

CITY OF NEW HAVEN

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICE

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL MEETING

JULY 26, 2022

6:00 p.m.

Held Via:

Zoom Videoconferencing Platform

RE: Consideration and vote on the recommendation from
Chief Jacobson to terminate Officer Christopher Troche,
IA Case #21I-031

Present: Commissioner Evelise Ribeiro, Chair
Commissioners Darrell Brooks, Donald Walker, Isaias
Miranda and Michael Lawlor

Chief Karl Jacobson
Acting Chief Regina Rush-Kittle
Assistant Chief David Zannelli
Assistant Chief Bertram Ettienne
Lieutenant Manmeet Colon
Michelle Duprey, Esq., Corporation Counsel
Officer Florencio Cotto, President, Elm City Local
Floyd Dugas, Esq., Attorney for Officer Troche

Reporter: Theresa Bergstrand, CSR #406

1 (The Special Meeting was called to order at 6:01
2 p.m.)

3
4 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: So it is 6:01 p.m. I am going
5 to call the Special Meeting to order. This is a Special
6 Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners taking
7 place on Tuesday, July 26th, 2022 at 6:00 o'clock p.m.
8 The purpose of this Special Meeting, the agenda, is the
9 consideration and vote on the recommendation from Chief
10 Jacobson to terminate Officer Troche, based on IA case
11 21I-031.

12 My understanding is we have Attorney Dugas on, and,
13 as well as Florencio Cotto, who is with the Union.
14 Before we get into that, just wanted to give the Chief
15 an opportunity to --

16 MS. DUPREY: Commissioner?

17 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: Yes, ma'am? Or should we go
18 straight to the attorney --

19 MS. DUPREY: For the record, can you indicate
20 Commissioners present?

21 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: Thank you for the reminder. So
22 we have a quorum. Commissioner Ribeiro, I am here.
23 Commissioner Walker, Donald Walker; Commissioner Michael
24 Lawlor, Commissioner Darrell Brooks, and Commissioner
25 Isaias Miranda. Commissioner Meares has been excused

1 from the meeting.

2 First I should ask, I know we have an agreement,
3 but are we looking to have this an open session, or an
4 executive session, if there is discussion?

5 MR. DUGAS: Commissioner, my recommendation would
6 be to move into executive session to discuss a personnel
7 matter specifically regarding Officer Troche,
8 Christopher Troche, and I can get into some of the
9 background and details in that executive session.

10 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: Okay. And Mr. Cotto, are you in
11 agreement with that, as the Union President?

12 MR. DUGAS: Commissioner, I can tell you that I
13 communicated with the Union Attorney, Mr. Segar today,
14 and he confirmed that the employee had no objection to
15 this discussion being in executive session.

16 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: Okay. All right. With that
17 being said, then I will entertain a motion to go into
18 executive session for the purposes of personnel issues
19 to discuss the recommendation to terminate Officer
20 Christopher Troche. Is there a motion?

21 MR. WALKER: I'll make a motion that we go into
22 executive session to discuss the termination of Officer
23 Christopher Troche.

24 MR. BROOKS: I'll second that.

25 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: So for our new transcriptionist,

1 that was Commissioner Donald Walker who made the motion,
2 and Commissioner Isaias Miranda with the second -- no
3 sorry, you didn't second? Commissioner Brooks. My
4 apologies. I got it all wrong? I am so sorry.
5 Commissioner Lawlor and Commissioners Brooks.

6 Okay. So with that being said, any discussion?
7 Okay. All those in favor, signify by saying, aye.

8 ALL COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

9 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: Opposed? Motion carries. And I
10 will invite the Chief, Assistant Chief Zannelli,
11 Assistant Chief Ettienne, Lieutenant Colon, certainly
12 the Commissioners, CAO Rush-Kittle, Attorney Dugas and
13 Mr. Cotto and Attorney Duprey.

14 And for those of you, if you, you are more than
15 welcome to stick around, hopefully you do. But if you
16 do decide to leave, please have a pleasant evening.

17
18 (Whereupon the Board went into Executive Session
19 at 6:05 p.m.)
20

21 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: So I will entertain a motion to
22 come out of executive session. Commissioners?

23 MR. MIRANDA: Commissioner Miranda, so moved.

24 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: Okay. Is there a second?

25 MR. LAWLOR: Second, Lawlor.

1 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: Okay. Did you get that -- Ms.
2 Bergstrand?

3 COURT REPORTER: I did. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: Okay. So we have a motion and a
5 second. All those in favor signify by saying, aye.

6 ALL COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

7 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: Abstentions? Motion carried.

8
9 (Whereupon the Board came out of Executive
10 Session at 6:26 p.m.)

11
12 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: Commissioners, we have a
13 recommendation. What is your pleasure?

14 MR. WALKER: I make a motion that we file, act on
15 Chief, Acting Chief Rush-Kittle's and Chief Jacobson's
16 recommendation for termination of Officer Christopher
17 Troche.

18 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: Okay. Before we take a
19 second, if I can, I am not sure if I can actually do it
20 as the Chair, but offer a friendly amendment to accept
21 the agreement, and also exercise our right to terminate
22 Officer Troche. If somebody wants to offer that
23 friendly amendment, since the Chair cannot. Just
24 entertain that --

25 MR. WALKER: I'll offer that amendment. That we --

1 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: Or you can simply rephrase your
2 motion.

3 MR. WALKER: Okay. I'll try and rephrase my
4 motion. I will make a motion that we act on Acting
5 Chief Rush-Kittle's and Chief Jacobson's recommendation
6 for termination of Christopher Troche, as a result of --
7 I am trying to think of the wording --

8 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: Let me entertain a motion, if
9 you don't mind, Commissioner Walker?

10 MR. WALKER: Go ahead.

11 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: So I entertain a motion to
12 accept the waiver --

13 MR. WALKER: The waiver, yes.

14 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: The Waiver Agreement that has
15 been signed and to --

16 MR. WALKER: Act on the recommendation.

17 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: Act on the recommendation of
18 Acting Chief Rush-Kittle and Acting, sorry, Chief
19 Jacobson for termination of Officer Troche.

20 MR. WALKER: Okay. So --

21 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: I'll entertain that.

22 MR. WALKER: Want me to rephrase it again or --

23 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: You can just say, so moved.

24 MR. WALKER: So moved.

25 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: All right. Thank you.

1 Wonderful. Is there a second?

2 MR. BROOKS: Second.

3 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: Ms. Bergstrand, I hope you got
4 that motion, if not, we can certainly restate it for
5 you.

6 So we have a motion and a second. Any, any
7 discussion?

8 MR. LAWLOR: Madam Chair?

9 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: Yes, sir.

10 MR. LAWLOR: So I am relatively new as a member of
11 the Commission, but I am led to believe this is the
12 first time that such an agreement has been presented to
13 the Board, so this is slightly new territory, and I
14 think it is important to point out that there is a
15 factual basis for the termination. We have been briefed
16 on it during the executive session, although I won't go
17 into the details. It also worth noting that there is
18 ongoing public dimensions here, including a pending
19 criminal case at GA23 in New Haven. The arrest
20 warrants, et cetera, are all public information and have
21 been widely available to the members of the public. So
22 I just wanted to be clear, there is a factual basis for
23 this, and I am prepared to cast a vote based on the
24 factual basis, together with this agreement.

25 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: Thank you, Commissioner Lawlor.

1 Anyone else? Okay. Thank you for that clarification.

2 Okay. If there is no further discussion, then I
3 will take a vote and I will do a voice vote. So please
4 state your vote as I call your name.

5 MR. WALKER: Do we have a second?

6 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: We do. I thought we did. Did
7 we not get a second. I thought I heard one -- yes.
8 Okay. Thank you.

9 Okay. So we will call the question, Commission
10 Lawlor?

11 MR. LAWLOR: Yes.

12 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: Commissioner Walker?

13 MR. WALKER: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: Commissioner Brooks?

15 MR. BROOKS: Yes.

16 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: Commissioner Miranda?

17 MR. MIRANDA: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: And I am a yes. So the motion
19 carries to accept the agreement for termination, as well
20 as to accept the recommendation of Chief Kittle and
21 Chief Jacobson for termination. And I just want to just
22 reiterate, as Commissioner Lawlor said, that this was
23 warranted, as far as the Commission is concerned, based
24 on the facts as we are aware that it is definitely
25 public information. So thank you all.

1 There is no further business for this evening, so I
2 will entertain a motion for adjournment.

3 MR. MIRANDA: So moved.

4 MR. BROOKS: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: Okay. So I know Commissioner
6 Miranda moved. Sorry, I didn't catch who seconded.
7 Commission Brooks. Okay. Any further discussion? All
8 in favor signify by saying aye.

9 ALL COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

10 CHAIRMAN RIBEIRO: Opposed? Motion carried. Thank
11 you everyone. Have a great evening.

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13 (Whereupon the Board adjourned at 6:31 p.m.)
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2 STATE OF CONNECTICUT

3 I, THERESA BERGSTRAND, a Licensed Professional
4 Reporter/Commissioner within and for the State of
5 Connecticut, do hereby certify that I took the Special
6 Meeting minutes of the New Haven Board of Police
7 Commissioners, on July 26, 2022 Via Zoom
8 Videoconferencing Platform.

9 I further certify that the within proceeding was
10 taken by me stenographically and reduced to typewritten
11 form under my direction by means of computer assisted
12 transcription; and I further certify that said
13 deposition is a true record of the proceeding.

14 I further certify that I am neither counsel for,
15 related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the
16 action in which this deposition was taken; and further,
17 that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or
18 counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor financially
19 or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

20 WITNESS my hand and seal the 29TH day of July,
21 2022.

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Theresa Bergstrand, CSR.
My commission expires 3/31/2026