

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
JUNE 14, 2022
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND CONFERENCE CALL VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Commissioners Darrell Brooks, Michael Lawlor, Tracey Meares, Isaias Miranda, and Evelise Ribeiro:

Assistant Chief Karl Jacobson: Department of Police Service
Captain David Zannelli: Department of Police Service
Lieutenant Manmeet Colon: Department of Police Service
Sergeant Yelena Borisova: Department of Police Service
Sergeant Paul Finch: Department of Police Service
Officer D. Cohen: Department of Police Service
Officer Reginald McGlotten: Department of Police Service

Rebecca Bombero: Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Michelle Duprey, Esquire: Deputy Corporation Counsel

Gerald Antunes: Board of Alders
Wendella Ault-Batthey
Chief Anthony Campbell: Yale Campus Police
Akeem Berry
Laura Giesby
Daniel Hunt
Josh Hurlburt
Mrs. Young Rylar
Attorney Marshall Segar
Charles Tyson

OPEN SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m., Evelise Ribeiro, Chair, presiding. Ribeiro indicated that Commissioner Walker was unable to attend the meeting.

AGENDA

- ** Commissioner Miranda motioned to Approve the Agenda
- ** Commissioner Meares seconded
- ** Motion passed unanimously

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Discussion and Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2022.

- ** Commissioner Brooks motioned to Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2022

- ** Commissioner Meares seconded
- ** Motion passed unanimously

CHIEF'S REPORT

Assistant Chief Karl Jacobson

- Assistant Chief Jacobson indicated he was filling in for Acting Chief Regina Rush-Kittle who was away.
- There have been 41 non-fatal shootings and four homicides. At the same time last year, there were 50 non-fatal shootings and 15 homicides. So, we are moving in the right direction.
- There have been 124 gun seizures and 106 arrests. Twenty-one of those guns have been ghost guns. Last year at the same time, there were 81 gun seizures with 84 arrests, and only two ghost guns. There has been a marked increase in ghost guns. The Department is collaborating with the ATF to try to shut down the flow of ghost guns .
- The Department is looking to put five candidates in the Waterbury Police Academy which has been tentatively scheduled to begin on July 28, 2022. There are two applicants at the psychological phase and five applicants at the polygraph phase. He is appreciative of the work the Background Unit and Internal Affairs are doing.
- Assistant Chief Jacobson indicated that he had been riding with all the district manager and attending all the CMTs in anticipation of the final vote by the Board of Alders for his confirmation which was scheduled on July 5th, 2022.
- An academy graduation has been scheduled on July 6, 2022. All the commissioners are invited. The commissions helped get the academy seated. The ceremony will begin at 5:30 at Woolsey Hall on the Yale Campus, 500 College Street, New Haven. Assistant Chief Jacobson thanked Yale University for their assistance in giving the Department the amphitheater.
- The newly-appointed Detective Bleck Joseph, who is on the Shooting Task Force, made a homicide arrest two weeks ago. This was from the May 27, 2017 fatal killing of Norman Boone. Detective Joseph was able to finish the case and get it over the finish line after several detectives before him. The suspect is Trevon Battle who has been charged with Murder, Assault 1st and Criminal Possession. This is a fine example of a new detective taking his new skill and getting some justice for the family.
- Commissioner Meares indicated that the commissioners received an e-mail from Captain Zannelli noting some kudos to some folks. She thought it would be a good idea in the chief's report to make those public. She did not know if Assistant Chief Jacobson knew about them. She was not sure if he was actually on the e-mail that was sent. If he was it would be great to share. Second, Commissioner Meares wondered if in light of the new detective's great work, Assistant Chief Jacobson had any up-to-date information about clearance rates. If the Chief does not, she wondered if this could be added to the regular report.
- Assistant Chief Jacobson replied by saying that he did not have the information in front of him. However, he will add this to his regular report. He was familiar with the e-mail but did not have it before him. In the future, he will add such information. It is a great point to give that positive feedback during the Commission's meeting.
- Assistant Chief Jacobson further stated that if all went well, hopefully, at the Commission's next meeting he will be the confirmed chief. So, he will make sure it happens.
- Commissioner Meares indicated to Captain Zannelli that perhaps the kudos to the detective could be added to their Efficiency Report later on.

