

**REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 13, 2022
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT
*VIDEOCONFERENCE AND CONFERENCE CALL VIA ZOOM***

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

Chief Karl Jacobson: Department of Police Service
Assistant Chief Bertram Ettiene: Department of Police Service
Sergeant Yelena Borisova: Department of Police Service
Sergeant Carr: Department of Police Service
Sergeant Paul Finch: Department of Police Service
Officer D. Cohen: Department of Police Service
Officer McGlotten: Department of Police Service
Eva Perry-Lambert: Administrative Assistant

Bruce Fischer: Transportation, Traffic & Parking

Chief Anthony Campbell: Yale Police Department
Michelle Duprey, Esquire: Deputy Corporation Counsel
Regina Rush-Kittle: Chief Administrative Officer
Marshal Segar, Esquire: Counsel for the Elm City Local

Macin Adamkiewicz
Deb Benedetto-Sharp
Brandon Bright
Joshua Dippini
John O'Donoghue
Cooper Ehring
Daniel Hunt
Miguel Pittman, Sr.
Mrs. Young

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

The Traffic Authority meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m., Evelise Ribeiro, Chair presiding.

Following the regular meeting of the Traffic Authority, Mr. Fischer excused himself at 6:23 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

The Regular Session meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners was called to order at 6:23 p.m., Evelise Ribeiro, Chair, presiding.

Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that Commissioner Meares would be joining the meeting later on.

AGENDA

- ** Commissioner Walker motioned to approve the Agenda for September 13, 2022
- ** Commissioner Lawlor seconded
- ** Motion passed unanimously

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Discussion and Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 9 2022
Discussion and Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of August 15, 2022
Discussion and Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2022

- ** Commissioner Walker moved the motion to Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 9, 2022
- ** Commissioner Brooks seconded
- ** Motion passed unanimously

- ** Commissioner Brooks moved the motion to Approve the Special Meeting Minutes of August 15, 2022
- ** Commissioner Walker seconded
- ** Motion passed unanimously

- ** Commissioner Walker moved the motion to Approve the Special Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2022
- ** Commissioner Brooks seconded
- ** Motion passed unanimously

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that as all could see, there were three meeting minutes for August. She thanked all the commissioners and staff for making the time to be present at all three meetings.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Karl Jacobson

- Chief Jacobson began by greeting the commissioners and members of the public present.
- Chief Jacobson indicated that there was a recent CRB (Civilian Review Board) decision about Internal Affairs as it relates to Officer Mark Salvati. He had publicly spoken about the decision.
- On September 26, 2022 he will be joining CRB. The CRB had given him a list of recommendations which he will get over to the commissioners so they can look at them as well. His purpose is to work together with the CRB and the commissioners. There is nothing wrong with the way the commission does things. However, the CRB has to be timely in its decision making. The CRB had expressed that they want to do that.
- Chief Jacobson indicated that he would sit down with CRB to put together a timeline. He would also be touching base with the commissioners as well to make ensure that all are

working together and that their suggestions are getting to him in a timely manner so he could weigh in on those decisions.

■ The Department has released the video from the incident on its social media and with a full explanation of the incident. It is even narrated by Captain Rose Dell. It's a pretty good explanation. There are some graphic stuff in there. If anybody would like to watch the video, it's on the Department's social media.

■ There have been 83 non-fatal shootings and 8 homicides to date in 2022. At the same time last year there were 82 non-fatal shootings and 22 homicides. So, we are moving in the right direction.

■ There are some very good cases going forward at the State's Attorney's Office related to homicides. So, he hopes they have some good news related to some of those cases.

■ The officers are working very hard.

■ There have been 179 guns seized at this point in the year with 37 ghost guns. Last year at the same time there were 133 guns seized with five ghost guns. He attributed the hard work to some of the reduction in violence.

■ The Department is also doing tons of custom notifications. The Department is prepared for its next call-in for Project Longevity. They did do a Project Safe Neighborhood call-in which was very well attended. Twenty-seven people attended this event. There were numerous social service agencies that offered jobs, college, etc. It was a very well put-together function. He will make sure the commissioners are getting those dates for the next call-in events.

■ Two more officers would be sent to POST on September 23, 2022. It is not as many as the Department would like. However, there were some snafus. They will go over some of that later.

■ When he became chief, he said that there would be walking beats. As promised, there are approximately four to five walking beats in the city every night. This is going very well. He often gets pictures from community members who take pictures of themselves with the walking beat officers and then send them to him. It has helped reduce crime in the areas in the city where these officers are. The goal is to have 10 walking beats every night when the Department reaches is appropriate level.

■ They have been out in the community a lot. They have had events such as Coffee with a Cop. The FTOs are putting together an event called Cookie with a Cop. The union had a book-bag giveaway and several district managers had giveaways as well. Chief Jacobson thanked his assistant chiefs. Chief Jacobson went on to say that if he is not out in the community, his assistant chiefs are out in the community or they are all out in the community as well as the officers. The officers are enjoying the community engagement. It's going quite well.

■ Chief Jacobson indicated he and Assistant Chief Zannelli would be hitting all the CMTs (Community Management Teams) over the next few months with the goal of helping to reestablish CMTs and to get those CMTs going again.

■ The PAL Golf Tournament at Grassy Hills in Orange has been scheduled on October 10, 2022. PAL is a big part of the Department's administration. They want to restart PAL (Police Activity League) and get PAL funded. Everything they have been thinking about money-wise is funding for PAL, and getting this kids' league back up. A few more officers have been put on SRO (School Resource Officer) and are assisting with PAL. The five SROs will be assisting the Youth Bureau from the city who are having a concert on the September 15, 2022 Downtown. Chief Campbell, who was present, would assist the Department with the concert

and security after the concert. He thanked Chief Campbell. The Department is doing a lot of things and moving forward.

■ He did have a few letters from the community thanking officers.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro asked if these were letters Assistant Chief Zannelli sent to the commissioners.. Chief Jacobson replied by saying yes.

■ Chief Jacobson went on to read one of these letters. The officer took the time to calm someone who was facing one of the worst days of her life. This was a good letter. There are several other letters. He would send them by e-mail to the commissioners.

■ Commissioner Meares said Chief Jacobson had mentioning restarting something. She asked if it was post-COVID or if it was an issue of some strategies that have not been acted on even before COVID.

■ Chief Jacobson replied by saying that COVID kind of took the youth leagues out. However, the Department also had a reduction in personnel so the Department did not have anybody working on the PAL program full time. They still do not have a full-time person. They now have the SROs and the SRO sergeant working on the PAL program.

■ His vision it so make PAL a full-time entity within the Department with a sergeant for PAL and a sergeant for the SRO, a lieutenant for that division, a Youth Bureau. Of course, this is something he has to negotiate with the union for new programs like that. So, he summarized by saying that that this was due to a little bit of COVID, restarting from COVID, but also starting all again under his administration where he would like more resources put into it full time.

■ Commissioner Meares thanked Chief Jacobson for his response.

■ Commissioner Meares added that the commissioners did receive all of those letters. It was her hope that each month there would be way too many to read. She encouraged Chief Jacobson and his staff to figure out a way, if the letters are not being read, to publicly shout out the names of all of the officers in some way. Chief Jacobson had mentioned social media. As Chief Jacobson had said, it's common for people to get kudos doing a certain type of work. But this is the kind of work that is critical to building a bedrock of a strong agency. She thought that it was important that the public be able to see those people too, if only their names.

■ Chief Jacobson responded by saying that he agreed.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro said that the Awards Committee had starting look at this pre-COVID. She asked Chief Jacobson if he thought that was something they could start up again because those are always good events. There has been a backlog from the past few years of not actually honoring first responders and police officers. She asked if this was something they could start up again. She thought it was very important that when officers do a good job, they are recognized.

■ Chief Jacobson replied by stating that he and his assistant chiefs had spoken about restarting the Awards Committee which is the entity wherein officers would be appointed from every rank and area of the Department to put together an awards ceremony. This is definitely one of the things they want to do.

■ Chief Jacobson said he had misspoken earlier on about the body-worn camera footage having been uploaded on social media. They are awaiting approval from State's Attorney Jack Doyle because it is an active police case. So, as soon as the state's attorney gives his approval, hopefully, by September 14, 2022, the video would be uploaded. He encouraged everyone to watch it. It is very informative. It shows a live body-worn camera footage of the incident.

■ Commissioner Walker added that not only did COVID decimated both staffs that worked on PAL, it decimated the Board of Directors for PAL. So, they are actually trying to recruit more

people to revive the Board of Directors for PAL so decisions could be made and to move forward and function in a way that they did before. Actually, the goal is do more things than were done before. However, more bodies are needed.

■ Chief Jacobson indicated that that was good pitch for the Department. They are hoping to have an ad hoc board meeting in October and try to get some new members on the board and have a full board meeting in November was well.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro asked about the traffic plans. They had spoken last month about a traffic plan to reduce the number of accidents involving vehicles and pedestrians and fatalities. She asked for an update regarding this matter.

■ Chief Jacobson responded by saying that they had expanded that to the street racing. There was a real bad weekend with the noise where people were blasting speakers over the Sound. So, the Department is still working on that. He has the individual district managers working on individual plans for each of their districts and then one major plan for the Department. It is not complete yet.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro thanked Chief Jacobson. She further stated that it was great to see his vision come to light along with the assistant chiefs' visions, and all the good things he is doing. She just wanted to say, keep up the good work and moving in that direction.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT

Sergeant Carr

■ Sergeant Carr indicated that she was present in Lieutenant Colon's stead.

■ She indicated that presently there were 58 cases. Forty-five of those cases are still under investigation. Last year at the same time, there were 68 cases. They are down about 10 cases. Hopefully, it stays this way.

■ There are four cases this month. She know there is a time restraint this evening so if she is giving too much details, the commissioners should let her know. If there are questions, the commissioners should let her know

IA CASE NO. 22C-005: The first case came in on January 17, 2022. The complainant filed a civil complaint against Officer Rivelini stating that he failed to make an arrest under Case No. 21-43528. The complainant stated that two females damaged her residence. They came to her house and they tried to fight her. Initially, she didn't have any suspect information. Later on, after her complaint, the district manager as well as the officer went to her house, and she said that she did have some footage through Facebook. That footage was not enough to identify the suspect. A warrant was done and sent to court. Th warrant was denied. So, the case was closed on August 16, 2022. And the disposition was unfounded.

IA CASE NO. 22C-011: This was an anonymous complaint. It was against Officer Manganiello as well as the Animal Shelter. The anonymous complainant e-mailed a civil complaint to the Office of Internal Affairs. The complaint alleged that there was a sick cat and there were other cats that weren't being taken care of, and that they died. The complainant alleged that two other cats died due to the lack of medical care. The complainant also alleged that there has been a problem since the officer became a supervisor at the shelter, and alleged that animals would come dead on scene when in fact the animals died being at the shelter and

not getting the medical care. As a result of the allegations, this complaint was assigned to Captain Dell to investigate.

Captain Dell spoke with the officer that is in charge there and the other Animal Shelter staff. Captain Dell also reviewed the shelter and the vet records of all animals that were kept at the shelter. She did, however, address multiple deficiencies that were found during her investigation. She made several recommendations to the staff as well as the officer that is assigned to the shelter, specifically, improvements of record keeping. Captain Dell also counseled Officer Manganiello on implementing these changes, and he said that he understood. So, as of August 17, 2022 the complaint was closed. The disposition was a summary action.

