yang)

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION – DISCUSSION ON CANDIDATE APPLICANTS

**** COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CANDIDATE APPLICANTS.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The executive session began at 5:21 PM.

The executive session ended at 5:55 PM.

During the executive session, no motions were made, and no votes were taken.

VI. PERSONNEL MATTERS

A. VOTE FOR APPOINTMENT TO PROBATIONARY OFFICERS.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO MAKE AN OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT AS A PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICER TO MICHAEL LOWE, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 16, 2025.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO MAKE AN OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT AS A PROBATIONARY OFFICER TO NICOLAS VANSLYKE, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 16, 2025.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

(The commissioners congratulated Michael Lowe and Nicolas VanSlyke)

B. BACHELOR'S DEGREE STIPEND-OFFICER KESHAWN MCDOWELL

****COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE STIPEND FOR OFFICER KESHAWN MCDOWELL.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VII. CHIEF'S EXECUTIVE REPORT- AUGUST EXECUTIVE REPORT

A. AUGUST EXECUTIVE REPORT

Sworn Personnel Updates

Chief Walsh reported on the patrol staffing as of August 31, 2025, and stated that there are 182 sworn personnel. One officer is on administrative leave pending an Internal Affairs Investigation, and three officers are on light duty due to injuries. Officer Justin Cullmer resigned on August 24, 2025.

Chief Walsh said 195.5 sick days, and 11.13 workmen's compensation days were used. Chief Walsh stated that Officer Keyshawn McDowdell graduated from POST Milford Academy and is currently attending field training. Two officers are attending POST Academy.

Civilian Personnel Updates

Chief Walsh provided an update on the civilian personnel, stating that 20 telecommunicators/supervisors are assigned to combined dispatch. One candidate has been hired

and is in training. One open position remains, and recruitment is ongoing. There are 14 civilian employees assigned to support staff positions, and they are fully staffed. There were no further civilian personnel changes.

Departmental Initiatives

Chief Walsh reported on departmental initiatives and current issues for August, noting that Special Services Investigators, in conjunction with the City Clerk's office, have begun registering smoke and vape shops under the newly enacted City Ordinance. The ordinance will grant the city enforcement powers in the event of violations that are found in vape shops and any other establishment that sells vape products.

Community Policing officers participated in school slow-down days to educate drivers about traffic safety in and around school zones, as the start of the school year approached.

The planning for several approved capital projects has begun at the Police headquarters to improve aging infrastructure.

In August, the department purchased a new prisoner van from Colonial Motor Group at state pricing. The Ford Econoline will come fully equipped with two separate prisoner compartments for gender separation, and seatbelts that are both required by CALEA and Connecticut State law. The van will also be equipped with two AXON cameras for recording the actions and movements of officers and prisoners, as required by law. Expected delivery in December 2025. The current van lacks gender separation, necessitating the use of two vehicles, retrofitted seatbelts, and a retrofitted AXON camera system.

Finance and Current Fiscal Year Budgeting

Chief Walsh stated that Mr. Docimo from Administrative Services oversees all budgets. Chief Walsh provided an overview of the August 2025 budget status and noted that August is typically a busy month for overtime, especially in the Special Victims Unit, as the kids return to school.

VIII. OPERATIONS REPORT

A. AUGUST PATROL AND INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES REPORT

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Detective Bureau activity and said that 13 cases were opened in August, and noted that a suspect was arrested by warrant for sex offender registration violation. Three missing persons cases were investigated, and all three were found safe. They assisted the Metro-North Police Department with a pedestrian struck by a train at the South Norwalk Station.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 51 cases and noted that a suspect was arrested on five warrants charging the sale of narcotics and possession of narcotics. A search warrant was executed at Smokey Bear Vape Shop. There

was one arrest made, and marijuana was seized. A copy of the new vape/tobacco sales ordinance to 46 establishments.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Victims activity and said they opened 15 cases in August and noted that a suspect was arrested by warrant and charged with two counts of risk of injury to a minor. They assisted the Knox County, Ohio, office with identifying a Norwalk resident who is the victim of exploitation. The suspect was arrested by KCSO. In August, 53 family violence cases were investigated.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Marine Unit's activity for August. There were 47 calls for service, and 195 year-to-date, with 18 people rescued.

