

**CITY OF NORWALK  
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 22, 2010**

- ATTENDANCE:** Daniel O'Connor, Chairman, Mayor Richard A. Moccia, Commissioner Peter Torrano
- STAFF:** Police Chief Harry Rilling; Deputy Chief Thomas Kulhawik
- OTHERS:** Lieutenant Paul Resnick, Officer Louis Giannattasio; David Hopp, Norman Bloom, Michael Harden, Former Detective Gary Wetmore

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman O'Connor called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

(January 25, 2010)

- \*\* COMMISSIONER TORRANO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 25, 2010 MEETING.**
- \*\* MAYOR MOCCIA SECONDED.**

Deputy Chief Kulhawik submitted an addendum containing information about the final portion of the meeting.

- \*\* MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO ADD THE FOLLOWING ADDENDUM TO THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 25, 2010 MEETING:**

**“THE COMMISSION RETURNED FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 5:13 P.M. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN DURING THE EXECUTIVE SESSION”.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

- \*\* MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN**

- \*\* COMMISSIONER TORRANO SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:13 P.M.”**

- \*\* COMMISSIONER TORRANO SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ADDENDUM PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
  
- \*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 25, 2010 MEETING AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **JANUARY TRAINING REPORTS**

Chief Rilling reviewed the various training classes that had been held in January with the Commissioners. He directed their attention to a new class on “stop sticks”. These sticks have been purchased with grant funds. He explained that the stop sticks will be in the police supervisors’ cars and only used under certain circumstances. He then said that following the chase on Meadow Street, the stop sticks could have been employed on the exit 17 ramp because there wasn’t a steady flow of traffic or pedestrians.

#### **JANUARY OFFICER OF THE MONTH**

(Off. Louie Giannattasio)

The Chief reviewed the details concerning a house fire in January where all of the residents of the house had evacuated except for one woman, who appeared to be disorientated. Officer Giannattasio entered the burning building and guided the disorientated resident outside to safety.

The Commissioners then expressed their thanks to Officer Giannattasio and presented him with an Officer of the Month Certificate.

#### **CIVILIAN AWARDS**

(David Hopp, Norm Bloom, Michael Harden,  
and Former Detective Gary Wetmore)

On December 4, 2009 there were two incidents within four hours of one another of boaters in distress. The Chief said that the boating community was a close community

and that they looked out for one another. He added that this was a fine example of how the community cared for one another.

In the first incident, a distress call came in from a captain who was in cardiac distress. Mr. Hopp was able to locate the boat and give the captain assistance. Mr. Bloom heard the distress call and also rendered aid by using his boat that has a high powered motor to provide transportation. The Marine Unit provided an escort into the Harbor and a defibrillator was used. The captain was transferred to Norwalk Hospital for further treatment.

The Commissioners then expressed their thanks to Mr. Hopp and Mr. Bloom for their quick action. The Commission then presented Mr. Hopp and Mr. Bloom with Certificates of Appreciation.

In the second incident, former Detective Wetmore spotted an overturned kayaker in the water and went to her aid. Mr. Harden also assisted and they transported the kayaker to shore for transportation to the Hospital.

The Mayor then said that he was disappointed that The Hour was not present to cover these awards because it was Norwalk residents helping other Norwalk residents rather than an outside group coming in to patrol. He added that he would be contacting The Hour's editor about this and wanted this to be part of the record.

The Commissioners then expressed their thanks to Mr. Harden, and former Detective Wetmore before presenting them with Certificates of Appreciation.

**COURSE APPROVAL**  
(Off. Christopher Holms)

**\*\* COMMISSIONER TORRANO MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM OFFICER CHRISTOPHER HOLMS TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING COURSES: INTRODUCTION TO SOUTHEAST ASIA (OPEN ELECTIVE) AND; HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (OPEN ELECTIVE)**

**AT SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY (KAPLAN UNIVERSITY) TOWARDS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE.**

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

**ACCEPTANCE OF ASSET FORFEITURE FROM SPECIAL SERVICES**

- \*\* COMMISSIONER TORRANO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE ASSETS FROM SPECIAL SERVICES.**
- \*\* MAYOR MOCCIA SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**SPECIAL ORDER NO. 2010-04, 05 & 06**  
(Death Notices/Funeral Services)

Chief Rilling reviewed the details regarding the recent deaths of family members of the Norwalk Police Department. Commissioner Torrano requested that the notifications be sent to the Commissioner as soon as possible in order to allow the Commissioners to attend the services if possible. Chief Rilling said that he would see that this was done.

**COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS**

Chief Rilling briefly reviewed the complimentary letters about Sergeant James Boff, Sergeant Stefanos Kalmanides, Officers Russell Ouellette and Tyrone Boyd that he received from the State's Attorney Office regarding the cooperative work between various law enforcement agencies during the recent arrest of a State worker along with his reply. He also briefly reviewed the letters that were sent to each of the Department personnel who had perfect attendance records.

- \*\* MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL ITEM TO THE AGENDA.**
- \*\* COMMISSIONER TORRANO SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**



The Mayor then stated that the City had received an offer of \$10,000 for information leading to the arrest and the conviction of the person responsible for the murder of the West Avenue Shell Station attendant from an anonymous donor. The City has been contacted by the donor's lawyer and the money has been placed into a trustee's account until December 31, 2010.

Chief Rilling said that currently, the case is open and active. A significant amount of information and leads have been assembled and that this offer of a reward is not a last resort. Instead, this is a fine example of how Norwalk residents care about one another. The Detective Bureau is working on this case on a daily basis and it is hoped that the offer of a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator will provide the last piece of the puzzle.

When asked why the donor wished to be anonymous, Mayor Moccia said that the donor's lawyer had stated that his client felt that this was a particularly heinous crime. The Chief was asked if this was common type of offer. Chief Rilling replied that it was not unheard of, but that it was not frequent. He reiterated that the offer for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator was only good until December 31, 2010.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

The Commissioner and Chief Rilling entered into Executive Session to discuss Personnel issues at 4:34 p.m. and returned to public session at 5:00 p.m.

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

- \*\* COMMISSIONER TORRANO MOVED TO ADJOURN**

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

