

Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners

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

CITY OF NORWALK BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 26, 2018

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling; Commissioner Charles Yost

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

OTHERS: Officer Russell Ouellette; Mark Campaniello; Officer Wasilewski;
LT. Blake

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Yost called the meeting to order at 4:25PM. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public commented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 18, 2017 & JANUARY 22, 2018.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

RECOGNITION- JANUARY OFFICER OF THE MONTH

(Officer Russell Ouellette)

Chief Kulhawik said that on January 21, 2018, Officer Ouellette was working an overtime assignment in the area of West Main Street when he smelled a strong odor of smoke and found people yelling in the area that there was a fire, he then evacuated the building and assisted with a mother and child that were trapped on the second floor deck until the Fire Department arrived to

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remove them by ladder. He also rescued two dogs that were inside the apartments. He said that he wants to make a point regarding overtime and that Officer Ouellette is always mentioned as one of the higher paid Officers and this is an example of not only does he work a lot of overtime but he works. He said for his efforts he was recommended for Officer of the month and we agreed and wanted to recognize him for his outstanding police work on the evening.

Mayor Rilling said that it was a worthy recognition and when we have more Officers out on the street they are able to respond to a variety of things and it supplements and augments the Officers that are out working a regular shift. Mayor Rilling congratulated Officer Ouellette and showed that he put his safety behind and saved people including two dogs.

The Commissioners then presented Officer Ouellette with a certificate of recognition of his outstanding work.

Chief Kulhawik said that Mr. Campaniello was recommended for an award from Lt. Blake and Officer Wasilewski for the number of years that he has been assisting Officer Wasilewski during the reconstruction of the serious and fatal accidents, and he has been an integral part of the team and it's a great idea that he finally be recognized for something he has been doing and not received any recognition for officially. Chief Kulhawik thanked Mr. Campaniello for what he has done and what he will continue to do. Chief Rilling said thanked Mr. Campaniello as well and said that motor vehicle accidents can create a sad situation for families who want a thorough investigation and to be sure that the cause of the accident is identified, and it is always good that the Officer gets that assistance so that he can make the determination and provide some resolution for the family, and that Mr. Campaniello's expertise has helped out tremendously.

Mayor Rilling also thanked Officer Wasilewski and LT. Blake for bringing this forward.

The Commissioners then presented Mr. Campaniello with a certificate of recognition of his outstanding work.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Patrol Staffing

Deputy Chief Zecca reported and said that there are two Officers that are currently in field training and will be completing it at the end of March. She said that we have been plagued with some long term injuries, and five Officers with shorter term injuries, and currently there are three Officers on light duty and one who will be going for surgery and then will be coming back on light duty which has created a challenge. She said that Officer Curry will be retiring on February

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28, 2018, and said that he has been out long term but that he will be coming in on February 28, 2018, at 10:00AM to send him off in a good way.

Special Services Division Statistics

Deputy Chief Zecca reported and said that Special Services has been doing phenomenal work with the opioid crises. Chief Kulhawik said that he is hoping every month to provide a background on the different units because they are all going above and beyond and doing a lot more with a lot less.

Selective Enforcement Report

Deputy Chief Zecca reported and said that one of the Traffic Unit Officers was out on injury so that could explain the decrease in some of the numbers.

Chief Kulhawik said that the JAG grants have been withheld by the Federal Government so we are out of JAG money, and that they used to use that to augment staffing for special traffic enforcement and other things. Mayor Rilling asked if the funds are just being held up and not being eliminated. Chief Kulhawik said that it is being held up until the Chicago law suit is settled and that they will be using asset forfeiture instead for special hiring events since there is no JAG money. Mayor asked Chief Kulhawik to provide the Commission with what the current fund balance is in the asset forfeiture account at the next meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Training (January 2018)

Deputy Chief Gonzalez presented his report on training.

Mayor Rilling asked if there is a domestic violence liaison. Deputy Chief Zecca said “yes”. Mayor Rilling said that the Domestic Abuse Crisis Center would like to do some training for us.

Ring Partnership

Deputy Chief Gonzalez said that they had met with some representatives from Ring Company and they are partnering with communities and Police Departments to assist in crime reduction and it has been very successful in certain communities. He said that they are offering to create a platform where people with the Ring system can collaborate in real time as well as provide the Police Department with footage that we may need to investigate cases. He said they are still

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working on the language but part of what they are offering us are some free systems to give out in certain areas, and if we are able to provide some funds they will match them and offer some systems at a reduced cost. Commissioner Yost asked what the cost is per unit. Deputy Chief Gonzalez said they range from \$170-\$240 and there is a \$30 annual fee for storage which is optional. Mayor Rilling said once the final agreement is done to send it to the Law Department for their review.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Tuition Reimbursement- Sergeant Joseph Dinho

Chief Kulhawik said that Sergeant Dinho is requesting a reimbursement of \$347.50 which is half of what he paid for the course and that the commission has already approved the courses.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE SERGEANT DINHO'S APPLICATION FOR TUITION REIMBURSEMENT.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Course Approval- Sergeant David Orr

Chief Kulhawik said that Sergeant Orr was hired after October, 1983 so he is required to get approval prior to taking the course.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE SERGEANT ORR'S APPLICATION FOR COURSE APPROVAL.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Complimentary Letters

Chief Kulhawik said that he receives a lot of emails and letters regarding different things that Officers have done and he will include them on the agenda so that the commission can see what they have done.

Chief Kulhawik presented the letters that he has received this month.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA.**

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**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Chief Kulhawik said that he has received a DROP request from Officer Carl Williams. Mayor Rilling asked Chief Kulhawik to be sure that the request is consistent with the outline in the contract.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO ACCEPT THE DROP REQUEST FROM OFFICER CARL WILLIAMS COMMENCING ON MAY 1, 2018 AND TERMINATING ON APRIL 30, 2023.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Disability Pension Request- Officer Robert Curry

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Executive session began at 4:55pm

Executive session ended at 4:58pm, no motions were made and no votes were taken.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE A DISABILITY PENSION FOR OFFICER ROBERTY CUIRRY, PROVIDED IT IS NOT IN CONFLICT WITH THE CURRENT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE NORWALK POLICE UNION AND THAT THERE ARE NO ADDED COSTS OR LIABILITY ON THE PART OF THE CITY.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dilene Byrd

Telesco Secretarial Services