

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

JANUARY 26, 2026

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 Barbara Smyth, 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 Smyth called the meeting to order at 5:08 PM.

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2025

On page 10, paragraph 1, change "county" to "country."

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Diane Cece- East Norwalk Neighborhood Association

Ms. Cece congratulated all the officers of the month, noting that Officer Rawlin Amparo is the community police officer for East Norwalk and is happy to have him. He takes time when he is available to attend their monthly meeting, and sometimes it is on his own time, as his predecessors did as well. He also provided the East Norwalk Neighborhood Association with his contact information, including his cell phone number, so they could share concerns with him that they may not feel comfortable raising in the meeting. She congratulated him and said this is a very worthy recognition.

IV. RECOGNITION

A. DECEMBER OFFICER OF THE MONTH- DECEMBER OFFICERS OF THE MONTH: THE COMMUNITY POLICE SERVICES DIVISION LIEUTENANT TOMASZ PODGORSKI, SERGEANT SAL CALISE, OFFICER RUSSELL OUELLETTE, OFFICER MAX SIXTO, OFFICER RAWLIN AMPARO, OFFICER DAVID NIEVES, OFFICER CHRISTOPHER WASILEWSKI, OFFICER PAUL WARGO, OFFICER TAYLOR EQUI, OFFICER FELIPE TABORDA AND K9 CHANCE, AND OFFICER SAMANTHA BARDOS.

Chief Walsh read the following letter into the record:

I am honored to inform you that you have been selected as Officers of the Month for December 2025. During the month of December, the Community Police Services Division goes well beyond its already active outreach efforts to bolster relationships between the police and the community we serve. The spirit of this event is to provide Holiday cheer to those who are less fortunate and may not have the resources to offer holiday gifts. The entire division participates in multiple events intended to heighten the holiday spirit among members of the Norwalk Community, with an "all hands-on deck" approach from its officers in the Community Policing, Traffic, and Behavioral Health units. This tradition was started decades ago by Officer Cesar Ramirez, and his Legacy lives on today. Their dedication to the Norwalk Community goes well above and beyond the regular call of service. This is much more than just a job to these officers; it is a passion to help those in need.

Every year, beginning after Thanksgiving and continuing into December, the Community Police Services Division holds several "Stuff-A-Cruiser" events where the public donates new, unwrapped

toys to the police. The events are held in front of Walmart and T.J. Maxx, which also donates toys. Thanks to the fantastic generosity of our Norwalk community, the police now have two main events to give toys to Norwalk children: the "Children's Annual Christmas Party" at the SoNo School and a Santa event in front of the Police Department. Officers from CP also distributed toys to children with cancer and to Malta House.

Chief Walsh provided an overview of the December holiday season events and noted that these are in addition to the officer's other events/responsibilities.

(The commissioners congratulated the officers)

V. CHIEF'S EXECUTIVE REPORT

A. DECEMBER EXECUTIVE REPORT

Sworn Personnel Updates

Chief Walsh reported on patrol staffing as of December 31, 2025, stating that there are 181 sworn personnel. Sergeant Shannan Sherry and Officer Steven Luciano remain on administrative leave, and Officer Lillian Martinez remains on administrative restricted duty.

Chief Walsh said 219.25 sick days, and 45.57 workmen's compensation days were used, and two officers are on light duty due to injuries.

Chief Walsh said that Officers Kim and Corkins graduated from the POST Academy on December 17, 2025, and are currently on field training. Officer Lowe, and Vanslyke are attending the Milford Academy. There are eight background investigations underway for future appointment to the April police academy

Civilian Personnel Updates

Chief Walsh provided an update on civilian personnel, stating that 21 telecommunicators/supervisors are assigned to combined dispatch. Richard Velez has been onboarded as a telecommunicator, so they are currently fully staffed. 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 current issues, noting that they received State of Connecticut Tier III accreditation and that the award presentation was held on January 8, 2026. 2025 ended with 79,561 Calls for service. A vicious dog hearing was conducted for two dogs from Cottontail Road, and all mandated improvements have been completed by the dog's

owner. As of today's meeting, the dog has been returned. The Viper 7 911 platform was fully implemented in December, and 40 text translations were completed. In 2025, 32,000 911 calls were received. He provided an overview of the year-end crime statistics.

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 December 2025 budget status and noted that patrol overtime was up 46% from December 2024 and that 45% of the overall overtime budget had been spent at the midway point of the fiscal year. Transfers have been made from the specialized divisions to the patrol division over the last couple of months to minimize patrol overtime spending. He noted that 749 additional work jobs were requested, but 54 were cancelled per the client. There were 628 jobs worked, a 90% staffing rate; 7,592 hours were worked for 59 clients; and officers called out sick for 100 of the extra work jobs. The total extra work police overtime for December was \$192,000.

VI. OPERATIONS REPORT

A. DECEMBER PATROL AND INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES REPORT

Chief Walsh reported on the Detective Bureau's activity and said that 40 cases were opened in December, noting that a suspect was arrested on an outstanding warrant for sexual assault in the third degree, assisted the Boston Police Department with the execution of a search warrant and apprehension of a suspect wanted for the arson of a police car that occurred in their town, and extradited suspect from New Jersey who was wanted for larceny in the third degree.

Chief Walsh reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 25 cases, noting that a search warrant was executed at Smokey Bear and One Stop Smoke shops and 3.5 of marijuana was seized, and arrest warrant was served on a suspect in a narcotics sale investigation and a suspect was charged with four counts of sale of narcotics, a suspect was arrested for narcotics who possessed 17 grams of crack cocaine, and a suspect was arrested that was wanted to an armed robbery. He noted that 396 cases were opened in 2025.