- Commissioner Ribeiro asked if there were any updates on the gun buyback.
- Assistant Chief Jacobson replied by saying that the Department was able to take in 65 guns. He did not have the breakdown before him. There were like 29 long guns, 35 pistols. There were 65 guns in total.
- Captain Zannelli indicated the gun seizure breakdown were as follows: Twenty-six rifles and shotguns, 35 pistols and revolvers and three Airsoft or BB guns and one firearm were recovered. There was a Tec-9 gun which is identified as assault rifle. The Department received 20 more guns than the last time. They are hoping to increase this number the next time with some marketing and advertisements.
- Commissioner Ribeiro indicated she recalled getting the e-mail but could not remember. She asked what the incentives were for turning in the guns.
- Captain Zannelli replied by saying that it is a cash amount for each type of weapon.
- Commissioner Ribeiro asked if it was in the form of a gift cards. Captain Zannelli replied, correct.
- Commissioner Ribeiro indicated it was great to get some guns off the street. Gun buyback is always successful. If this could be done more often, it could be very helpful for the city. Those guns would converted to useful tools.
- Assistant Chief Jacobson indicated that the guns would be melted down and turned into different tools to be used in the community. So, it's a pretty good program. It's an interesting program. The cost is giving money for the guns. As soon as the Department gets the donations and the cost-up, they would have another buyback right away. Assistant Chief Jacobson indicated the Department should be doing two to four buybacks a year.
- Commissioner Ribeiro said that is a good story too in terms what types of tools that are made and what organizations in the community are being helped. It's a feel good, good story.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT

Lieutenant Manmeet Colon

- Lieutenant Colon indicated that for the year 2022 there are 43 Internal Affairs Complaints made of which 28 are open and are being investigated and seven are open in Patrol, one is open in ISU, one withdrawn case, four unfounded, and there is one summary action which is a verbal reprimand. And one of the cases was turned over to another agency because it did not involve the Department's officers.
- Year-to-date comparisons: Last year at this time, there were 46 complaints at this time compared to 43 this year. And the highest number of complaints that the Department is seeing this year is neglect of duty which constitutes anything from an officer not completing a report on time or not getting video footage for an incident or not following up with a warrant, if there was probable cause.
- The Department is continuing to see a high number of hard hands which means the officers, if they are at an incident and they use physical force whether it's take downs or hands or baton usage or Taser, they are continuing to report it appropriately. Lieutenant Colon indicated this is high because of the way the officers are reporting in a streamlined manner in addition to the amount of supervision officers are getting.
- Commissioner Meares stated it sounded like a qualitative judgment that suggests that there is some normal number against which whatever we are seeing is higher. So, she was just not sure what that meant. She asked Lieutenant Colon to elaborate.

- Lieutenant Colon replied that she meant higher than last year. For example, hard hands are at 210 compared the same time last year at 64. The use-of force reporting has gotten better over the last nine to 10 months especially with the new use-of-force policy that was implemented.
- Commissioner Meares added that another way of looking at this is that the number from last year is a function of just the reporting policy or the fact that people were not reporting things that they were supposed to. Lieutenant Colon replied, correct.
- Commissioner Lawlor followed up by saying that the numbers last year and the year before were completely disrupted by COVID, and there was a lot less physical interaction with people to start with. Commissioner Lawlor asked how that would compare to what it was like let's say in 2019. He asked Lieutenant Colon if she had any idea.
- Lieutenant Colon replied by saying in March 20, 2020 the Department changed polices . They had special orders that officers many times would call a complainant over the phone depending on the type of complaint it was.
- Commissioner Lawlor asked about how many reports there were in 2019 when COVID wasn't a thing.
- Lieutenant Colon replied that it was 64 hard hands. The total complaints was 289.
- Commissioner Lawlor asked if it was year to date.
- Lieutenant Colon said it was for the entire year of 2019. And so far there have been 291 hard hands this year.
- Commissioner Meares added that the reporting standards were totally different. We need to know what we are comparing because if it's not an apples to apples comparison, it is not worth talking about what it was before because we do not know what our baseline is.
- Captain Zannelli asked if the Department was down in other areas such as baton, taser deployments and things like that as officers are using less of weapons and more of their hands.
- Lieutenant Colon replied tat it was accurate. There have been 41 firearms displays this year compared to 58 last year. There have been six Taser deployments this year compared 12 last year at the same time, 17 in 2020 and 18 in 2019. So, the Department is significantly down with regards to Taser deployment. The Department is at 13 OC sprays compared to 18 in 2019 at the same time, and 15 in 2020 at the same time, and 15 in 2021 at the same time. There have been no canine deployments this year. There were three canine deployments at the same time last year. and three at the same time in 2020. There have been two baton usages this year compared to three last year at the same time. The baton usage was an extraction and not an actual strike om the body.
- Commissioner Meares in light of the change in reporting standards, what is being reported has changed in addition to the policy changes. So, there are three different things happening. In order to understand how the policy is impacting what is actually happening on the street, there has to be way of talking about the data in the context of the policy, what's collected now compared to what was collected before. It might be useful to just come up with a one-time report and then talk about then later what our comparisons are. Talking about last year is not particularly helpful given what Commissioner Lawlor was saying as we were in the middle of COVID. Also, comparing to pre-COVID might not be particularly helpful because both the policy and the reporting standards are different.
- Lieutenant Colon added that given the new policies, the supervisors are trained that they are to respond to the scene or make contact with the officer immediately when force is used. So, at that point the supervisor is notified of a use of force. The supervisors knowing right at the beginning of an incident are better able to manage that scene and inform the officers that

