

CITY OF NEW HAVEN

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICE
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS



MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2023
6:05 p.m.

HELD VIA: ZOOM

Present:

Commissioner Evelise Ribeiro, Chair
Commissioner Donald Walker, Vice Chair
Commissioners Darrell Brooks,
Isaias Miranda, Michael Lawlor

Karl Jacobson, Chief
David Zannelli, Assistant Chief
Bruce Fischer, Traffic and Parking
Eva Perry-Lambert, Administrative Assistant
Bertram Ettienne, Assistant Chief
Sergeant Paul Finch
Lieutenant Manmeet Colon
Anthony Campbell, Chief Yale Police Department
Michelle Duprey, Esq.,
Deputy Corporation Counsel

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1 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: It is 6:05
2 p.m., and I will call to order the meeting. For the
3 record, in attendance this evening is myself,
4 Commissioner Ribeiro. We have Commissioner Lawlor,
5 Commissioner Walker, Commissioner Brooks, and
6 Commissioner Miranda. Commissioner Meares will not be
7 at the meeting this evening.

8 I hope everyone had a good holiday
9 weekend, and we'll start by entertaining approval for
10 the agenda for the traffic authority.

11 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: So moved.

12 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Second, Madam
13 Chair.

14 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: We have a
15 motion and a second for approval of the agenda. Is
16 there any questions? Okay.

17 All those in favor, signify by
18 saying aye.

19 (All in favor.)

20 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Opposed?
21 Abstentions? Motion carried.

22 Is Bruce Fischer here? I don't see
23 him right now, though.

24 MR. FISCHER: I'm here.

25 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Bruce, I'm

1 just going to share my screen. Before we do that, Ava,
2 we need to approve the minutes.

3 Commissioners, I'd like to entertain
4 the motion to approve the regular meeting minutes on
5 November 15, 2022.

6 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: So moved.

7 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Second.

8 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: That was
9 Commissioner Miranda and Brooks again.

10 If you guys identify yourself. We
11 have a new transcriptionist this evening. Debbie,
12 welcome. I'm not sure she is familiar with you all, so
13 it would help if you please identify yourselves when
14 making the motions and the seconds.

15 So who made the motion?

16 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Commissioner
17 Miranda moved it.

18 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Who seconded?

19 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Commissioner
20 Brooks, second.

21 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Thank you,
22 sir. Any discussion? Okay. All those in favor,
23 please signify by saying aye.

24 (All in favor.)

25 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Opposed?

1 Abstentions? Motion carried. Thank you.

2 So now I'll turn it over to Bruce.

3 MR. FISCHER: Very short agenda
4 today. We're just going to ask for the action on the
5 ADA spaces that are listed here. We have ten requests
6 for new handicap spaces. I can read them off, if you'd
7 like. Would you like me to go through them?

8 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: No, I think
9 that's fine. We see them.

10 MR. FISCHER: We have a request to
11 rescind three spaces in front of two different
12 locations. And those are there, too. The request for
13 ten new ones and to rescind three.

14 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Okay.
15 Commissioners, what is your pleasure on Item A and B?

16 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Can I just
17 have a question, Madam Chair?

18 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Absolutely.

19 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: The requests,
20 I get that, but where do these requests come from?

21 MR. FISCHER: These requests come
22 directly from the permit holders, sometimes with an
23 additional request from the Alder. Actually, the ones
24 for the removal have several requests from Alders. But
25 the applicants are normally the persons holding the

1 permit or their caretaker.

2 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Got it. I'm
3 just curious, do you verify that they actually do have
4 a permit and things like that, or how does that work?

5 MR. FISCHER: They send us in the
6 information on an application. It's very difficult to
7 actually verify all of that. We put the signs in, and
8 the people who park there have to have permits, so
9 the -- they're self-enforcing in the neighborhood. So
10 if the signs go in and nobody uses them, we get a lot
11 of complaints and, you know, there -- the spaces in the
12 neighborhoods are used. So one way or the other, they
13 work out.

14 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Got it. Okay.
15 Thanks.

16 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Anything else?

17 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Madam Chair,
18 can I ask a question of Bruce?

19 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: What's the
21 process of removal of a handicap sign?

