

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

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling; Commissioner Collier-Clemmons; Commissioner Tony Lopez; Commissioner Ronald Paladino; Commissioner Nathan Sumpter

STAFF: Deputy Chief Terry Blake; Deputy Chief Melissa Lepore

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES JANUARY 27, 2025

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

JANUARY- OFFICER(S) OF THE MONTH: OFFICER KADEN DARROW AND OFFICER KOSTA ARVANITAKIS

Deputy Chief Blake read the following letter from Chief Walsh:

I am honored to inform everyone that Officer Kaden Darrow and Kosta Arvanitakis have been selected as Officer(s) of the Month for January 2025. They were chosen for their apprehension of three individuals who had stolen a motor vehicle.

On January 21, 2025, during the Second Platoon, Norwalk Combined Dispatch received a FLOCK license plate reader notification for a stolen black Acura MDX. Officer Darrow located the vehicle in the McDonald's parking lot on Main Avenue, and three male occupants exited the car. Officer Arvanitakis responded quickly and arrived on the scene to assist. Officer Arvanitakis and Officer Darrow quickly placed all three suspects into custody with no incident.

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Due to their efforts and the integration of recently deployed technology, both officers responded quickly, located the stolen car, and placed the suspects into custody without incident.

(The commissioners congratulated Officers Kaden Darrow and Kosta Arvanitakis)

CHIEF'S EXECUTIVE REPORT- JANUARY EXECUTIVE REPORT

Sworn Personnel Updates

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the patrol staffing for January and said there are 182 sworn personnel (1 open sworn position), one officer on Administration leave pending an Internal Affairs Investigation, and four officers are on extended workmen's compensation leave. Deputy Chief Blake said 130.75 sick days, and 177.75 workmen's compensation days were used. Deputy Chief Blake said Officer Giron has completed her field training and is now assigned to the patrol division. Officers Mozo and Benn will complete their field training in February. Officer Keshawn McDowell was sworn in and began the Milford POST Academy.

Civilian Personnel Updates

Deputy Chief Blake provided an update on the civilian personnel and said 19 telecommunicators/ Supervisors are assigned to Combined Dispatch and two open positions. Human Relations has posted the job, and testing is underway. There are 14 civilian employees assigned to support staff positions, and they are fully staffed.

Departmental Initiatives

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the departmental initiatives and said the professional standards are preparing for a CALEA directive review in March and an on-site inspection in November 2025.

I.T. has completed an upgrade to the NEXGEN information and dispatch computer system.

The training division began reviewing credit POST-required certification training.

Promotional testing for the rank of sergeant and lieutenant was completed on February 11, 2025.

One sergeant position is open due to Sergeant Thomas Fern's retirement.

Finance and Current Fiscal Year Budgeting

Deputy Chief Blake said that Mr. Docimo of Administrative Services monitors all budgets. He provided an overview of the January 2025 budget status and noted that all operating salaries and overtime budgets are tracking in the green seven months into the fiscal year.

OPERATIONS REPORT

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PATROL STAFFING (JANUARY)

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Detective Bureau activity and said that 28 cases were opened in January and noted that a suspect was arrested for placing a camera in the bathroom at Sierra Grille and was charged with voyeurism. Three suspects were arrested and charged with commercial burglary at the R&R Smoke Shop.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Services activity and said they opened 47 cases in January and noted an investigation at Soundview Grocery, where gambling machines and untaxed cigarettes were seized, and the owner was arrested. Search warrants were executed at R&R Smoke Shop, VP Snacks, and SONO One Stop, and marijuana and cash were seized, and arrests were made.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Special Victims activity and said they opened 32 cases in January and noted that a suspect from Georgia was extradited and charged with two counts of risk to a minor and sexual assault in the fourth. A suspect was arrested and charged with two counts of sexual assault in the second and risk of injury to a minor. A suspect was arrested and charged with two counts of risk of injury to a minor and harmful communication with a minor.

Deputy Chief Blake said there were 1,317 total citations issued in January compared to 879 last January, so the uptick in motor vehicle enforcement continues into 2025. Hopefully, it will reduce motor vehicle accidents and injuries to the community.