Deputy Chief Blake said 1511 citations were issued in August, for a total of 10,323 for the year.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Patrol Division's highlights, stating that there were 108 calls for service, resulting in 25 vehicles being towed. Deputy Chief Blake provided an overview of the calls for service by platoon.

Deputy Chief Blake said there were 7,101 calls for service, 145 total arrests, and 1232 motor vehicle stops in August.

Mayor Rilling noted that the best place for an animal to sit in a car is in the backseat with a proper restraint.

Mayor Rilling and Chief Walsh left the meeting at 6:15 PM. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons chaired the remainder of the meeting.

IX. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

A. AUGUST COMMUNITY POLICING AND TRAINING REPORT

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Community Police Services Division, stating that they handled 1,235 calls for service in August. He said 13 events were attended and provided an overview of the major events they had attended/assisted with during August.

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Traffic Unit and stated that for August, they had conducted 825 motor vehicle stops, providing a breakdown.

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 45 cases in August, addressed 45 cases, closed 34 cases, hospitalized 27 cases, partnered with the state's attorney on two cases, referred 17 cases for services, and worked with families on 12 cases.

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

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on Animal Control that 54 incidents were addressed, and five dogs were adopted.

X. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

A. AUGUST ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the grants and inspections, stating that there were five eight-hour DUI grant hires for August, resulting in 38 motor vehicle stops, 51 infractions issued, and six DUI arrests. There were 44 8-hour speed and aggressive hires in August, resulting in 474 motor vehicle stops, 429 infractions issued, and five arrests. 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 August. The training division will be inspected this week.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Crime Scene Unit that 112 people were fingerprinted (21 were for pistol permits). She said 32 DVDs / photographs were created for case requests, 33 cases were processed for evidence, 91 patrol cases required camera/photograph downloads of scenes, 13 cases were delivered to the State Forensic Lab for processing, 18 were returned to the police department, and 16 vehicles were stored for court cases. One background check was conducted for a massage therapist with Carefoot Reflexology Spa. Two solicitor permits were issued, one for Tuff Lawn and the other for Trinity Solar Co. There were no requests for pawnbroker/precious metal permits. The CSI unit vehicle was not deployed during August.

Deputy Chief Lepore said they assisted the Corporation Counsel with one ongoing civil case. One new intern was vetted and assigned to the Behavioral Health Unit.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the body and dashboard cameras, stating that two BWC hardware replacements were returned for a case containment issue, and one dashboard camera was returned for a malfunction in August.

Deputy Chief Lepore stated that there were 50 new requests for case videos. Additionally, 11 cases were either transferred to nine discs or two USB drives, 12 electronic shares were sent to Stamford Court, and 13 internal requests were received. Performance audits are conducted monthly on officers' equipment usage and video tagging. The activation rate for the month was 83.2%, which is consistent with the rate in July. Communication occurs regularly to address any issues, concerns, and troubleshooting needs.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the accreditation, stating that they are currently in the assessment period. A team is reviewing the files for the fourth year, and she has just received confirmation that the state has approved all the files, which will result in the state accreditation.

The assessor for CALEA is still reviewing his 125 files, so he won't be done until the end of the week. However, so far, the process has been very good. The physical onsite inspection is scheduled for the last week of October

XI. INFORMATIONAL LETTERS

COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS

Deputy Chief Blake stated that Chief Walsh received a complimentary email for Officer Sixto in recognition of his support in keeping Soundview Landing a safe place for its residents.

Commissioner Paladino said he has had the pleasure of attending many community events with Officer Sixto, and he is one of the kindest, most caring people he has ever met. He is a better person after meeting Officer Sixto.

Deputy Chief Blake stated that Mayor Rilling received a complimentary letter for Officer Sauer, the court liaison, for his outstanding performance in managing arrest paperwork and collaborating seamlessly with the clerks. They are fortunate to have him as part of their team.

Deputy Chief Blake stated that Chief Walsh received a complimentary note for Officer Green, as he was a great comfort to them when their sister passed away last week, and he helped them cope in such a dark time.

(The commissioners congratulated Officer Sixto, Officer Sauer, and Officer Green)

ADJOURNMENT

****COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd