

**CITY OF NORWALK
POLICE COMMISSION
&
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: Daniel O'Connor, Chairman; Mayor Richard A. Moccia, Commissioner Peter Torrano

STAFF: Police Chief Harry Rilling, Deputy Chief Thomas Kulhawik

OTHERS: Lt. Peter Randall, Lt. Thomas Mattera, Sgt. Thomas Roncinske, Det. David Orr; Det. Tim Marquis; Off. Garrett Kruger; Frank Favano, Administrative Manager, Michael Yeosock, DPW Senior Civil Engineer; Atty. Elizabeth Suchy, Tierney, Zullo, Flaherty & Murphy, PC,

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman O'Connor called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

POLICE COMMISSION AGENDA

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2008

- ** COMMISSIONER TORRANO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2008 AS SUBMITTED.
- ** MAYOR MOCCIA SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DECEMBER TRAINING REPORT

Chief Rilling briefly reviewed the December Training Report with the Commissioners.

DECEMBER 2008 OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

(Lieutenant Thomas Mattera, Detective David Orr, Detective Tim Marquis)

Chief Rilling reviewed the details of the police response to a threat of suicide in December. The officers were able to calm the victim enough to approach and remove the victim from the precarious perch and turn the victim to medical personnel for appropriate treatment.

The Mayor commented that he had monitored the situation via his police radio and was very impressed with the level of professionalism and superior coordination shown by the officers in averting this tragedy. He expressed his sincere thanks to the officers.

The Commissioners then presented the officers with Certificates for their excellent work in handling this situation.

2008 OFFICER OF THE YEAR

(Officer Garrett Kruger)

The Chief reviewed the details surrounding the police department's response to a call regarding a resident who had been threatening suicide with a gun. Officer Kruger and three other officers arrived at the scene. Officer Kruger was able to engage the attention of the victim long enough to allow the other officers to take up positions. When charged by the victim who was holding a weapon, Officer Kruger held his ground and fired his Taser, as did the other officers. Following this, the officers were able to subdue the victim and allow the victim to receive the needed medical attention.

Chief Rilling commented that although there has been much in the press regarding the safety of Tasers, the Norwalk Police Department has found them to be effective in preserving the lives of those who have become combative and uncooperative. He said that he believes that Tasers have saved the lives of more people than they have harmed.

Officer Kruger was then presented with a 2008 Officer of the Year plaque by the Commissioners and the Chief. Following this, Union President Roncinske presented Officer Kruger with a gift certificate from the Union.

2008 PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Chief Rilling then presented the 2008 Perfect Attendance list to the Commissioners for their inspection.

- ** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE MEETING OF THE POLICE COMMISSION AND MOVE TO THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY AGENDA.**
- ** COMMISSIONER TORRANO SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

The Commission moved to the Traffic Authority Agenda at 4:22 p.m.

MODIFICATION TO ON-STREET PARKING ON WALL STREET – PROVIDE ANGLED PARKING SPACES FROM ISAAC STREET WEST TO THE GLOBE THEATER.

Mr. Yeosock came forward and displayed an aerial photo of the area bordered by intersection of Wall Street with West Avenue, the intersection of Wall Street and River Street, the Isaac Street Parking lot and Bunnell Boulevard. The photograph included an overlay showing angled parking on the south side of Wall Street from the Globe Theater to Isaac Street.

Mr. Yeosock stated that the Fairfield County Bank will lose their parking when POKO Partners begin to dig up the Isaac Street parking lot and that angled parking has been requested on Wall Street to compensate for the loss. Mr. Yeosock explained that this was merely a submission of the request and information. He said that he would like a full discussion at the March Commission meeting.

Strong concerns were expressed about having cars back out into traffic on Wall Street and pedestrian safety. Having Wall Street turned into a one way street from West to Summer was also briefly mentioned.

- ** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO RECEIVE THE PRELIMINARY REPORT FROM DPW REGARDING ANGLED PARKING ON WALL STREET.**
- ** COMMISSIONER TORRANO SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MODIFICATION OF ON-STREET PARKING ON SYCAMORE PLACE – POST NO PARKING ANYTIME ON THE NORTH SIDE OF SYCAMORE STREET FROM PINE HILL AVENUE TO THE WEST SIDE OF NO. 11 SYCAMORE.

Mr. Yeosock came forward and displayed an aerial photo of the area and reviewed the details of the situation with the Commission. Mayor Moccia commented that he had received numerous calls and emails regarding this issue. He added that he supported the placement of the signs, but wished to have the neighbors notified regarding this. Mr. Yeosock said that this could be done.

- ** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MODIFICATION OF ON-STREET PARKING ON SYCAMORE PLACE – POST NO PARKING ANYTIME ON THE NORTH SIDE OF SYCAMORE STREET FROM PINE HILL AVENUE TO THE WEST SIDE OF NO. 11 SYCAMORE PENDING NOTIFICATION TOF THE NEIGHBORS.**
- ** COMMISSIONER TORRANO SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

SONO HOTEL, 33-41 SOUTH MAIN STREET

Atty. Suchy came forward with representatives from the developer and from Beinfield Architects and greeted the Commission. Chief Rilling explained that he had met with Atty. Suchy and the developers to discuss concern issues about the construction of the hotel next to the Police Department and all his questions had been answered satisfactorily.

