

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

**OCTOBER 20, 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](mailto: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 Melissa Lepore; Deputy Chief Joseph Dinho

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:39 PM.

**I. ROLL CALL**

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

## II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

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

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

## IV. RECOGNITION

### SEPTEMBER- OFFICER OF THE MONTH- OFFICER COREY AUTEN & OFFICER NELSON FIGUEROA

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 September 2025. Officer Nelson Figueroa and Officer Corey Auten were chosen for their actions on September 15, 2025, in which they were able to locate and safely apprehend an armed individual who had just threatened someone with a firearm.

On September 15, 2025, Norwalk Combined Dispatch received a 911 call from an individual who reported that he had been threatened by a suspect who had pointed a handgun at him in the area of 458 Westport Avenue. The caller gave a brief description and direction of travel. Officer Nelson Figueroa, who was on an extra-duty detail nearby, responded forthwith to the location and observed a subject matching his description.

Officer Figueroa tactically parked his vehicle to avoid the suspect from fleeing, when Officer Figueroa observed the suspect remove a silver handgun from his waistband and hand it off to a subject who was sitting in a parked vehicle. Officer Figueroa gave verbal commands to the suspect, who complied and was detained in handcuffs. With this, Officer Auten arrived on scene and gave verbal commands to the male passenger, who took the gun from the suspect, ordering him out of the car and detaining him in handcuffs. A second occupant was also ordered out of the vehicle safely, where the Officers located a loaded 40 caliber semi-automatic pistol with a high-capacity magazine with 11 rounds loaded in it. Due to the actions of Officer Nelson Figueroa and Officer Corey Auten, both officers were able to locate and bravely apprehend an armed suspect who had just threatened a victim with a gun in a matter of minutes. Their courageous actions, paired with sound tactical operations, not only removed an imminent public threat but also safely arrested this felon with limited use of force. As a result of their outstanding police work, I am pleased to name Officers Nelson Figueroa and Officer Corey Auten as the September 2025 Officer(s) of the Month.

(The commissioners congratulated Officer Corey Auten and Officer Nelson Figueroa)

**CIVILIAN AWARD- ROBERT DOWNES: LIFE SAVING**

Chief Walsh read the following civilian award recommendation into the record:

Police units were dispatched to the area of 23 Channel Ave for the report of an elderly dementia patient in the water. Robert Downes reported that he looked out the rear of his home (facing the water) and observed the elderly female in the water right off the dock on the neighboring property. Robert then ran to alert the female's live-in aide across the street at 26 Channel Avenue, then put on a pair of waders and entered the water to attempt to save the elderly female. Robert was able to hold the female upright and carry her into the muddy area near the dock. Robert held the elderly female upright in the water until police officers arrived on scene and assisted him with removing her from the water. Robert was subsequently stuck in the mud based on his life-saving efforts. Robert's swift, proactive actions certainly saved the elderly female from possible drowning or hypothermia

(The commissioners congratulated Robert Downes)

**VII. CHIEF'S EXECUTIVE REPORT**

**A. SEPTEMBER EXECUTIVE REPORT**

**Sworn Personnel Updates**

Chief Walsh reported on patrol staffing as of September 30, 2025, stating that there are 181 sworn personnel. Officer Shannan Sherry and Officer Steven Luciano are on administrative leave, and Officer Lillian Martinez is on administrative restricted duty. Sergeant Rafael Fonseca was terminated on September 4, 2025, and Lieutenant John Praveen retired on September 23, 2025. Four officers are on light duty due to injuries.

Chief Walsh said 208 sick days, and 33 workmen's compensation days were used.

Chief Walsh stated that Officer Kim and Officer Corkins are attending the POST academy. Officer Keyshawn Mc Dowdell is currently attending field training.

## **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; interviews are scheduled for September 23, 2025. There are 14 civilian employees assigned to support staff positions, and they are fully staffed. There were no further changes to civilian personnel.

## **Departmental Initiatives**

Chief Walsh reported on departmental initiatives and said the State of Connecticut released its first-quarter crime statistics for 2025 as follows:

Connecticut Crimes against persons dropped 11.1%, and in Norwalk, crimes against persons dropped by 20.4%. Connecticut's Crimes against property dropped 19.1% and in Norwalk, they dropped 32.1%. Crimes against society increased 5.1%, and in Norwalk, crimes against society increased 26.7%. He said that crimes against society are crimes that are classified as cruelty against animals and drug offenses, and on those two indexes alone, they have made specific investigations and made eight arrests of one individual for cruelty against animals which increased the data point, and due to all of the self-initiated enforcement of the vape shops leading to narcotics arrests has also increased the data points.

Commissioner Paladino said it is a little disturbing to see the increase in crimes against society and asked what the consequences are when the vape shops are doing something illegal. Chief Walsh said they are criminally arrested, and within the past year, this administration worked with the Ordinance Committee of the Common Council to create a new ordinance to address vape shops, which is a three-tiered enforcement system. They have just completed registration for all of the vape shops, as required by the new ordinance. Over the past 30 days, they have issued their first two infractions of the city ordinance.