Deputy Chief Blake reported on the Marine Unit's activity in January and noted that they are at the Walk Bridge daily. Boating traffic has declined due to the cold weather; however, regular patrols of the water and islands continue. They are currently in the midst of off-season boat and equipment maintenance, which takes a tremendous amount of time.

Deputy Chief Blake said there were 6,466 calls for service and 186 total arrests in January.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TRAINING REPORT (JANUARY)

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Community Police Services Division and said they handled 956 calls for service in January. She said 14 events were attended and provided an overview of the major events attended/assisted during January.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Traffic Unit and said they had conducted 488 motor vehicle stops, 10 child car seat installations, and 96 parking violations were issued in January. She said there were 32 selective enforcement locations. She noted that some locations were held on West

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Avenue, East Avenue, Rowayton Avenue, Riverside Avenue, Newtown Avenue, Wilson Avenue, and William Street.

Deputy Chief Lepore provided an overview of the Behavioral Health Unit and said they opened 43 cases in January, addressed 43 cases, closed out 35 cases, hospitalized 22 cases, partnered with the state's attorney on four, referred 18 cases for services, and worked with the families on 15 cases.

Deputy Chief Lepore provided an overview of the January training and said seven officers attended seven subject areas. She said the training was a little slow at the beginning of January, but the recertification started the first week of February, so these statistics will increase.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT (JANUARY)

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the grants and inspections and said the DUI grant had 26 grant hires for January for 220 hours worked. The officers made 121 car stops, issued 122 infraction tickets, and conducted 18 field sobriety tests, which led to 13 DUI arrests. She said no other grant funding was utilized in January, but two grant applications are open and being prepared for, and they are continually monitoring opportunities and applying for funding.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the staff inspections and said no inspections were scheduled or conducted during January. She said the property room storage space solutions were addressed and are being rectified.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the Crime Scene Unit that 107 people were fingerprinted (40 were for pistol permits). She said 22 DVDs / or photos were created for case requests, 41 cases were processed for evidence, 104 patrol cases required camera/photograph downloads of scenes, and background checks were conducted with two massage therapists for Carefoot Reflexology and Massage Envy. She said nine solicitor permits were issued for Power Home remodeling for the month, and there was one pawnbroker/precious metal permit request. She said the CSI unit vehicle was not deployed during January.

Deputy Chief Lepore said the promotional exam took place on February 1, 2025, 26 personnel took the sergeants exam, nine sergeants took the lieutenant's exam, and the chief's personnel order, with results to follow.

Deputy Chief Lepore said they assisted the Corporation Counsel with two civil cases.

Deputy Chief Lepore said performance evaluations were all completed and submitted.

Deputy Chief Lepore said the IA Lieutenant has begun working on the NPD annual report. This comprehensive report includes all the previous years' activities within the police department and will be posted to the website once completed.

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the body and dashboard cameras and said that one officer was issued a replacement camera. Two taser issues were reported, and Axon replaced them.

Deputy Chief Lepore said there were 55 new requests for case videos, 23 disks were burned with videos, and 32 electronic shares with Stamford Court.

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Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the accreditation and said they are continually collecting proofs and reviewing CALEA standards for compliance and annual audits. She said this year will include the fourth-year review at the end of September and the physical on-site audit in October. Mayor Rilling said they try to apply for as many grants as possible, and there is still \$68,955,030 available in grant money for the City of Norwalk. Grants are usually for a specific purpose, and Mayor Rilling applauded all the departments that have applied for grants and were successful in getting them.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

DROP PLAN- OFFICER STEPHEN JAEGER

****COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE DROP PLAN FOR OFFICER STEPHEN JAEGER BEGINNING MAY 1, 2025, AND ENDING ON APRIL 30, 2030.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PROMOTION RANK OF SERGEANT- OFFICER KEVIN SHOENTHAL

****COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROMOTION OF OFFICER KEVIN SHOENTHAL TO THE RANK OF SERGEANT, EFFECTIVE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS

Deputy Chief Blake said they received a complimentary letter from the Seaport Association thanking Detective Taylor for her excellent work on the investigation.

Deputy Chief Blake said they received a complimentary letter from Saint Joseph and Saint Ladislaus Parish extending heartfelt gratitude to the members of the police department for their invaluable support during their recent religious processions.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd

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