IA CASE NO. 22C-038: The complaint was received on May 23rd, 2022. The complainant filed a complaint with the Office of Internal Affairs. She indicated that her complaint and her allegations were never followed up on. So, she made a fraud investigation complaint with Officer Testa on October 6, 2021. Officer Testa was the initial officer who told the complainant that someone from the Detective Bureau would be following up with her complaint. Usually, that's what happens with certain criteria. So, it was found Officer Testa did indicate and did forward the crime up to the Financial Crimes Unit. But the complainant told Lieutenant Colon that she never attempted to contact Officer Testa about her case. She only attempted to contact Sergeant Alvarado by leaving him three separate messages on his voicemail, but more in regards to the criminal complaint. She was less interested in her civilian complaint about what actually she wrote what Officer Testa didn't do. The conversation between Lieutenant Colon and the complainant was recorded and uploaded to the evidence.com. Chief Ettiennne may be able to speak more to this. But he spoke to Sergeant Alvarado about the complaint and the voicemails that were left. Sergeant Alvarado was apologetic about not picking up his phone calls. He explained that he primarily uses his departmental cell phone for confidential informants. He was issued an oral reprimand and counseled about the importance of checking his voicemails.

Regarding Officer Testa, he merely documented the complainant's criminal complaint and did not investigate it before forwarding it up to Financial Crimes. He did make an attempt to follow-up with the suspect. Lieutenant Rosa who is Officer Testa's District Manger spoke with him. Officer Testa was counseled on furthering his initial investigation and making an attempt to reach out to the suspect.

Based on the information gathered from the complainant, Sergeant Alvarado and Officer Testa, there is no indication that serious misconduct occurred.

IA CASE NO. 22I-016: This complaint was received on February 26, 2022. The complainant is the now-retired Interim Chief Renee Dominguez. The complaint involved Officer Troche. On February 28, 2022 Chief Dominguez ordered an Internal Investigation into a potential criminal incident involving Officer Christopher Troche. It should be noted that at the time of the incident that Officer Troche was on paid administrative leave for criminal and administrative charges on a previous IA matter. As a result of the previous IA investigation, Officer Testa (sic) was terminated on July 26th, 2022. However, in February 2022 he was still a police officer.

On February 26, 2022, Lawrence PD, Massachusetts notified a Shift Commander at the time, Sergeant Roberts, that Officer Troche was involved in an incident in his jurisdiction. According to the police report, Troche called Lawrence PD to report a welfare check on an individual who was his ex-girlfriend. The officers met with the ex-girlfriend and she told them Troche hacked her social media account and posted a nude photo without her permission. She also inquired about getting a restraining order against then-Officer Troche. There was no violence or threats of violence reported to Lawrence PD. Lawrence PD spoke with Officer Troche at the time. He denied all allegations. No charges were filed by Lawrence PD against then-Officer Troche.

It was documented in a police report that his ex-girlfriend told him Troche used his position as a police officer against her, but it was not clear how so. So, Sergeant Fennessy reached out to the then-complainant. And the complainant made several interview attempts but she did not come in for any of them. They had probably about an hour conversation that Sergeant Carr was present. She said she would come in for the interviews, but she never followed through with that.

It was determined that there would be no criminal charges pursued against Troche because they did not have a cooperating complainant. Based upon available information and the ex-girlfriend's lack of cooperation, there was no evidence to support that any departmental policies were violated by Troche. So, the disposition was unfounded. And the case was closed on August 21st, 2022.

■ Commissioner Meares inquired about the case involving the Animal Shelter where there was some education on how to run that place. She asked if it is the Department's policy or process just to have a follow-up on something like that which is not about an individual case of wrongdoing necessarily, but just more about how the different departments in the institution run. She asked if a check-up would be done.

■ Sergeant Carr replied by saying that she thought there should be a follow-up because the complaint came in. So, if there happens to be serious misconduct with animals down the line, it would look as though the Department did not do its due diligence. Although, this may not be something they normally do, she thought the Department should look into it.

■ Assistant Chief Jacobson added by saying that there would be a follow-up down the road to make sure that everything is going as planned. They should be doing that in all their divisions, but definitely when a problem is brought to their attention.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro thanked Sergeant Carr.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

1. Discussion and action on the recommendation from Chief Anthony Campbell, Yale Police Department, to hire the following candidates to the Yale Police Department:

- A. John O'Donoghue Jr.
- B. Marie Liquori

■ Commissioner Ribeiro asked for a motion on the recommendation by Chief Campbell.

■ Commissioner Miranda stated that he had the pleasure to sit with Commissioner Walker and interview John O'Donoghue and Marie Liquori. And at least speaking for himself, and he is sure Commissioner Walker, it was very pleasant to speak to these two individuals. They believe that Yale has made a win with these two individuals. At one point he asked them both why not New Haven and why Yale. There are no hard feelings, Chief.

** Commissioner Miranda motioned to act on the recommendation from Chief Campbell of the Yale Police Department to hire both candidates John O'Donoghue and Marie Liquori

** Commissioner Brooks seconded

■ Chief Campbell stated that both of these candidates are excellent candidates. John is already a certified police officer and has been doing this for about nine years, excellent work. He had started some innovative programs really dealing with people who have special needs and focusing on special needs awareness. I think that's very important especially in the mental health states that they experience with students and with many people in our community today.

■ And Marie really came highly recommended by many people who are former New Haven officers who worked with her at Yale New Haven Hospital. He thought she would be a great new addition to the police department.

■ One thing he wanted to correct in the letter that went to Chief Jacobson requesting appointment for Marie Liquori is the statement that she had been married for 27 years. Given the fact that she is 30 years old, that is not correct.

■ Commissioner Meares indicated that she was wondering about that.

■ Chief Campbell indicated that Marie Liquori had been married for five years with two beautiful girls.

■ Chief Campbell further stated that one of the commitments he had made to this Department is really their commitment to thirty by thirty, hiring more women. He thought that Marie Liquori would be a great addition.

** Motion passed unanimously

■ The candidates were congratulated.

■ Chief Campbell thanked the commissioners.

■ Commissioner Meares thanked the commissioners who conducted the interviews.

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

A. #19 Joshua Dippini

B. #37 Brandon Bright

C. #46 Marcin Adamkiewicz

■ Commissioner Ribeiro explained what an open and a closed session meant. She asked each candidate what his/her preference was. Each of the three candidates opted for a closed session.

** **Commissioner Brooks motioned to go into Executive Session to Discuss Personnel**

Matters

- ** **Commissioner Walker seconded**
- ** **Motion passed unanimously**

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:57 p.m.

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

The Board exited Executive Session at 8:12 p.m.

- ** Commissioner Walker motioned to act on the Chief's Recommendation to Remove Candidate Joshua Dippini from the Eligibility List #22-17
- ** Commissioner Miranda seconded
- For: None
- Against: Commissioners Brooks, Lawlor, Meares, Miranda, Walker
- ** Motion failed unanimously

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated the motion failed and that Mr. Dippini would move forward in the process.

- ** Commissioner Walker motioned to act on the Chief's Recommendation to Remove Candidate Brandon Bright from the Eligibility List #22-17
- ** Commissioner Miranda seconded
- For: None
- Against: Commissioners Brooks, Lawlor, Meares, Miranda and Walker
- ** Motion failed unanimously

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that the motion failed and that Brandon Bright would move forward in the process.

- ** Commissioner Walker recommended that the Board Table the Recommendation to Remove Candidate Marcin Adamkiewicz from the Eligibility List #22-17

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that this was being tabled pending further information and verification.

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

3. Discussion and possible action on the recommendation from Chief Karl Jacobson to hire the following candidate from the Eligibility List #22-17, including possible Executive Session pursuant to Conn. Genl. Stat § 1-200(6)(A) concerning appointment or employment of a public official or employee:

A. Rank #36 Cooper Ehring

- ** Commissioner Walker motioned to act on the Chief's recommendation to hire Candidate Cooper Ehring from the Eligibility List #22-17
- ** Commissioner Meares seconded

- Commissioner Lawlor noted that the candidate is a graduate of the University of New Haven.
- Commissioner Ribeiro added that commissioners had the opportunity to interview the candidate. They are pleased with the candidate.

** Motion passed unanimously

- Mr. Ehring was congratulated.

4. Approval and vote for two conditional offers from Police Lateral Eligibility Lis #22-40 (list attached).

- A. Stephen Perry
- B. Musa Chukadze

- ** Commissioner Miranda motioned to approve the conditional offers from the Police Lateral Eligibility List #22-40
- ** Commissioner Brooks seconded
- ** Motion passed unanimously

RETIREMENTS (For Board information only)

There were none.

RESIGNATION (For Board information only)

Officer Alan Nevells, effective August 31, 2022

■ Chief Jacobson indicated that this resignation took them by surprise too. This young man went through the academy, and was in his field training. There were no issues with his field training. He just resigned stating that it wasn't the job that he thought it would be. Also, in the paragraph at the end, he stated that he was afraid of being held over and whatnot. However, he was one of 20 people who were about to get off FTO in October. So, there are enough people to get held over. So, he was very shocked by this but respects his decision if it is not the job for him. It is better than getting himself or anybody else hurt. There were no red flags. There might be another candidate who would do the same thing. The thing is the candidates finish their training and get certified, they could transfer somewhere else in a couple of years. Basically, this guy is resigning before completing his training. So, he will never be POST certified. So, if he were to start with another department or this Department, he would have to start over. They will speak to all individuals being trained. An exit interview would be conducted with him to try to figure out what he was thinking.

■ Commissioner Brooks said it was good to hear he is not POST certified where he would have under his belt being a New Haven officer and then transfer into another agency.

■ Chief Jacobson said that would not be the situation with Mr. Nevells. He should have stuck it out at least a year to finish up so he could have the opportunity to go somewhere else. He does not even have that. He decided against making policing his career.

RECRUITMENT/SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Sergeant Paul Finch

■ Sergeant Finch indicated that the Department ended up with 329 applications on September 2nd 2022. It is a lower number than the previous year of 523 applications. There are 249 applicants moving forward to the physical agility test. Eighty of them already have chip cards so that is why they do not have to take the physical agility test. Currently, there are only 125 scheduled that have indicated they are going to show up on Saturday to take the test. The hope is that this number improves as they move forward.

■ There are 46 files left from the Eligibility List. There are 22 open files right now. That will leave 24 files left that are unopened yet by the investigators.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro thanked Sergeant Finch.

EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE REPORT

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that there is some work that will make its way to this committee, a couple of General Orders, that will need to be reviewed and approved. The staff will probably contact the commissioners for their availability and the best way to address these including the possibility of bringing at least one, if not all, to the October Board meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that everyone should have received a copy of the overtime report. If the commissioners are not getting them consistently, they should make this known so they can ensure that the commissioners are getting these reports.

■ There didn't appear to be anything unusual concerning the overtime report.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro further stated that she had reached out to Alyssa Ebbson regarding getting a budget to actual report every month. So, she is reaching out to Mike Gormany. So, they tried to work on that and to get the Finance Committee up and running so there could be regular reporting every month.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

■ Commissioner Ribeiro asked if there was a reason to go into executive session.

■ Attorney Duprey said not from her. She had sent out the report the previous day.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro asked the staff is there was any reason to go into executive session.

■ Chief Jacobson replied that there were some IA stuff that could wait until the October meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** Commissioner Brooks moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting
- ** Commissioner Walker seconded
- ** Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Ribeiro thanked everyone for a very productive evening.
The next regular meeting will be on October 11, 2022.
The Board adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sotonye Otunba-Payne