use-of-force forms have to be completed, etc. The Department is ahead of the game now as supervisors are now responding to use-of-force situations, and doing preliminary investigations at the scene.

■ Commissioner Lawlor added that the best way to do comparisons would be to look at the numbers from next year at this point because then it would be an apples-to-apples situation. It is good to know what they are right now, but a lot of what Lieutenant Colon said was very encouraging.

IA CASE NO. 22C-013: The complainant filed a complaint against Officer Leonardo back in February of this year. He complained that Officer Leonardo arrested him without cause and did not allow him to tell his side of the story. It was determined that Officer Leonardo was investigating a domestic violence complaint in which the complainant for Internal Affairs was the defendant or the person that was arrested. And it was determined through interviews, body-worn camera footage that Officer Leonardo's actions were lawful and appropriate. This case was unfounded.

IA CASE NO. 21C-105: The complainant in this case filed a complaint against Officer Ramirez. The complainant filed a complaint indicating that Officer Ramirez was rude to her at a motor vehicle stop. According to the body worn camera footage, Officer Ramirez was not rude at any point. And his actions were deemed lawful.

IA CASE NO. 22C-010: The complainant filed a complaint against Officer Ricci. He stated that Officer Ricci was neglectful and did not do a welfare check when the complainant asked him to do so. Officer Ricci was interviewed along with many attempts for officers to interview the complainant, but he was not available. According to the body-worn camera footage, Officer Ricci's interview, it was determined that Officer Ricci was not neglectful and that he acted accordingly based on the information that was provided by the complainant. His actions were deemed lawful and appropriate.

IA CASE NO. 21C-061: The complainant in this case alleged that Officers Aviles and Leonardo had sexually assaulted her. This complaint stems from an incident that happened at a location in Fair Haven. While she was being arrested for resisting officers and she was taken into custody. Officers did use force on her. The use-of-force instructor was called in and interviewed regarding this incident. The force was justified. There was no evidence of the allegations of sexual assault made by the complainant. Both officers' actions were deemed lawful. There was no evidence of misconduct or malfeasance. This case was unfounded.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

1. Discussions and action on the recommendation by Chief Ronnell Higgins, Yale Police Department, to hire the following candidates to the Yale Police Department

1. Charles Tyson
2. Akeem Berry.

■ Former Chief Anthony Campbell of the New Haven Police Department, now of the Yale Police Department, thanked the Board for having him this evening. Two certified officers

would be joining their department. Chief Higgins apologized that he could not make this it this evening. These two officers have been thoroughly vetted and have gone through all the standards in order to be presented to the Board. They would be great additions to the Yale Police Department. They bring diversity and a wealth of experience. Charles Tyson is a former New Haven Police Department officer who retired two weeks ago. Akeem Berry is a veteran from the Hartford Police Department. Akeem Berry is familiar is familiar to New Haven. He is a longtime athlete. He has great credentials, great background. He was proud to present both of them to the Board for consideration to join the Yale Police Department.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that some of the commissioners met with the two candidates. She asked for a brief background.

■ Chief Campbell indicated that each candidate should speak about himself with respect their work experience particularly experience working with younger people in the community, and why they are going over to the Yale Police Department.

■ Each officer spoke briefly about himself

■ Commissioner Lawlor indicated that Commissioners Miranda, Walker and himself participated in these interviews. He was pretty confident that Commissioner Walker and Commissioner Miranda would agree with what he was about to say, and that is that Chief Campbell and Chief Higgins are lucky men to be getting these two officers. They are very impressive. They are highly motivated. If the New Haven Police Department cannot get Mr. Berry, at least they will take solace in the fact that he will be in New Haven and he would help with public safety and building trust between the police and the community. So, he was all behind these two guys. They are great.

■ Commissioner Miranda agreed for the record.

** Commissioner Lawlor moved approval of the recommendation to hire Charles Tyson and Akeem Berry for the Yale Police Department

** Commissioner Miranda seconded

** Motion passed unanimously

2. Discussions and action on the recommendation to remove the following candidates from Eligibility List #22-17:

1. #2 – Josh Hurlburt
2. #4 – Lauren Galvert
3. #10 – Kyle Edo

■ Assistant Chief Jacobson indicated the recommendation to remove these three candidates from the eligibility list.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro asked the candidates present if they wanted to address the Board in an open or a closed session. Each opted for a closed session.

■ Sergeant Finch indicated that Kyle Edo was not present.

** **Commissioner Meares motioned to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters with respect to candidates on the Eligibility List 22-17**

** **Commissioner Brooks seconded**

**** Motion passed unanimously**

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:33 p.m.

**** Commissioner Meares motioned to come out of Executive Session to discuss personnel matters pertaining to Eligibility List 22-17**

**** Commissioner Brooks seconded**

**** Motion passed unanimously**

The Board exited Executive Session at 7:03 p.m.

Commissioner Miranda motioned to remove Josh Hurlburt from Eligibility List 22-17.

**** Commissioner Lawlor seconded**

**** For: Zero**

Against: Commissioners Brooks, Lawlor, Meares, Miranda and Ribeiro

Motion failed

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that the motion failed and the candidate, Josh Hurlburt, would move forward in the process.

Commissioner Meares motioned on the recommendation to remove #4, Laura Galvet, from the Eligibility List #22-17

**** Commissioner Miranda seconded**

**** For: Zero**

Against: Commissioners Brooks, Lawlor, Meares, Miranda and Ribeiro

Motion failed

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that the motion failed and the candidate, Laura Galvet, would move forward in the process.

Commissioner Meares motioned for action on the recommendation to remove Kyle Edo, #10, from Eligibility List #22-17

**** Commissioner Miranda seconded**

**** Motion passed unanimously**

RETIREMENTS (For Board information only)

Quartermaster Karizma Schloss, eff., May 30, 2022

Officer Charles Tyson, eff., May 31, 2022

Detective David Zaweski, eff., June 3, 2022

Officer Raul Pereira, eff., June 30, 2022

Sergeant Joshua Armistead, eff., June 30, 2022

Lieutenant Stephan Torquati, eff., June 30, 2022

Detective Richard LaRock, eff., June 30, 2022

Detective Rosalee Reid, eff., June 30, 2022

Officer Newton Anderson, eff., June 30, 2022

- Commissioner Lawlor asked if the number of officers retiring was anticipated or unusual. He asked Assistant Chief Jacobson to put this into context for the Board.
- Assistant Chief Jacobson replied by saying that it was anticipated. Twenty people are allowed to use the sick buyback a year. And these officers are all part of that 20 people. The Department anticipates approximately 20 people retiring a year. Usually, not more because no more than that can use that buyback.
- Commissioner Meares said, Kudos to Officer Pereira. She was unsure if they had met in person, maybe once. She felt like they had been working together for a while on all of these background checks. She thanked him for his work.

RESIGNATION (For Board information only)

There were none.

RECRUITMENT/SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Sergeant Paul Finch

- Sergeant Finch said there are five candidates scheduled for polygraph on Thursday and two scheduled for the psychological. There will be two more scheduled soon.
- Sergeant Finch further stated that they are preparing for a recruitment drive what will be starting soon. They have been doing recruitment as of late especially with the summer months coming. A busy recruitment day has been scheduled for Saturday, June 18, 2022. Those who are on the list will be able to run the entire agility test and just see where they are physically. They are at least going to find out where they are physically.
- There are three Juneteenth events that they are going to try to be a part of on that same day ending at the New Haven Green. June is going to be a busy month. They are trying to be in the community all over as much as they possibly can to get the word out about recruitment. The hope is beat the numbers from last year.

EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE REPORT

Consideration and vote on the proposed General Order 7:10, Body-Worn and Dashboard Cameras.

- Commissioner Meares indicated they have been working on the General Order on body-worn cameras and dashboard cameras
- Captain Zannelli indicated he appreciated Commissioner Meares' help and support with the development and implementation of these policies. Lieutenant Colon was the one who actually updated this policy for us which was based on the mandate of House Bill 6004 to include dash cameras. It is an update to existing policy. They will highlight the main points that Lieutenant Colon updated. There was a myriad of feedback from everyone with the creation and update of this policy. A lot of it is POST model policy that the Department used and implemented.
- Lieutenant Colon indicated that this was updated from the policy for body-worn cameras which was previously signed back in 2017. They added a lot more definitions to describe the dashboard that was installed in the patrol officers' vehicles already last month. Obviously, it is not live until the policy is in effect.
- Lieutenant Colon added that some of the things that were added was the installation and the use and activation of the dashboard camera. It would be the same as logging into the

Department's database. The officers would be required to use their Mobile Computer Terminal (MCT) and have a password, username, same credentials as the Department's database. This way there are no issues with the logon at the beginning of their shifts. The same goes for all of the activations that they are required to record the activity for.

■ Lieutenant Colon further stated that most importantly trigger events (anything that could cause the dashboard camera to activate and start recording) had been added to the rear door passenger side, etc. The buffer points would still be 30 seconds. So, if there was a pre-event that was recorded, there would be no audible. However, it would record 30 seconds prior to.

■ Lieutenant Colon stated that they had noticed some issues the Department had with the body-worn cameras. As a result, they added a couple of things such as the categories when the officers tag their body-worn cameras. Sometimes they are missing the zero or a number. Now, in this policy, there is a way to add the category or the case number onto the Department's database.

■ Lieutenant Colon added that as Captain Zannelli had alluded to, the language was taken from the POST model policy which was last updated in November of 2021. They added some retention categories to the policy. Training will commence the following week starting with supervisors. A designated person is assigned to the body-worn camera and dashboard camera as the system administrator, Sergeant Rawlinson. This will supersede the General Order for body-worn camera signed in 2017.

■ There is an appendix at the very end, the last four pages that describes the system. It also describes how a signal is sent to nearby devices that will activate not only the body-worn cameras but the several body-worn cameras for officers that are nearby.

■ Commissioner Lawlor asked for clarification on the last point regarding activation of devices.

■ Lieutenant Colon replied by saying that if the dashboard camera is activated and it is within a 30- to 50-foot range, it will activate the officers body-worn camera in that area. It's a Bluetooth-range activation.

■ Commissioner Meares said this is important because the Department will get multiple perspectives.

■ Assistant Chief Jacobson added that this turns on automatically. They have to have some buy-in from officers. It is really a good thing.

■ Commissioner Meares indicated that she would point out for the public that Assistant Chief Jacobson's comments about the officers buying in is an important one. And it turns out that often, it's been the case certainly with body-worn cameras, that officers quickly see the advantages of the body-worn cameras even if there's initial resistance because it helps officers in many situations that they do not anticipate.

■ Captain Zannelli indicated that Commissioner Meares hit the nail on the head. It will give a different perspective. While the body-worn cameras give a first-person perspective, this will give a more collective view. And as IA complaints come in, this will be a new component that they will be collected as part of their investigations. This will be more objective for evidentiary purposes. They do support it. This is part of Chief Jacobson's mission for accountability and transparency as well.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro thanked the staff and commissioners that worked on this.

Commissioner Meares moved to vote on proposed General Order 7.10 Body Worn and Dashboard Cameras for approval

- ** Commissioner Lawlor seconded
- ** Motion passed unanimously

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

There was none.

- Commissioner Ribeiro commented that they would have to get finance up and running.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ** **Commissioner Meares motioned to Enter Executive Session to Discuss Preliminary Notes, Personnel Matter and Other Legal matters**
- ** **Commissioner Miranda seconded**
- ** **Motion passed unanimously**

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:21 p.m.

- ** **Commissioner Brooks motioned to Exit Executive Session**
- ** **Commissioner Meares seconded**
- ** **Motion passed unanimously**

The Board exited Executive Session at 7:42 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** Commissioner Brooks moved to Adjourn for the evening
- ** Commissioner Miranda seconded
- ** Motion passed unanimously

The next regular meeting will be on July 12, 2022.
The Board adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sotonye Otunba-Payne