

**CITY OF NORWALK
POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2009**

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

STAFF: Police Chief Harry Rilling, Deputy Chief Thomas Kulhawik

OTHERS: Sergeant Paul Vinett; Detective James Belmont; Officer Gerald
Monroe; Detective Carlos Cotto; Officer Kevin Markert; Officer
Rafael Fonseca; Detective Jeffrey Proudfoot

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman O'Connor called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

PROMOTIONS

Chief Rilling called forward the following officers: Sgt. Praveen John; Sgt. Paul Vinett;
Det. James Belmont; Off. Gerald Monroe; Det. Carlos Cotto; Off. Kevin Markert; Off.
Rafael Fonseca; and Det. Jeffrey Proudfoot. Chief Rilling stated that Off. Garrett Kruger
was not able to be present.

The Chief mentioned that every retirement in the Department leaves a void, but also
provides the Department with opportunities to get other officers involved in different
aspects. Effective July 23rd, 2009 several officers will be retiring from the Police
Department; Capt Daniel Walsh, Sgt. Ronald Pine, Sgt. Russell Fallo and Off. Art
Lasprogato. On August 3rd, 2009, Lt. Angela Walsh will be retiring. Chief Rilling then
recommended all of the officers previously named for promotion.

**** COMMISSIONER TORRANO MOVED TO APPROVE THE
PROMOTIONS OF THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS EFFECTIVE JULY
23, 2009:**

**SERGEANT PRAVEEN JOHN TO THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT.
DETECTIVE JAMES BELMONT TO THE RANK OF SERGEANT.**

**OFFICER GERALD MONROE TO THE RANK OF SERGEANT.
DETECTIVE CARLOS COTTO TO THE RANK OF SERGEANT.
OFFICER KEVIN MARKERT TO THE RANK OF DETECTIVE.
OFFICER RAFAEL FONSECA TO THE RANK OF DETECTIVE.**

EFFECTIVE AUGUST 6, 2009:

**SERGEANT PAUL VINETT TO THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT.
DETECTIVE JEFFREY PROUDFOOT TO THE RANK OF SERGEANT.
OFFICER GARRETT KRUGER TO THE RANK OF DETECTIVE.**

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

Chief Rilling stated for the record that the first officer on the list for promotion to the Detective Bureau opted not to accept the position based on a personal situation at this time. The Mayor then administered the oath of office to the newly promoted officers.

JUNE OFFICER OF THE MONTH
(Officer Andy Kovlakas with PSD Nomak)

Chief Rilling then reviewed the events of June 18, 2009 regarding the apprehension of a suspect by PSD Nomak following a domestic dispute report. PSD Nomak subdued an armed suspect long enough for Officer Kovlakas to handcuff the suspect. Chief Rilling said that this was an example of how Police Service Dogs are an asset because they can go where officers often can't and complete the job. Officer Kovlakas and PSD Nomak came forward to receive their certificate.

Following the presentation of the award, the Commission then resumed the Traffic Authority Agenda at 4:45 p.m.

**** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO RESUME THE POLICE COMMISSION
AGENDA AT 5:04 P.M.
** COMMISSIONER TORRANO SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- ** COMMISSIONER TORRANO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 2009.**
- ** MAYOR MOCCIA SECONDED.**

The following amendment was noted:

Page 6; Add after **EXECUTIVE SESSION**:

ADJOURNMENT

- ** COMMISSIONER TORRANO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
 - ** MAYOR MOCCIA SECONDED.**
 - ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:35 P.M.**

- ** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 2009 AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

JUNE TRAINING REPORT

Chief Rilling reviewed the training reports for the month of June.

DROP REQUEST

Mr. Favano came forward and reviewed the details for Officer Timothy Sheehan's retirement with the Commission.

- ** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE DROP REQUEST FOR OFFICER TIMOTHY SHEEHAN.**
- ** COMMISSIONER TORRANO SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

(Captain Ernest Vitarbo, Officer Bertha Stuckley)

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

THE SUM OF \$1,058.51 TO CAPTAIN ERNEST VITARBO FOR A COURSE ON PUBLIC POLICY FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION 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 ORGANIZATION TAKEN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX TOWARDS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE.

AND

THE SUM OF \$810.00 TO OFFICER BERTHA STUCKLEY FOR A COURSE IN JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND PROCESSES TAKEN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX TOWARDS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE.

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

ACCEPTANCE OF ASSET FORFEITURE FROM SPECIAL SERVICES

**** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE ASSET FORFEITURES FROM SPECIAL SERVICES.
** COMMISSIONER TORRANO SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

FRANKIE'S AUTO SERVICE

Chief Rilling reviewed the detailed history of the incidents with Frankie's Auto Service that cumulated in a hearing by the Commission. The owners and staff of Frankie's came

in and made an impassioned plea regarding their business and the Commission decided to allow Frankie's to remain on the towing list.

Chief Rilling then read the email from Lieutenant Michael Paul, who had investigated a complaint from a Norwalk resident who was involved in an accident on October 15th and had yet to receive her vehicle back to date. Frankie's stated that the vehicle parts were back ordered, however, the vehicle is a 2009 Audi with less than 300 miles on it.

**** COMMISSIONER TORRANO MOVED TO REMOVE FRANKIE'S AUTO BODY PERMANENTLY FROM THE CITY TOW LIST UNDER THE CURRENT OWNERSHIP WITH NO HOPE OF REINSTATEMENT.**

Mayor Moccia said that he would recuse himself from any vote on this matter.

**** CHAIRMAN O'CONNOR SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH TWO IN FAVOR (O'CONNOR AND TORRANO) AND ONE ABSTENTION (MOCCIA).**

Commissioner Torrano then requested Chief Rilling to contact Frankie's to advise them of the Commission's decision.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no additional business to discuss in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER TORRANO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** MAYOR MOCCIA SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services