Chief Walsh reported on Special Victims activity and said they opened 39 cases in December, noting that several ongoing criminal investigations are underway, conducted forensic processing on several devices, and investigated 56 family violence cases. He noted that 467 cases were opened in 2025, including 15 felony arrests, 16 misdemeanor arrests, 17 arrest warrants, and 10 search warrants.

Chief Walsh reported on the Marine Unit's December activities. There were three calls for service, and 238 year-to-date, with 23 people rescued.

Chief Walsh reported on the Patrol Division's highlights, noting that the Abandoned Vehicle Unit had 65 calls for service, resulting in 10 vehicles being towed. Chief Walsh said 637 citations were issued in December, bringing the year's total to 14,090, and he provided an overview of the highlights.

Chief Walsh said there were 5,804 calls for service and 18 total arrests in December. He provided an overview of the calls for service by platoon.

VII. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

A. DECEMBER COMMUNITY POLICING AND TRAINING REPORT

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Community Police Services Division, stating that they handled 532 calls for service in December. He said 22 events were attended and provided an overview of the major events they had attended/assisted with during December.

Deputy Chief Dinho reported on the Traffic Unit and stated that in December, they conducted 417 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. Investigations into the four serious motor vehicle accidents in November continue, and nine warrants are pending at court.

Deputy Chief Dinho stated that there were 54 selective enforcement locations and identified some of them.

Deputy Chief Dinho provided an overview of the Behavioral Health Unit, which opened 29 cases in December, addressed 29, closed 9, hospitalized 18, and referred 4 for services.

Deputy Chief Dinho provided an overview of the December training, stating that there were 15 subject areas and 176 were in attendance. He provided an overview of bodycam training on the transition to the new Axon program and said it translates between the officer and the member of the public.

Deputy Chief Dinho reported that Animal Control addressed 30 incidents. There were three animal bites, 5 infractions, and one dog was adopted.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

A. DECEMBER ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the grants and inspections, stating that the DUI grant had eight, eight-hour shifts resulting in 41 motor vehicle stops, 36 infractions, and eight DUI arrests. The DUI first quarter ended on December 31, 2025, with 106 motor vehicle stops, 104 infractions issued, and 18 DUI arrests. The JAG grant had four-eight-hour shifts and two-four-hour hires for additional officers in the SONO area on New Year's Eve. She said they are still awaiting confirmation on the Project Safe Neighborhood Grant.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on staff inspections, stating that the annual Special Services and Detective Bureau funds audits had been conducted. All funds and accounting practices were in compliance with department policy, and no monetary discrepancies were found in either division.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported that the Crime Scene Unit fingerprinted 76 people (25 for pistol permits) and collected 1,232 fingerprints overall for the year, including 392 for pistol permits. She said 27 DVDs / photographs were created for case requests, 12 cases were processed for evidence, 111 patrol cases required camera/photograph downloads of scenes, 12 cases were delivered to the State Forensic Lab for processing, 24 were returned to the police department, and 16 vehicles remain stored for court cases. One background check was conducted for Angel Reflexology. Two vape shop applications were processed. The CSI unit vehicle was not deployed in December.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the professional standards and accreditation, stating that they worked with the Corporation Council on various legal and FOI cases. One UNH student was interviewed for an internship and is expected to begin in January. Directive changes are currently being drafted to reflect legal and CALEA updates and were distributed this week.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the body- and dashboard cameras, stating that no replacements or malfunctions had been reported.

Deputy Chief Lepore stated that 38 new requests for case videos had been received. Additionally, 14 cases were downloaded onto four discs and three external shares, 14 electronic shares were sent to Stamford Court, and seven internal requests were received. Monthly performance audits are conducted on officers' equipment usage and video tagging. The activation rate for the month was 83.5%, and the overall department average remains around 85%. Communication occurs regularly to address any issues, concerns, and troubleshooting. The new Axon body cameras were distributed to all sworn personnel, and training was provided. Also included was the annual training in accordance with departmental policy.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the accreditation and said they are collecting the year-end annual reporting requirements, setting up files, policies, and documentation for the 2029 four-year audit, and creating the quarterly files for 2026.

IX. PERSONNEL MATTERS

A. COURSE APPROVAL- DEPUTY CHIEF JOSEPH DINHO

**** COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE APPROVAL
DEPUTY CHIEF JOSEPH DINHO**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- LIEUTENANT ROBERT ZWILLICH

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION
REIMBURSEMENT FOR LIEUTENANT ROBERT ZWILLICH IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$4,670.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COURSE APPROVAL- OFFICER MARK VOZZELLA

COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE APPROVAL FOR OFFICER MARK VOZZELLA.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT- OFFICER MARK VOZZELLA

**** COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,783.12 FOR OFFICER MARK VOZZELLA.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

X. INFORMATIONAL LETTERS

A. COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS

Chief Walsh received a complimentary note from a woman whose car was broken into and whose purse was stolen at Cranbury Park. She thanked Officer Boah for making a bad day much brighter and for his kindness and professionalism, and she really appreciated all he did for her.

Mayor Smyth thanked the commissioners for their willingness to continue serving and congratulated them on their reappointments to the Police Commission and the Traffic Authority. She noted their service to the City of Norwalk and the excellent police department, and she looks forward to working with them.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd