

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
AUGUST 9, 2022
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND CONFERENCE CALL VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Commissioners Darrell Brooks (Joined - 6:13 p.m.); Michael Lawlor; Tracey Meares; Isaias Miranda; Evelise Ribeiro; and Donald Walker

Chief Karl Jacobson: Department of Police Service
Assistant Chief Bertram Ettiene: Department of Police Service
Assistant Chief David Zannelli: Department of Police Service
Lieutenant Manmeet Colon: Department of Police Service
Eva Perry-Lambert: Administrative Assistant

Regina Rush-Kittle: Chief Administrative Officer
Michelle Duprey, Esquire: Deputy Corporation Counsel

Lorenzo Boyd
Danuell Declet
Felipe Dias
Joshua Dippini
L. Galvet
Melvin Hernandez
Josh Hurlburt
Frank Kaminiski
Miguel Pittman, Jr. (Queen of Crypto)
Miguel Pittman, Sr.
Leroy Williams
Rodney's iPad

OPEN SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m., Evelise Ribeiro, Chair, presiding
Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that Commissioner Brooks would be joining later.

AGENDA

- ** Commissioner Walker moved the motioned to Amend the Agenda to Remove under Personnel Matters the following: #18 Shaqun John who had withdrawn from the process; #20 Mabel Johnson who had deferred; and #28 Daniel Kennedy who had declined; and to add a subsection, Item No. 2a, to approve #28 Felipe Dias from the Eligibility List No. 21-01
- ** Commissioner Meares seconded
- ** Motion passed unanimously

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Discussion and Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2022
Discussion and Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2022

- ** Commissioner Walker motioned to Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2022 with two corrections
- ** Commissioner Lawlor seconded
- ** Commissioner Meares abstained
- ** Motion passed

- ** Commissioner Walker motioned to Approve the Special Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2022
- ** Commissioner Miranda seconded
- ** Commissioner Meares abstained
- ** Motion passed

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Karl Jacobson

■ Chief Jacobson spoke about the coming events as officers would be present in a protective capacity and for the community. The Puerto Rican Festival has been schedule on Saturday, August `13, 2022 on the Green from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Gospel Festival has been scheduled on August 13, 2022 and August 14, 2022 from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. There will be a service every day at 11:00 a.m. at Goffe Street Park. Bassett Street park will end its six-week basketball tournament. Prior to the championship game, at 3:00 p.m., there will be a NHPD v. NHPD basketball game. This event took place last year. It was very good. The NHPD lost last year. He was hopeful that the NHPD would win this year. He got Chief Austen to commit to playing as well.

■ They wrapped up three listening sessions with the Mayor. Chief Jacobson stated that he would continue such listening sessions with his chiefs moving forward and attend all the CMTs. The listening sessions went very well. The last one was at Hill House and was attended by probably 250 people.

■ The last homicide in the city was on July 18, 2022. Over the last month there have been fatal traffic accidents. It is very concerning. The last such fatal occurrence was on Saturday night, August 6, 2022 which involved a motorcycle and a car. He and his assistant chief are getting together some traffic plans to do some more traffic enforcement and to calm the traffic in the city. It's a serious issue.

■ The Department has been able to have two to four walking beats a night. There have been positive feedback from that. There have been positive stories as a result of the walking beats. He has made a commitment as an administration to have walking beats again which has begun.

■ There have been 73 non-fatal shootings and seven homicides. Last year at the same time there were 70 non-fatal shootings and 18 homicides. He would add the statistics from a few years back at the request of Commissioner Meares. In 2020 there were 62 non-fatal shootings and 14 homicides. In 2019 there were 42 non-fatal shootings and 6 homicides.

■ Chief Jacobson indicated he would add other data during his chief's report as he continues to get into the roll and figure out what the Commission would like to hear.

■ One hundred and fifty-six guns were seized in arrests situations with 31 ghost guns and 135 arrests; 126 guns seized with four ghost guns at the same time last year. The Department is working with its federal partners regarding ghost guns.

■ The new administration had implemented scheduling a chief on duty on the weekends. He is not relinquishing his power to the offer chiefs. It's just a situation where the chief on call on the weekend would be responsible to go out to scenes or if an officer is injured. In addition the chief on weekend duty would go out to community events. This rotation has been successful. All three chiefs like it a lot.

■ Commissioner Meares stated that it was nice to see Chief Jacobson in this role. She appreciated the different sets of data and information that the Chief began with. It is important not to merely have a litany of certain crimes statistics because the job is not just about that.

■ Commissioner Meares asked if there had been any positive call-outs the chief would want to mention about officers. The commissioners have been getting e-mails related to all the kinds of things that people are doing which don't necessarily have to do with arrests that people are mailing. It's her view that it is important not only that that information be shared with the commissioners but also that these officers are lauded in a public forum like the Commission's meetings. She asked if the Chief Jacobson had anything to share.

■ Chief Jacobson replied that he had two e-mails. The first was about a call to 675 Townsend Avenue. The chief read the letter into the record. The second letter from one of the Department's partners in the mental health field was read into the record. This is an example of officers deescalating people and getting them the help they need with no arrests or restraints.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro implored Chief Jacobson to relay the Commission's appreciation. This is exactly what they would like to see, the city's residents and officers being safe during any event or confrontation that may be occurring.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT

Lieutenant Manmeet Colon

IA CASE NO. 21C-077: The complaint was received on October 4, 2021. The complainant filed the complaint with the Office of the Internal Affairs. She complained that Officer Eddy Diaz was always very combative every time he was dispatched to her house for a call. He kept coming to each event whenever an officer was called. And this occurred in the Fair Haven District. The complaint then became accusatory towards her landlord, and she said that the landlord was trying to illegally lock her out. She then ended up complaining and alleged that Officer Diaz used aggressive force and antagonizing verbal language towards her. After a thorough review of the Case Incident Report, the body-worn camera footage that was available and multiple interviews, it appeared that Officer Diaz did not violate any Department policies or procedures. During the course of the investigation Officer Diaz was respectful and patient with the complainant, even at times when she did not comply with the questioning or command, or when he tried to explained things to her and she did not allow him to speak. He even accommodated her and when she claimed injury while being placed in handcuff and tried to make arrangements for someone to pick up her personal belonging prior to her being transported to Detention for further processing. This case was closed as unfounded. A letter was sent to the complainant.

IA CASE NO. 22C-015: The complaint was received on February 17th, 2022. The complainant in this case complained about Officer Hall. In both her written statements and her interview with Captain Dell, the complainant stated that her son, Zachary Fappiano, was killed in a motorcycle accident at the intersection of Whalley Avenue and Orchard Street. She alleged that during Officer Hall's investigation of the fatality he failed to communicate with her regularly and provided inconsistent information when she was reached out to him. She also felt that the investigation was impartial because Zachary was arrested for a hit-and-run accident that occurred in 2019 prior to his fatal accident. Lastly, she was upset that the operator of the van that was involved in her son's fatal accident was not issued an infraction. Captain Dell spoke with the complainant, Fappiano, and also the officer involved in the case. And it was determined that Officer Hall did not commit any misconduct or malfeasance and that the case disposition was solid. This case was closed out as unfounded. And a certified letter was sent to the complainant.

■ Lieutenant Colon highlighted two things regarding the use-of-force report. Taser use is down from last year. The Department is currently at 12. Last year at this time the Department was at 18. Firearm displays are down from last year. The Department is currently at 67. Last year at the same time, the Department was at 71.

■ Commissioner Meares said she had questions about the process regarding the Internal Affairs cases. The first one seemed to take a pretty long time to be closed while the second case was much shorter. She asked, on average how long are the investigations taking?

■ Lieutenant Colon responded by saying that it depends. For example, it could be because the complainant was not reachable. The complainant in the first closed case was incarcerated and had no solid telephone number. The complainants are given time to get back to the investigator with whatever else they would like to present. They try not to rush cases. It could take a few months depending on the situation especially if the complainant is transient.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

- A. #1 Miguel Pittman
- B. #11 Spencer Thomas
- C. #19 Joshua Dippini
- D. #25 Hadiyah Foster
- E. #32 Tyler Nolan

■ Commissioner Ribeiro asked the candidates if they would like to be heard in an open or closed session. She explained what each meant. She asked each candidate what his/her preference was. Each present candidate opted for a closed session. Ms. Hadiyah Foster and Mr. Tyler Nolan were not present. Lieutenant Colon indicated that Ms. Foster and Mr. Nolan had not responded to the Department's communications.

**** Commissioner Walker motioned to go into Executive Session to Discuss Personnel Matters on the Removal of Candidates from the Eligibility List #22-17**

- ** Commissioner Miranda seconded
- ** Motion passed unanimously

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:29 p.m.

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

The Board exited Executive Session at 8:02 p.m.

- ** Commissioner Walker motioned to Remove #1 Miguel Pittman from the Eligibility List 22-17
- ** Commissioner Meares seconded
- ** Motion failed unanimously

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that Mr. Pittman would move forward in the process.

- ** Commissioner Walker motioned to Remove #11 Spencer Thomas from the Eligibility List #22-17
- ** Commissioner Meares seconded
- ** Motion passed unanimously

- ** Commissioner Walker motioned to Remove #19 Joshua Dippini from the Eligibility List #22-17
- ** Commissioner Miranda seconded
- ** Motion failed unanimously

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that Mr. Dippini would move forward on in the process.

- ** Commissioner Walker motioned to Remove #25 Hadiyah Foster from the Eligibility List #22-17
- ** Commissioner Brooks seconded
- ** Motion passed unanimously

- ** Commissioner Walker motioned to Remove #32 Tyler Nolan from the Eligibility List #22-17
- ** Commissioner Miranda seconded
- ** Motion passed unanimously

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

- A. #2 Josh Hulburt
- B. #4 Laura Galvet
- C. #5 Frank Kaminski

- D. #8 Danuell Declet
- E. #20 Marbel Thompson
- F. #21 Dave Mansingh
- G. #28 Daniel Kennedy
- H. #31 Melvin Hernandez

** Commissioner Meares motioned to Remove #28 Daniel Kennedy and #20 Marbel Thompson from the Eligibility List #22-17, and to hire the following candidates from the Eligibility List #22-17:

- A. #2 Josh Hulburt
- B. #4 Laura Galvet
- C. #5 Frank Kaminski
- D. #8 Danuell Declet
- E. #21 Dave Mansingh
- F. #31 Melvin Hernandez

** Commissioner Miranda seconded
** Motion passed unanimously

■ Commissioner Lawlor stated that he and Commissioner Miranda had the pleasure to interview these candidates. He did not want to speak for Commissioner Miranda. He was extremely impressed. The Department is very fortunate to get these candidates. It is another good group of people.

■ Commissioner Miranda concurred.

2a. Discussion and action on the recommendation to hire the following candidate from Eligibility List #22-1:

- A. #28 Felipe Dias

** Commissioner Walker motioned to hire #28 Felipe Dias from the Eligibility List #22-1
** Commissioner Brooks seconded
** Motion passed unanimously

■ Commissioner Ribeiro congratulated the new hires.

3. Chief Jacobson is requesting by the Board of Police Commissions to send 31 Conditional Offers of employment for the position of Police Officer from Eligibility List #22-17.

** Commissioner Walker motioned to vote on the Chief's recommendation to send 31 Conditional Offers of employment for the position of Police Officer from Eligibility List #21-17
** Commissioner Brooks seconded

■ Commissioner Ribeiro asked if the 31 conditional offers would exhaust the list. Lieutenant Colon responded by saying that it would.

** Motion passed unanimously

RETIREMENTS (For Board information only)

There were none.

RESIGNATION (For Board information only)

There were none.

RECRUITMENT/SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Lieutenant Manmeet Colon

■ Lieutenant Colon stated that the application period opened up on August 1st, 2022. The deadline for the application period is September 2nd, 2022. All of the applications are on the police app. The team has been attending recruitment events. There are a few events coming up. The Department has a Zoom information session scheduled for Thursday, August 11, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. The information has been posted on the website. It will also be posted on the Department's social media.

■ There is a recruitment event at the Puerto Rican Festival this coming weekend. There is also another event scheduled at the St. Bernadette Church on Thursday, August 11, 2022 and Friday, August 12, 2022.

EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE REPORT

There was none.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

There was none.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

■ Commissioner Brooks thanked Assistant Chief Zannelli and CAO Regina Rush-Kittle for coming their groundbreaking event for Affordable Housing unit that is being done here in the City of New Haven. Affordable Housing and Community Development stabilizes community, reduces crime and supports communities to thrive and to do well. He thanked the New Haven Police Department for being a part of that and celebrating that with them. greet the Board

■ Mr. Rodney Williams stated that he would first of all like to say that he appreciated sitting in that evening. It reminded him of moving around and moving around in an attempt to make everything line up. And tonight it just seemed like everything is lining up. It took years for the ceiling to be broken. He felt like these officers coming on tonight are going to be one of many that in this city that's going to change this police force.

■ Mr. Williams further thanked the commission for doing what they did tonight. He believes in these young men. This is what is needed in our city. Nobody is perfect. But the truth is when you look at this Department, a lot of people got on and we didn't know how they got on and we got a lot of lawsuits. It seems like a lot of the city's residents always for some reason or another didn't get on. He would tell the Commission, thank you. It's about the future. And when you pick these kids from these communities, it's like a beacon light. The rest of these kids that want to become cops that never thought that they could become cops, now they know that they can. They can because you guys took the time and really looked at these kids. And I want to thank you for that. I appreciate it.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro thanked Mr. Williams for his comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

** **Commissioner Meares motioned to Enter Executive Session for Legal and Internal Affairs Matters.**

** **Commissioner Walker seconded**

** **Motion passed unanimously**

■ Chief Jacobson congratulated the new hires.

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:10 p.m.

** **Commissioner Meares motioned to Exit Executive Session**

** **Commissioner Brooks seconded**

** **Motion passed unanimously**

The Board exited Executive Session at 8:23 p.m.

■ Commissioner Miranda stated that he enjoyed meeting the new candidates and being able to sit with them and interview them, and to be able to recognize them when they are out on the streets. However, that last interview session was very long. So, he would just like to ask for a little bit of help, if possible. He has no problem doing interviews if he had to because he enjoys Commissioner Lawlor's company as well. However, if they are able to get one or two more commissioners on board, it would make things a lot easier.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that ideally they would have get two commissioners to join this team. She asked staff to work this out even if it's something that could be split over a two-day period if there are a lot of candidates. She expressed her gratitude that Commissioners Lawlor and Miranda vetted these candidates.

■ Commissioner Meares added that she had been on vacation during the vetting process. If there could be as much advanced notice even it's provisional, just because her schedule is crazy. If she gets the heads up that this would be scheduled, she would try to be available.

■ Commissioner Walker indicated that he would normally be available, but he was on vacation the previous week as well.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** Commissioner Miranda moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting
- ** Commissioner Meares seconded
- ** Motion passed unanimously

The next regular meeting will be on September 13, 2022.
The Board adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sotonye Otunba-Payne