

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners
Mayor Harry W. Rilling
Commissioner Charlie L. Yost
Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

CITY OF NORWALK
POLICE COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Chair; Commissioner Charles Yost

STAFF: Police Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Deputy Chief Susan Zecca;
Deputy Chief Ashley Gonzalez

OTHERS: Detective Ryan Evarts, Officer John Sura

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:17 p.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF
AUGUST 22, 2016 & SEPTEMBER 16, 2016

August 22, 2016

- ** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 22, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING.**
- ** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 22, 2016 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

September 16, 2016

- ** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING.**
- ** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2016 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present who wished to comment at this time.

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Harry W. Rilling
Commissioner Charlie L. Yost
Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

RECOGNITION

August Officer of the Month (Off. Cesar Ramirez)

Chief Kulhawik gave a brief summary of the prayer vigil that Officer Ramirez had organized on August 3, 2016. There were over 200 members of the community present along with representatives from every clergy who addressed the assembly. He said that this was one of the best gatherings ever held at the Department.

Mayor Rilling said that it was an absolute pleasure to attend. It brought people of different ethnic backgrounds and races together in a common cause. It was the officers and the community together as it should be.

Commissioner Yost explained that he was not able to attend due to a scheduling conflict, but heard it was a wonderful event.

Officer Ramirez said that he was proud to be part of the Department and would always work to make sure that there were always reasons to be proud to be part of the Norwalk Police Department. He said that when he mentioned the idea of having the prayer vigil, everyone was very supportive. There was no politics, just a focus on unity.

- ** **COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO SUSPEND THE AGENDA TO ADDRESS PERSONNEL MATTERS.**
** **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Retirement (Sgt. Frank Reda)

Mayor Rilling said that Sergeant Reda had called him personally to say he was retiring and Mayor Rilling was very sad to hear this.

- ** **COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE WITH EXTREME REGRET THE RETIREMENT OF SERGEANT FRANK REDA.**

Commissioner Yost said that he understood how dedicated Sgt. Reda was. Chief Kulhawik said

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Harry W. Rilling
Commissioner Charlie L. Yost
Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

that Sergeant Reda had told him that he would still be active in the community and available to help with K-9 training. Deputy Chief Gonzalez said that he had worked with Sergeant Reda in the past. Sergeant Reda moved the Police K-9 Unit to an entirely new level. Deputy Chief Zecca said that Sergeant Reda was nationally recognized for his work with the K-9 Program. She said that the Department will not be able to replace Sergeant Reda and he will be missed.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE WITH EXTREME REGRET THE RETIREMENT OF SERGEANT FRANK REDA EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PROMOTIONS

(Det. Ryan Everts, Off. John Sura)

With the retirement of Sergeant Reda, a vacancy has opened up, Chief Kulhawik stated. He said he was pleased to present Detective Ryan Everts to the Commission as a candidate for promotion to the rank of Sergeant.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROMOTION OF DETECTIVE EVARTS TO THE RANK OF SERGEANT EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Mayor administered the oath of office and a family member pinned Sergeant Everts badge on him.

Chief Kulhawik said that with this promotion, a vacancy has opened up for the position of detective. He said he was pleased to present Officer John Sura to the Commission as a candidate for promotion to the rank of Detective.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO PROMOTE OFFICER JOHN SURA TO THE RANK OF DETECTIVE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2016.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Commissioner Yost administered the oath of office and a family member pinned Detective Sura's badge on him.

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Harry W. Rilling
Commissioner Charlie L. Yost
Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

OPERATIONS REPORT (Deputy Chief Susan Zecca)

Patrol Staffing – Deputy Chief Zecca said that the two new hires will start on Monday, and will start in Milford the following week. There will be a total of six officers on foot patrol. This has been very well received by the community.

Selective Enforcement Report – Deputy Chief Zecca said the “Don't Block the Box” program has gone well. Prior to September 6th, there was a warning period and since then, 4 tickets have been issued. Slow Down Days were held from August 28th through to September 29th. A total of 29 tickets were issued during that time. She then reviewed the various statistics of the tickets issued for different infractions.

Chief Kulhawik said as of October 1st, the top 8 cities will keep the money from the tickets for Don't Block the Box.

Chief Kulhawik said that one of the officers on patrol had attended a breakfast in Silvermine and had gotten to know some of the residents. Mayor Rilling said that there were some departments that have their new hires spend six months on foot patrol.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT (Deputy Chief Ashley Gonzalez)

Training (August 2016) – Deputy Chief Gonzalez presented his report.

Chief Kulhawik said that on the 15th of the month, the new body cameras were introduced. The older versions are being returned. The new units have worked out well.

PERSONNEL MATTERS – CONT'D

Norwalk Seaport Association
(Oyster Festival Administration Fee Waiver)

- ** **COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE THE WAIVER OF THE OYSTER FESTIVAL ADMINISTRATION FEE FOR 2016.**
** **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners
Mayor Harry W. Rilling
Commissioner Charlie L. Yost
Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

Course Approval
(Sgt. Jared Zwickler)

The Commissioners review the request from Sergeant Zwickler for a course approval. He said that Sergeant Zwickler had changed his major from a Master's in Public Administration to Public Policy and Administration.

- ** COMMISSION YOST MOVED TO APPROVE THE COURSE REQUEST FROM SERGEANT JARED ZWICKLER FOR THE LISTED COURSES AT JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AS OUTLINED IN THE SYLLABUS ATTACHED TO HIS APPLICATION REQUEST.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT CONT'D

Mr. Fred Bondi respectfully requested that he be allowed to address the Commission on a number of items. He said that the date on the website was incorrect and when he called the front desk he was told that the meeting would start at 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Bondi asked Mayor Rilling if the Police Department was responsible for street signs and parking on both sides of the street. Mayor Rilling explained that it would have to be the Traffic Authority that handled the matter. He suggested that this be brought to Chief Kulhawik's attention. Mr. Bondi explained that one issue was on King Street by the school and there are No Parking signs on both sides of the street. However, people are no longer obeying them since the new principal has come. Deputy Chief Zecca said that she had spoken with the School Resource Officer.

Mr. Bondi said there were also people parking trailers along City streets. Chief Kulhawik said that the officers had checked the two situations out and the trailers were legally parked. The Ordinance Committee was concerned about approving an ordinance that was too restrictive. Discussion followed.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, October 19, 2016

3:00 p.m. Special Meeting

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners
Mayor Harry W. Rilling
Commissioner Charlie L. Yost
Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL ISSUES.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners, Chief Kulhawik, Deputy Chief Zecca, and Deputy Chief Gonzalez entered into Executive Session at 3:49 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

The Commissioner returned to public session at 4:00 p.m. No motions or actions were taken during Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services