Chief Walsh said in September 2025, the department participated and successfully passed the CIRMS CALEA review of the Norwalk Police Directives and Manual. The department is preparing for the CALEA on-site assessment, scheduled to begin on October 27, 2025. This is the year for a full CALEA evaluation, and the directives have been reviewed and successfully passed. We will have an assessor in the building for three days next week to conduct on-site interviews and inspections of the building and its policies.

## **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 September 2025 budget status and noted that overtime across five accounts is being monitored, up 11% from September 2024 and down 37% from August 2025. Four patrolmen and one sergeant have been assigned to the patrol division to reduce overtime costs.

Commissioner Lopez asked whether an outside vendor is used to schedule the extra work, which was previously done in-house. Chief Walsh said, "Yes," and that in January 2022, the department moved to a Roll Call system, an extra-work company that manages all extra work. Commissioner Lopez asked whether that is being monitored to ensure maximum effectiveness and efficiency, because he has heard there were some shortfalls with it. Chief Walsh asked him to provide context for the question. Commissioner Lopez said, for example, that some of the jobs offered were later cancelled, not properly submitted, or had system glitches. Chief Walsh said that is not accurate, and the system has been completely seamless, with no issues during Roll Call implementation aside from the initial growing pains. Commissioner Lopez said more than three officers have expressed dissatisfaction and asked whether there is a periodic direct evaluation of the system. Chief Walsh said that, for direct evaluation, he would need direct information, as no grievances have been filed and he has received no complaints. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said that a time frame would also be helpful for the complaints that were received. Chief Walsh said they would gladly look into any complaint, but he would just need further context and information.

## VIII. OPERATIONS REPORT

### A. AUGUST PATROL AND INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES REPORT

Chief Walsh reported on the Detective Bureau's activity and said that eight cases were opened in September, noting that a suspect was arrested by warrant for burglary in the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, theft of a firearm, and conspiracy. A suspect was arrested for shooting a victim in an apparent negligent discharge. He was charged with assault in the first degree, unlawful discharge, and reckless endangerment in the first degree. A suspect was arrested by warrant for burglary in the first degree, criminal mischief in the third degree, and larceny in the sixth degree.

Chief Walsh reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 22 cases, noting that a search warrant was executed on a home on Haviland Street, and a suspect was arrested for narcotics sale, and fentanyl, crack cocaine, and oxycontin were seized. Search warrants were executed at R&R Vape Shop, marijuana was seized, and the suspect was arrested. A search warrant was executed at A to Z Vape Shop, marijuana was seized, and a suspect was arrested.

Chief Walsh reported on Special Victims activity and said they opened 50 cases in September, noting that several criminal investigations are ongoing. The SROs are conducting DARE education training now that school is back in session and are liaisons with 36 family violence cases. There has been a domestic violence liaison embedded in the special victims unit who manages all of the domestic violence cases that patrol investigates and makes arrests to ensure they get the necessary services.

Chief Walsh reported on the Marine Unit's activity for September. There were 27 calls for service, and 22 year-to-date, with 19 people rescued.

Chief Walsh reported on the Patrol Division's highlights, stating that there were 105 calls for service, resulting in 19 vehicles being towed. Chief Walsh provided an overview of the calls for service by platoon.

Chief Walsh said 951 citations were issued in September, bringing the year's total to 11,274, and he provided an overview of the highlights. Officer Equity and Officer Wasikowski were recently recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving. The Norwalk Police Department is fifth in the state for DUI arrests. Officer Equity and Officer Wasikowski do a great job on both accident investigations and DUI enforcement.

Chief Walsh said there were 7,671 calls for service, 190 total arrests in September.

## **IX. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

### **A. SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY POLICING AND TRAINING REPORT**

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Community Police Services Division, stating that they handled 969 calls for service in September. He said 18 events were attended and provided an overview of the major events they had attended/assisted with during September.

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Traffic Unit and stated that in September, they conducted 488 motor vehicle stops, and he provided a breakdown of the activity.

Deputy Chief Dinho said the accident reconstruction team had no new accident investigations this month.

Deputy Chief Dinho stated that there were 65 selective enforcement locations and identified some of them.

Deputy Chief Dinho provided an overview of the Behavioral Health Unit, which opened 36 cases in September, addressed 36, closed 21, hospitalized 16, partnered with the state's attorney on one, referred eight for services, and worked with families on seven.

Deputy Chief Dinho provided an overview of the September training, stating that there were two subject areas and nine officers in attendance.

Deputy Chief Dinho reported that Animal Control addressed 63 incidents. There was one animal bite, 12 infractions, and one dog was adopted.

## **X. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

## A. SEPTEMBER ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the grants and inspections, stating that the DUI grant expired on September 6<sup>th</sup>. Overall, it funded 116 eight-hour shifts on 75 different days throughout the school year. The DUI grant resulted in 655 motor vehicle stops, 658 infractions were issued, 97 field sobriety tests, and 73 DUI arrests were made. The application for next year's DUI grant has been completed, submitted to the state, and received confirmation and the award. The speed and aggressive driving grant expired on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Overall, it funded 78 eight-hour shifts over 60 days. The SAD grant resulted in 964 motor vehicle stops, 954 infractions issued, and two custodial arrests. The Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) grant expired on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The application for next year's grant was completed and awarded and is awaiting Common Council approval. They are still awaiting notification of the award for the Project Safe Neighborhoods grant.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the staff inspections, stating that the training division conducted a three-day inspection and found no major deficiencies; a few minor recommendations were made. Given all the responsibilities and programs under the training division, it is a well-run unit.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported that the Crime Scene Unit fingerprinted 134 people (24 for pistol permits). She said 29 DVDs / photographs were created for case requests, 30 cases were processed for evidence, 96 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. Ten background checks were conducted for a massage therapist with Carefoot Reflexology Spa, Westport Massage, New Canaan Massage, and Meritt Massage. Two solicitor permits were processed, for Xfinity Comcast, and one was denied. There was one request for a pawnbroker/precious metal permit for Hat City Paws LLC. There were 19 vape shop approvals. The CSI unit vehicle was deployed once in September for a search warrant.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the professional standards and accreditation, stating that they are currently finalizing the assessor's schedule and interviews for the on-site, which commences on October 27<sup>th</sup>. They are identifying and labeling all observable standards for display, and organizing all required documentation as requested by the assessor and CALEA. They have successfully completed the State of Connecticut re-accreditation audit, which was also conducted in September, and will be awarded that in March.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the body- and dashboard cameras, stating that one BWC hardware replacement was returned due to a case containment issue, and one dashboard camera was returned due to a malfunction.

Deputy Chief Lepore stated that 47 new requests for case videos had been received. Additionally, 15 cases were downloaded onto 17 discs and three external shares, 15 electronic shares were sent to Stamford Court, and 10 internal requests were received. Monthly performance audits are conducted on officers' equipment usage and video tagging. The activation rate for the month was

84.3%, consistent with the August rate. Communication occurs regularly to address any issues, concerns, and troubleshooting.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the accreditation and said the CALEA year-four file review began on September 12<sup>th</sup> and ended on September 20<sup>th</sup>. The State of Connecticut accreditation four-year file review took place on September 15<sup>th</sup>. No issues, deficiencies, or areas of concern were identified in either review. The property custodial changeover audit is scheduled for October.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION- DISCUSSION ON PERSONNEL MATTERS**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The executive session began at 5:28 P.M.

The executive session ended at 5:36 P.M.

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

**X. VOTE FOR APPOINTMENT**

**SERGEANT MICHAEL SELLAS TO LIEUTENANT**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROMOTION OF  
SERGEANT MICHAEL SELLAS TO LIEUTENANT, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 23, 2025.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**DETECTIVE LINDSEY TAYLOR TO SERGEANT**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROMOTION OF  
DETECTIVE LINDSEY TAYLOR TO SERGEANT, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 23, 2025  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**DETECTIVE AKEEM BRYCE TO SERGEANT**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE  
PROMOTION OF DETECTIVE AKEEM BYRCE TO SERGEANT, EFFECTIVE  
OCTOBER 23, 2025.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**OFFICER RICHARD SEITZ TO DETECTIVE**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROMOTION OF OFFICER RICHARD SEITZ TO DETECTIVE, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 23, 2025.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**OFFICER KEVIN VERSACE TO DETECTIVE**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROMOTION OF OFFICER KEVIN VERSACE TO SERGEANT, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 23, 2025.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COURSE APPROVAL- DETECTIVE CHRISTOPHER IMPARATO**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE APPROVAL FOR DETECTIVE CHRISTOPHER IMPARATO.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COURSE APPROVAL- OFFICER JASON LUSNIAK**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE COURSE APPROVAL FOR OFFICER JASON LUSNIAK.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**XI. INFORMATIONAL LETTERS**

**COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS**

Chief Walsh received a complimentary email from Sandra Faioes of the Board of Education expressing appreciation for the support the school resource officers provided to the school and district. She noted two instances in which Sergeant White and Officers Reyes, Anuszkiewicz, and Kassimis assisted and thanked them for their assistance.

Chief Walsh received a complimentary email from Casey Cummings, Principal of Rowayton Elementary School, thanking the police department for fostering a culture within its ranks where officers are supportive, present, and engaged with the community.

Chief Walsh received a complimentary email from Lorenza Ingram, praising Officer Abruzzini for his professionalism and care in responding to a concerning alert about Darien High School.

Chief Walsh received a complimentary email from Cathleen DaCosta, praising Officer Abruzzini for his professionalism, kindness, and steady presence in addressing an urgent concern at Rowayton Elementary School.

Chief Walsh received a complimentary email from Colleen Plank praising Officer Vento for his prompt follow-up regarding a motor vehicle accident in which she was involved.

Chief Walsh received a complimentary email from Morgan Olson praising Officer Tejada for everything he did to help her find footage of her car being sideswiped in a parking lot by someone who had left the scene.

(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