

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC SAFETY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON
COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 25, 2025**

Attendance: Jalin Sead, Chair; Josh Goldstein; Nicole' Eaddy; Nicol Ayers Douglas Sutton

Absent: Heather Dunn; James Frayer

Staff: Michele DeLuca, Deputy Director, Emergency Management; Melissa Lepore, Deputy Chief, Norwalk Police Department

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Sead called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Sead called the roll, and all members listed were in attendance. There was a quorum present.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting: June 26, 2025

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.
** THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE (3) IN FAVOR AND TWO (2)
ABSTENTIONS- MS. AYERS AND MR. SUTTON**

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation this evening.

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

B1. AUTHORIZE MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE AN EXTENSION AGREEMENT WITH ALL CITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES UNDER RFP PROJECT NUMBER 4280, FROM AUGUST 22, 2026, UNTIL AUGUST 21, 2027, BASED ON THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS NOT TO EXCEED \$401,946.00 PER YEAR FROM ACCOUNT #013026-5258.

Deputy Chief Lepore stated that the City of Norwalk is currently under a contractual agreement with All City Management Services. They provide crossing guards for the public schools, with 26 locations. The agreement was entered into on August 22, 2023, and is in effect until August 21, 2026, but because it is a contract for crossing guards, it will end in June and will be effective in August, so they would like to budget for it this budget season to extend the contract for one year. They have reached out to All City Management Services, and the company has agreed to maintain the services at the current hourly rate of \$41.06, with the annual sum remaining unchanged for the next fiscal year. Under the current contract, there is an option for two additional one-year renewals, and we would like to exercise at least one of these renewals now.

Ms. Ayers said that when transitioning from the old plan to the new plan, some of the crossing guards opted to stay and requested a status update for those who chose to remain on the new plan. Deputy Chief Lepore stated that All City Management Services oversees the hiring of crossing guards and ensures they are fully staffed. Ms. Ayers requested that Deputy Chief Lepore send the committee a list of those who were retained in the new system. Deputy Chief Lepore said they were all retained.

Mr. Goldstein said when this first started, there was a premium included to make sure that Norwalk residents who wanted these positions had an opportunity to interview for these positions and had a preference, and asked if that is still in place. Deputy Chief Lepore said she was unsure of the hiring practices, but if it was part of the agreement, they had to abide by it.

**** MR. SUTTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B2. AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF NORWALK PURCHASING AGENT TO EXECUTE PURCHASE ORDERS ON BEHALF OF THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ALL CITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES UNDER RFP PROJECT NUMBER 4280, BASED ON THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS NOT TO EXCEED \$401,946.00 PER YEAR FROM ACCOUNT #013026-5258.

**** MR. SUTTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B1. AUTHORIZE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS AND AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING UNDER THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE, DRUG RECOGNITION ENFORCEMENT INSTRUCTOR GRANT.

Mr. Sead thanked Deputy Chief Lepore for the backup she had provided, and he found it alarming that the statistics showed how many people were impaired during fatal accidents.

Deputy Chief Lepore stated that this is an annual grant they apply for, which enables a few of their officers to undergo Drug Recognition Instructor training to instruct at the academy, the police department, and other departments around the state. The CT DOT Highway Safety Office has approved the application submitted by the City of Norwalk for funding under the Drug Recognition Enforcement Instructor Grant. The grant award is proposed at \$44,493, which is the same amount received last year. The funding start date is October 1, 2025, with an end date of September 30, 2026. The Norwalk Police Department proposed funding to combat the large increase in the number of drivers using marijuana or illegal drugs. Between 2018 and 2022, over 53% of drivers involved in fatal crashes tested positive for drugs. In 2026, the CT DOT Highway plans include high-visibility enforcement of impaired driving laws, as well as public information and education on the risks, dangers, and consequences of driving while impaired. The plan also calls for training law enforcement officers in the latest methods of drug evaluation and classification, and certifying them as Drug Recognition Experts. Not every officer graduates from the academy as a Drug Recognition Instructor, as it requires extensive training. However, it is fortunate that Norwalk has one officer who can instruct around the state and is considered an expert on impaired driving. The DRI grant will provide training to law enforcement officers in recognizing the signs of impaired drivers under the influence of illegal or legal drugs or medications by providing statewide coordination of standardized field sobriety testing and advanced roadside impaired driving enforcement. The grant will also be used for training to facilitate convictions in court proceedings for various types of impaired driving cases, including those involving impairment beyond alcohol.

Mr. Goldstein asked how many Norwalk officers have this certification. Deputy Chief Lepore said there is only one, and there are only 13 statewide. Mr. Goldstein asked if it is possible to have more than one. Deputy Chief Lepore said they can, but it is a lot of training and cost.

**** MS. EADDY MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B2. AUTHORIZE CHIEF OF POLICE, JAMES WALSH, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS AND AGREEMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE, DRUG RECOGNITION ENFORCEMENT INSTRUCTOR GRANT.

**** MS. EADDY MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VII. DISCUSSION

Mr. Sead stated that Chief Gatto is retiring on September 30, 2025, and thanked him for his service to the city, which has spanned over 43 years. He has been a star advocate for improvements and ensuring that everyone in Norwalk is kept safe. He wished him well on his retirement.

Deputy Chief Lepore stated the next Coffee with a Cop will be next Wednesday, October 1st, at 8:00 AM at Stew Leonard's

Mr. Sead stated that the DPW, Police, and Fire Touch a Truck event is scheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd