

**Health and Public Safety Committee of the Common Council**  
**September 23, 2021 at 7:00 PM**  
**Meeting Agenda**  
**Via Teleconference**

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoom, and/or the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at [www.norwalkct.org/meetings](http://www.norwalkct.org/meetings).



Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" will need to register in advance and use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.



Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Deanna D'Amore at [ddamore@norwalkct.org](mailto:ddamore@norwalkct.org) to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

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- I. Welcome and Roll Call
- II. Approval of the June 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- III. Public Participation
- IV. New Business

Action Items

**Police Department**

1a. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any and all documents necessary to apply, accept and implement grant funds from the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation under the Highway Safety Grant for Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Program, in the amount of \$50,000.00

1b. Authorize the Police Chief Thomas Kulhawik to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments and amendments thereto as may be necessary to implement the 2021 Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Program, pursuant to such grant funding.

2a. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any and all documents necessary to apply, accept and implement grant funds from FEMA under the 2021 Port Security Grant.

2b. Authorize the Police Chief Thomas Kulhawik to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments and amendments thereto as may be necessary to implement the 2021 Port Security Grant, pursuant to such grant funding.

2c. Authorize the, Fire Chief Gino Gatto to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments and amendments thereto as may be necessary to implement the 2021 Port Security Grant, pursuant to such grant funding.

**Fire Department**

3. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, execute any and all documents necessary to adopt the 'Western CT Council of Governments (WestCOG) Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2021-2026' as prepared by the WestCOG and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Discussion Items

1. Mental Health and Substance Use
2. Coyotes

V. Old Business

Discussion Items

1. Police Update & Discussion
2. Fire Update & Discussion
3. Emergency Management Update & Discussion
4. Health Department Update & Discussion

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**HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
JUNE 24, 2021  
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

ATTENDANCE: George Tsiranides, Acting Chair; Dominique Johnson;  
Manny Langella; Thomas Keegan; Diana Revolus; Lisa Shanahan

STAFF: Deanna D'Amore, Director of Health; Michele DeLuca, Deputy  
Director of Emergency Management; Ed McCabe, Deputy Fire  
Chief; Deputy Chief James Walsh, Norwalk Police Department;  
Brian Weeks, Epidemiologist,

**WELCOME AND ROLL CALL**

Mr. Tsiranides called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and called the Roll as indicated above.

**APPROVAL OF THE MAY 27, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

\*\* MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public wished to participate this evening.

**NEW BUSINESS**

ACTION ITEMS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

\*\* MS. REVOLUS MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W.  
RILLING TO ENTER INTO PLATFORM ACTIVATION AGREEMENT  
WITH GUARDIAN ALLIANCE TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

Deputy Chief Walsh explained that the Police Department is in the process of re-vamping their background procedure for new hires. He reviewed the capabilities of the cloud-

based platform and noted that it provides for more transparency during the background process. He said the Police Department does not have any experience with this company.

Ms. Johnson asked if this request is related to something the Police Commission discussed and asked how it fits into the new hiring process. Deputy Chief Walsh explained that the entire hiring process has been re-vamped. More questions will be asked of the applicants. In addition, there will be a Chief level interview and an interview with the Mayor.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MS. REVOLUS MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE UNDER THE FY 2021 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,428**

**AND TO AUTHORIZE THE POLICE CHIEF, THOMAS KULHAWIK TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS AND AMENDMENTS THERETO AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT ALL PROGRAMS THROUGH THE FY 2021 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SUCH GRANT FUNDING**

Deputy Chief Walsh explained that the Police Department has received these grant funds before. He described how the funds will be used, including addressing traffic issues.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MS. JOHNSON MOVE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE SERVICE AGREEMENT (3 YEARS WITH AUTOMATIC 1 YEAR RENEWALS) WITH POLICE APP FOR SERVICES RELATED TO POLICE CANDIDATE TESTING, RECRUITMENT AND TRACKING**

Deputy Chief Walsh explained that this request is part of the revision of the hiring process for the Police Department. He said they want to go to the CPCA (Connecticut Chief of Police Association) exam process where testing for the Police Department will be on an on-going basis, rather than approximately every two years. This initiative will allow for continuous recruitment.

Deputy Chief Walsh described the testing procedure and said that candidates can chose what participating departments they want their test results sent.

Ms. Johnson said that Ms. Revolus commented that she hoped this exam process would help local residents join the Norwalk Police Department. Deputy Chief Walsh said the Police Department is looking at ways to help residents who may need financial assistance to pay for the test. Ms. Revolus expressed her appreciation that this initiative can result in more local representation on the Police Force.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Discussion Items**

##### Emergency Management Update and Discussion

Ms. DeLuca reported that the department held a hurricane tabletop exercise. She said there were some good takeaways. Messaging will be re-visited.

Ms. DeLuca said that currently she is working on messaging about heat safety. Mr. Tsiranides said he was on the call for the hurricane exercise and said Ms. DeLuca did a great job running the meeting.

##### Fire Update and Discussion

Deputy Chief McCabe shared Fire Department statistics for the month of May, including responding to 656 calls for an average of 21.2 calls a day. Between January 1, 2021 to May 31, 2021, the Fire Department responded to 2,745 incidents and made 4,326 runs. He noted they outpaces their call volume for 2020.

Deputy Chief McCabe reported that the Fire Department responded to a construction dumpster at Brien McMahan High School. No students were in the school at the time. They also responded to a structure fire at Reynolds Street. There were no injuries. The Fire Marine Boat made a water craft rescue where they removed five adults and two dogs from a boat.

The Fire investigation Bureau collected \$3,723.00. Deputy Chief McCabe said the Fire Department is back up to their staffing levels and are getting caught up on pending investigations.

Ms. Johnson asked if there were any reports of illegal fireworks. Deputy Chief McCabe said the Fire Department has not responded to any calls. Deputy Chief Walsh said the Police Department got a handful of complaints.

Health and Public Safety Committee

June 24, 2021

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Via Teleconference

Ms. Johnson asked what people should do if they wish to make a complaint about fireworks. Deputy Chief Walsh said that people can use the new text app. He noted that people use that all the time.

#### Health Department Update and Discussion

Ms. D'Amore reported that Covid vaccine efforts are continuing. She said that cases of Covid are very low now.

Ms. D'Amore said the Health Department started water quality testing at the Beach. They also re-launched their Grow Garden program. They are also looking at reaccreditation and updating their core functions.

Mr. Weeks gave a presentation and updated the Committee on the latest Covid statistics. He said that Connecticut is in the low category for cases, but noted that people should be mindful about traveling to states with higher Covid activity.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been 11,576 cases of Covid with 225 deaths.

Mr. Weeks reported that as of June 23<sup>rd</sup> 65% of Norwalk residents received at least one dose of the Covid vaccine. He said there is an increase in transability with the delta variance; however, if someone is fully vaccinated, they should not have a lot of concern about that variance.

In addition to Covid, this is tick season. He said that pets are main targets for ticks. Mosquitos are not yet as prevalent as they will be later in the season. It is important to remove any standing water.

Ms. Shanahan asked if there were any Beach closings. Ms. D'Amore said the Beach was closed only once due to heavy rainfall.

#### Police Update and Discussion

Deputy Chief Walsh reported that there are currently 175 Officers and six Patrol vacancies.

Deputy Chief Walsh reported that the Detective Bureau has seen an increase in cases. They are actively pursuing leads for various cases.

The Special Services Division remains busy. With the re-opening they have seen an increase in businesses. The Norwalk Police Department assisted Stamford with a significant narcotics investigation. The Special Victims Unit has been busy with 55 cases.

The Norwalk Police Department assisted with middle school and high school graduations.

A total of 149 arrests were made in May. The Patrol Division received 4,744 calls for service. Staffing is up to pre-pandemic levels.

The Norwalk Police Department made 399 car stops and issued 237 infractions during May. Deputy Chief Walsh said they are deploying new speed signs that can also report data. He said they recognize there are speeding issues on East Rocks Road.

As a follow up to the recent Police Commission meeting, Ms. Johnson asked about the language line. Ms. Revolus explained that the language line access all languages and added that Norwalk has an account. Deputy Chief Walsh said that the Norwalk Police is the call center for the ambulance. When needed their Dispatcher dials the language line. He said they are looking at placing phones at the front desk at the Police Stations to connect residents to the language line. Ms. Revolus suggested getting signage showing the different languages available.

Deputy Chief McCabe said that the Norwalk Fire Department is in the process of putting call boxes on the outside of the Fire Houses so people can call the Police Dispatch. They will add the language line to that as well.

**\*\* MS. REVOLUS MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services

# Memo

**To:** Common Council Committee  
**From:** Lt. Thomas Roncinske  
**CC:**  
**Re:** FY2021 Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Grant. FY 2021 Port Security Grant  
**Date:** September 14, 2021

The Connecticut Department of Transportation provides Federal grant funds to municipalities through the Highway Safety Program for support of Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement. The funding reimburses the City for 100% of the operational expenses incurred for Distracted Driving High Visibility initiatives. The 2021 Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement initiative will provide \$ 50,000.00 for additional officers on selective enforcement targeting Distracted Driving violations for October 15-31, 2021 and April 1-30, 2022.

The FY 2021 Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) provides funding for transportation infrastructure security activities to implement Area Maritime Transportation Security Plans and facility security plans among port authorities, facility operators and state and local government agencies required to provide port security services. The Norwalk Fire Department is allocated \$240,000.00 for the purchase of a CBRNE capable fire rescue boat. The Police Department is allocated \$18,452.00 for the purchase of SCUBA related equipment. FY 2021 Port Security Grant Projects total \$ 258,452.00 of which there is 25% city cost share.

The authorizations are as follows:

1a. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any and all documents necessary to apply, accept and implement grant funds from the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation under the Highway Safety Grant for Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Program, in the amount of \$50,000.00

1b. Authorize the Police Chief Thomas Kulhawik to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments and amendments thereto as may be necessary to implement the 2021 Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Program, pursuant to such grant funding.

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2c. Authorize the, Fire Chief Gino Gatto to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments and amendments thereto as may be necessary to implement the 2021 Port Security Grant, pursuant to such grant funding.

**Date: August 5, 2021**

**Subject: Adoption of the WestCOG Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, 2021-2026”.**

Resolution:

Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to adopt the ‘Western CT Council of Governments (WestCOG)) Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2021-2026’ as prepared by the WestCOG and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Background

Municipalities and States are required to have a FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan on file. This plan enables municipalities to apply for additional funding streams following disasters. The Western CT Council of Governments (WestCOG) receives funds to update and maintain this plan for the jurisdictions it serves. Once adopted by all municipalities, the plan will be in place until 2026.

FEMA Region 1 has completed its review of the *WestCOG Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, 2021-2026* and found it meets the requirements under 44 CFR 201. The WestCOG HMP has received conditional approval pending adoption by each individual municipality.

The final documents that were approved by FEMA are on the WestCOG website: [Hazard Mitigation | Western Connecticut Council of Governments \(westcog.org\)](https://www.westcog.org/Hazard-Mitigation-Western-Connecticut-Council-of-Governments), and below for download:

Plan: <https://filetransfer.slrconsulting.com/link/okXzVXIK3x4B65hXj6DiKC>

Appendices: <https://filetransfer.slrconsulting.com/link/2TmffvEu4DzuiXTaYn7ZNo>

Municipal Annexes: <https://filetransfer.slrconsulting.com/link/86xtZHyOqjrEzZUIFFPhrH>

**Below is the Norwalk resolution that should be placed on City letterhead:**

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION  
CITY OF NORWALK COMMON COUNCIL

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE WESTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF  
GOVERNMENTS MULTI-JURISDICTION HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE, 2021-  
2026**

**WHEREAS, the City of Norwalk has historically experienced severe damage from natural hazards and it continues to be vulnerable to the effects of those natural hazards profiled in the plan (e.g. *flooding, high wind, thunderstorms, winter storms, earthquakes, droughts, dam failure, and wildfires*), resulting in loss of property and life, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety; and**

**WHEREAS, the City of Norwalk Common Council approved the previous version of the Plan in 2016; and**

**WHEREAS, the City of Norwalk and Western Connecticut Council of Governments developed and received conditional approval from the Federal Emergency Management**

**Agency (FEMA) for the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, 2021-2026 under the requirements of 44 CFR 201.6; and**

**WHEREAS, public and committee meetings were held and public input was sought in 2020 and 2021 regarding the development and review of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, 2021-2026; and**

**WHEREAS, the Plan specifically addresses hazard mitigation strategies and Plan maintenance procedure for the City of Norwalk; and**

**WHEREAS, the Plan recommends several hazard mitigation actions/projects that will provide mitigation for specific natural hazards that impact the City of Norwalk, with the effect of protecting people and property from loss associated with those hazards; and**

**WHEREAS, adoption of this Plan will make the City of Norwalk eligible for funding to alleviate the impacts of future hazards; now therefore be it**

**RESOLVED by the Common Council:**

- 1. The Plan is hereby adopted as an official plan of the City of Norwalk;**
- 2. The respective officials identified in the mitigation strategy of the Plan are hereby directed to pursue implementation of the recommended actions assigned to them;**
- 3. Future revisions and Plan maintenance required by 44 CFR 201.6 and FEMA are hereby adopted as a part of this resolution for a period of five (5) years from the date of this resolution.**
- 4. An annual report on the progress of the implementation elements of the Plan shall be presented to the City Council.**

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021 by the Common Council of City of Norwalk, Connecticut

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Mayor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned has affixed his/her signature and the corporate seal of the City of Norwalk this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

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City Clerk

# SUPPORTS FOR NORWALKERS

*Struggling with isolation, stress, depression, or substance use? Help is here.*

## 24/7 HOTLINES

- **CT's Mobile Psychiatric Crisis:** Dial 2-1-1, select option 1
- **CT's Substance Use Access Line:** 800-563-4086
- **Crisis Text Line:** Text Hello to 741741. National
- **Trevor Project (LGBTQ):** Text 678678 or call 866-488-7386. National

## CITY SERVICES

- **Community Services:** Info, referrals, family navigators. 203-854-7255
- **Youth Services Bureau:** Care coordination, referrals, Juvenile Review Board, life skills. 203-854-7785

## FREE IN-SCHOOL SUPPORT

- **Teen Talk:** Free crisis counseling provided by Kids in Crisis. BMHS: 203-852-9488, x11319, Room 11319. NHS: 203-838-4481, x13279, Room 218E. Or call 24/7 helpline: 203-661-1911
- **School-Based Health Centers:** Behavioral health, telehealth, medical, physicals. BMHS: Room 1209. NHS: Room C301. Also NHMS, Ponus & WRMS.

## FREE PEER SUPPORT

- **Alcoholics Anonymous:** Meetings in English & Spanish. [ct-aa.org](http://ct-aa.org)
- **Courage to Speak Foundation:** Parent support group, education. 877-431-3295
- **NAMI:** Support groups for young adults & families, training programs by & for families with a loved one with mental illness. [namisouthwestct.org](http://namisouthwestct.org)
- **Alanon/Alateen:** Support for people affected by someone's substance use. *Adults:* Call Karen at 203-962-5427. *Teens:* Call Peter at 203-856-1614
- **RIPPLE:** Late-night online support groups & more. [RockingRecovery.org](http://RockingRecovery.org)
- **SMART Recovery:** Support & skills building to quit bad habits & make positive changes in your life. Local groups: [turningpointct.org/smart](http://turningpointct.org/smart)
- **TurningPointCT:** Online drop-in social activities, info & peer support by & for teens and young adults in CT. [TurningPointCT.org](http://TurningPointCT.org)

# SUPPORTS FOR NORWALKERS

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## NONPROFIT TREATMENT AGENCIES

- **Catholic Charities:** Mental health counseling, all ages. English & Spanish. 203-750-9711
- **Child & Family Guidance, ACRA program:** Substance use treatment for teens ages 12-19. English & Spanish. 203-810-4404
- **Child Guidance of Mid Fairfield County:** Mental health services ages 5-21, including home based. English & Spanish. 203-299-1315
- **Community Health Center (Day Street):** Mental health & substance use, all ages. Must be medical client of CHC. Multiple languages. 203-854-9292
- **CT Counseling Centers:** Behavioral health for adults, including IOP and opioid treatment. English & Spanish. 203-838-6508
- **CT Renaissance:** Behavioral health for ages 13 through adult, including gaming/gambling. 203-866-2541
- **Family & Children's Agency:** Psychiatric services for children & teens, including IICAPS; mental health & substance use for adults. 203-855-8765
- **High Focus Centers:** Intensive mental health & co-occurring for ages 10-18, including IOP and PHP. 877-670-5120
- **Keystone House:** Residential rehabilitation program for people with a psychiatric disorder. 203-855-7920
- **Liberation Programs:** Drug & alcohol counseling middle school through adult. 855-542-7764
- **MFAP Drug User Outreach:** Outreach, Narcan, syringe exchange. 203-855-9535 x107
- **Norwalk Community Health Center:** Mental health & substance use counseling, all ages. Must be medical client of NCHC. English, Spanish, Haitian Creole. 203-899-1770 x1203
- **Norwalk Hospital:** Behavioral health treatment for adults, including IOP, PHP and inpatient. 203-852-2988
- **Positive Directions:** Mental health & substance use treatment, prevention, recovery support. English & Haitian Creole. 203-227-7644
- **St. Vincent's:** Mental health & substance treatment, all ages, including IOP in Norwalk and inpatient / detox in Westport. 203-221-8899
- **Services in Nearby Towns:** [TheHubCT.org/treatment](http://TheHubCT.org/treatment)