Atty. Suchy explained that the proposed hotel would be eight stories tall with valet parking on the second and third floors. This building would be very similar to the one in Stamford on Summer and Broad Streets. Atty. Suchy then reviewed the reconfiguration of the parking on South Main and explained that an easement from the Police Department

would be needed to allow emergency vehicles access to the back of the building. This would entail the loss of one parking space at the rear of the public parking lot for the Police Department. Copies of the proposed plan along with a proposed easement were then distributed to the Commissioners. Atty. Suchy said that the developers were looking for authorization for the 8-24 request to be submitted to Planning and Zoning and that a public hearing on the hotel was anticipated in March.

- ** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION FOR EASEMENT FOR 8-24 REVIEW SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE EASEMENT BY CORPORATION COUNSEL.**
- ** COMMISSIONER TORRANO SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Moccia commented that he had gone to Stamford to see the facility and was quite impressed. He added that apparently the Stamford Courtyard was rated as Number 2 of all the Courtyard Hotels.

This concluded the business of the Traffic Authority, so the Commission then returned to the Police Commission Agenda.

POLICE COMMISSION AGENDA CONT'D

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

(Captain Ernest Vitarbo, Officer Bertha Stuckley)

- ** COMMISSIONER TORRANO MOVED TO APPROVE REIMBURSEMENTS FOR THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS:**

THE SUM OF \$1,054.23 TO CAPTAIN ERNEST VITARBO FOR A NATIONAL SECURITY COURSE ON ARCHITECTURE AND MISSION TAKEN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAVEN TOWARD A MASTER'S DEGREE

AND

THE SUM OF \$810.00 TO OFFICER BERTHA STUCKLEY FOR A COURSE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE ON POLICING THEORY AND PRACTICE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX TOWARDS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE.

**** MAYOR MOCCIA SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COURSE APPROVAL
(Lieutenant David Wrinn)

Chief Rilling explained that Lt. Wrinn wished to take a course on Public Safety Administration and this needed to be approved by the Commission.

**** COMMISSIONER TORRANO MOVED TO APPROVE LT. WRINN'S REQUEST FOR A COURSE ON PUBLIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION.
** MAYOR MOCCIA SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

EDUCATIONAL STIPEND
(Sergeant Thomas Roncinske)

Chief Rilling briefly reviewed the details regarding the Educational Stipend for Sgt. Roncinske.

**** COMMISSIONER TORRANO MOVED TO APPROVE THE EDUCATIONAL STIPEND FOR SGT. RONCINSKE.
** MAYOR MOCCIA SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Mayor commented that he had forgotten to congratulate Sgt. Roncinske on his election as President of the Police Union earlier at the awards presentation. He stated that he wished Sgt. Roncinske the best.

LANGUAGE STIPEND

(Officer Joseph Dinho)

- ** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE LANGUAGE STIPEND FOR OFFICER JOSEPH DINHO.
- ** COMMISSIONER TORRANO SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ACCEPTANCE OF ASSET FORFEITURES FROM SPECIAL SERVICES

- ** COMMISSIONER TORRANO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE ASSET FORFEITURES FROM SPECIAL SERVICES AS OUTLINE IN CHIEF RILLING'S MEMO.
- ** MAYOR MOCCIA SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

WRECKER REVIEW

(Frankie's Auto Body)

Chief Rilling gave a brief overview of the complaints that the department had received in regards to the wrecker service. Frankie's was notified of the issues. Mayor Moccia said that Frankie's had contacted an attorney and wished to present to represent their interests when the issue was discussed. A brief discussion followed.

- ** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO TABLE ANY FURTHER ACTION ON THE ITEM PENDING FURTHER CONSULTATION FROM CORPORATION COUNSEL AND A FORMAL PRESENTATION UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 17, 2009.
- ** COMMISSIONER TORRANO SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- ** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA REGARDING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROMOTIONAL EXAM FOR POLICE DETECTIVE.
- ** COMMISSIONER TORRANO SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

POLICE DETECTIVE PROMOTIONAL EXAM

- ** COMMISSIONER TORRANO MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:
“AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES, INC. TO PROVIDE PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATION SERVICES FOR POLICE DETECTIVE FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$12,350. ACCOUNT NUMBER 0130405258.”**
- ** MAYOR MOCCIA SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Chief Rilling then distributed copies of the “Code 10” newsletter to the Commissioners.

Chairman O’Connor asked about the progress on the Haviland Street Parking Garage. Chief Rilling replied that there was nothing new regarding that project.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS.**
- ** COMMISSIONER TORRANO SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commission entered into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 4:55 p.m.

Executive Session ended at 5:20 p.m.

During the Executive Session, no motions were made and no votes were taken.

The meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services