22 MR. FISCHER: That's extremely
23 difficult. The usual way that it works is that a
24 person moves out and they don't tell us that they've
25 left, and the handicap space becomes a nuisance in the

1 neighborhood. The neighbors call us and tell us that
2 the people have left, and we wind up in a position
3 where we can't verify that there's no longer a handicap
4 person there. So we'll remove the sign and if the
5 person is still living there, we'll go back and put the
6 sign back.

7 Sometimes a neighbor will get the --
8 for instance, this 76 Nicoll Street, the Alders become
9 involved, and two different residents, this is an
10 apartment building, moved out, never notified us that
11 they were moving, and in some cases the residents are
12 very responsible and tell us that they're leaving, and
13 they notify us in advance that they're leaving and
14 we'll take the signs down. However, these people left
15 and didn't tell us and the neighbors let us know. So
16 it's very difficult to track down and keep track of
17 what happens until the neighborhood gets involved.

18 We probably have a certain
19 percentage of these signs that the original person that
20 requested them no longer lives there. However, other
21 people use them, so they don't become a problem because
22 there are a certain percentage of people that are
23 reliant upon these spaces, and they don't become an
24 issue until no one uses them, and then the people
25 within the neighborhood get together and let us know.

1 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Okay. Any
2 other questions, Commissioners? What is your pleasure?

3 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: I'll move we
4 approve the requests for these ten spaces to be
5 reserved for persons with handicapped stickers.

6 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I'll second
7 that.

8 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: It was moved
9 by Commissioner Lawlor and seconded by Commissioner
10 Walker. Just for clarification, Commissioner Lawlor,
11 are you taking Item A and B together or you're taking
12 them separately?

13 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: I can amend my
14 motion, if it's acceptable, to include both A and B,
15 including the ones we're proposing to rescind to the
16 two items, that total of three spaces to be rescinded.
17 So everything together.

18 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: We have a
19 motion by Commissioner Lawlor and a second by
20 Commissioner Walker. Any further discussion? Okay.
21 All in favor signify by saying aye.

22 (All in favor.)

23 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Those opposed?
24 Any abstentions? Thank you. I just entertain -- thank
25 you, Bruce. That was a very light agenda. I

1 appreciate it.

2 We can now entertain a motion for
3 adjournment from the Traffic Authority meeting.

4 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: So moved.

5 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Second.

6 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: We have
7 Commissioner Brooks and Commissioner Miranda. All
8 those in favor signify by saying aye.

9 (All in favor.)

10 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Opposed?
11 Abstentions? Motion carried. We're adjourned from
12 traffic at 6:14 p.m.

13 We now call the Board of Police
14 Commissioners meeting at 6:15 p.m. I'll entertain a
15 motion for approval of the agenda for the Board of
16 Police Commissioners meeting.

17 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I'll make a
18 motion that we approve the agenda for the Board of
19 Police Commissioners meeting on February 21, 2023.

20 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Commissioner
21 Brooks seconds that motion.

22 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: I just wanted
23 to note for the record that this is our regular
24 meeting. We adjourned the regular meeting on Tuesday
25 February 14th for lack of a quorum, and we are

1 adjourning to this evening, Tuesday, February 21st. So
2 for the record, this is our regular meeting. So we
3 have a motion and a second. Any discussion? Okay.
4 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

5 (All in favor.)

6 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Opposed?
7 Abstentions? Motion is carried.

8 For the record, the attendance
9 remains the same for the Police Commissioner's meeting,
10 as well. I will entertain a motion for an approval for
11 the regular meeting minutes of January 10, 2023.

12 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I make a
13 motion that we approve the minutes from the January
14 meeting.

15 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Do I hear a
16 second?

17 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Commissioner
18 Brooks seconds that motion.

19 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Any
20 discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

21 (All in favor.)

22 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Opposed?
23 Abstentions? The motion is carried, and I'll entertain
24 a motion or approval of the special meeting minutes of
25 January 26, 2023.

1 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Commissioner
2 Miranda moves that.

3 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Commissioner
4 Brooks seconds that motion.

5 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Any
6 discussions? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

7 (All in favor.)

8 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Those opposed
9 signify by saying nay. Abstentions? Motion is
10 carried. Thank you, Commissioners.

11 We will move forward with the
12 Chief's report. Chief, I think I see you. There you
13 go. How are you, sir?

14 CHIEF JACOBSON: Good evening,
15 everybody. I was having some problem with the
16 internet. So I wanted to start off, I know we had
17 talked at length in the past about diversity and my
18 plan to put diversity through the ranks, and we have an
19 open house March 5th at 4 p.m. for our cadet program.
20 This is March 5th at 4 p.m. at 200 Wintergreen Avenue
21 where we're going to offer people to come in and talk
22 about the cadet program. So I wanted to, real quickly,
23 if I had the ability to share my screen, give a quick
24 presentation on the cadet program. I don't want to
25 hold us up too much, because I know we have a lot going

1 on today.

2 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Sure.

3 Absolutely.

4 CHIEF JACOBSON: Can you see that?

5 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Yes.

6 CHIEF JACOBSON: So let me get this
7 going right. I'm not at the beginning. Standby.
8 Sorry. Okay.

9 So we have, this is a New Haven
10 Cadet Explorer Program and will fall under the SROs and
11 the PAL unit when we're able to make one. We're still
12 negotiating with the union and doing some other things
13 to make one, but in the meantime Detective Collier,
14 Detective Stone, and now Sargent Lambe will be taking
15 on the Explorer Cadet Program.

16 It says our mission statement here.
17 It's post 300. It's in honor of Dan Picagli who was
18 struck by a vehicle while working extra duty. He had a
19 17-year tour and he was badge number 300. We're
20 sponsored by the Northeast Regional Law Enforcement
21 Educational Association in cooperation with the City of
22 New Haven Police Department. We're looking to attract
23 youth and give them an interest and understanding of
24 law enforcement.

25 About Police Explorers, it's a

1 career-oriented program for young men and women who are
2 interested in law enforcement, and who are 13 to 20
3 years old. It gives insight into the daily operations
4 of a police officer. It emphasizes on life skills,
5 career opportunities, character, education, and
6 leadership.

7 What do Explorers do? Attend
8 various competitions throughout New England, go out on
9 calls with officers, such as ride-alongs when they're
10 old enough to, assist officers at community events,
11 receive classroom instructions, physical activities,
12 partake in community events, 12 hours every 6 months.
13 So like if we had the Faxon Road Race, we could use
14 Explorers in tandem with officers to do traffic posts.

15 Requirements, you must maintain a C
16 average and do 12 hours of community service every 6
17 months. Strict code of ethics and rules and
18 regulations, stay out of trouble, live in the city, 13
19 to 20, 21 years old. No arrest warrants pending and so
20 on and so forth.

21 They will be meeting at 200
22 Wintergreen Avenue on Sundays from 4 to 6, but that
23 could change as the group continues to expand.
24 Transportation is currently not provided, but we're
25 working on a means. We do have a PAL van. We just

1 have to make sure we have the proper permission forms
2 and insurance. The meeting will be a formation,
3 inspection, corrective training, overview of subject
4 schedules, role playing, closing and opening events. I
5 foresee in the future having classes where you, as the
6 Board of Police Commissioners, come in and teach these
7 kids and talk about your roles in the community,
8 especially Commissioner Lawlor, where you teach in the
9 criminal justice field, and Commissioner Meares.

10 Goals of meetings, each week is
11 geared up for upcoming events, stations day in May,
12 Explorer Academy in July and August where we might have
13 a longer session than just the two hours, and then you
14 can see all the different things we'll be teaching
15 them.

16 There's other successful programs in
17 Bridgeport, Danbury, and Hartford. Hartford, we're
18 basing ours off the Hartford model. What do we need?
19 We need departmental support, line item money
20 allocation, which we're looking at in the next budget,
21 updated website, transportation, expanding advisory
22 pool, and designated vehicles.

23 I think the benefits speak for
24 themselves. They provide direction and purpose and
25 motivation to these young men and woman, increased

1 community policing philosophy, assist in community
2 events, like I mentioned before, teach youth about law
3 enforcement to bridge the gap and break barriers. Most
4 importantly, the Explorer program can act as a segue to
5 the cadet program.

6 Hartford has a great program. I'm
7 not going to go into the specifics of it. But over the
8 course of six years, ten cadets have become police
9 officers, five of which were previous Explorers. It's
10 a proven program that works; the Explorers to cadets to
11 police officers.

12 So the different tasks we would give
13 these kids is front desk duties, writing noncriminal
14 complaints, civil matters, supplemental reports, assist
15 the detectives with cases, take phone calls,
16 complaints, traffic posts, and attend functions. This
17 is basically how to make it happen. We're already
18 making it happen.

19 And benefits of the cadets. Mold
20 young adults from the city. Time as a cadet would
21 carry over. We're looking into that. Like it would
22 carry over to city time, firsthand experience of what
23 police do, aid law enforcement with completing tasks,
24 matures young adults to help ensure quality candidates
25 from within the city.

1 That's our task. Right? We're
2 trying to hire more people within the city. We always
3 run into these problems where kids get in trouble
4 younger and even into their 20s, and they can't be
5 police officers. This is a great program to teach them
6 and to kind of keep them out of trouble.

7 And to make it brief, I put up
8 questions. We could get into it further at a meeting
9 when we don't have as many different things going on,
10 but I wanted to give you that introduction.

11 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Commissioners,
12 do you have questions or do you want the Chief to
13 finish his report? Do you have questions now?

14 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: I have one
15 quick question, Chief. This is not new; right? This
16 has been going on in the past?

17 CHIEF JACOBSON: Yeah, but we
18 haven't had active meetings, so the March 5th meeting
19 we're kind of restarting it. If Chief Ettienne is on,
20 maybe he can tell me when the last one was. I want to
21 say possibly three years ago, two years ago.

22 ASSISTANT CHIEF ETTIENNE: So prior
23 to Covid, but what is known as the cadet portion of it.
24 What's new is trying to make it a paid position and
25 trying to make the time roll over. That would be new.

1 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Okay. Got it.
2 That's awesome. Thanks.

3 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Anything else
4 before the Chief moves on? I love it, Chief. I think
5 this is great. Awesome.

6 CHIEF JACOBSON: I credit Assistant
7 Chief Ettienne and the officers I named, the detectives
8 I named before, Sergeant Ferrante and Lieutenant Rosa.
9 They've all been putting time and effort into the
10 program.

11 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: I know that I
12 actually got a -- I don't know if it was a copy of a
13 flyer or something, and I got to share it with my
14 network. Perhaps it could be sent to other
15 commissioners, as well, so they can share it within
16 their network also.

17 CHIEF JACOBSON: That's the one I
18 talked about. It's March 5th at 4 p.m. It's an open
19 house at 200 Wintergreen Avenue.

20 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Do you have
21 anything else for your report?

22 CHIEF JACOBSON: There's going to be
23 some stories coming out about issues at the animal
24 shelter. I just wanted to kind of touch base with the
25 Commission about that. We had found that through the

1 Department of Agriculture's came in to do an
2 inspection. We were way over capacity with the animal
3 shelter. We had somewhere close to 100 animals, and we
4 have one officer down there, Officer Manganiello. So
5 we found some issues, there were some animals that --
6 it wasn't that we weren't feeding them. Of course, we
7 were providing food to the animals, but they weren't
8 eating due to the condition of being moved from one
9 place to another and, you know, we were only having a
10 vet come in twice a month. There were some definite
11 issues, and some of the animals had a reaction, maybe
12 anxiety, and didn't eat, and I don't think we got
13 enough help for them. None of them died, of course,
14 but what we did instead, at the advice of the
15 Department of Agriculture, and I want to thank the
16 Branford Animal Shelter and the North Haven Animal
17 Shelter, we transported some of those animals to
18 different shelters, as we tried to rebuild some of the
19 structure so we have more room for the animals to get
20 out and get some fresh air and do more stuff with the
21 animals.

22 In the meantime, we've switched
23 officers down there. Officer Manganiello was down
24 there eight years, which is an extremely long time.
25 Now Officer Lopez has taken up that position. We have

1 two other officers in part-time status down there, as
2 well. They can do more than part time, if needed, and
3 we hired two part-time civilian positions. In my next
4 budget, I have put in for two full-time positions.

5 Basically, what happened is the
6 period after Covid, a lot of people took in dogs or
7 adopted dogs. The period after Covid and other
8 factors, like evictions in the city, people gave the
9 dogs back or left the dogs out to run around. So we've
10 had a huge influx of dogs over the past year. Like I
11 said, we've been over capacity for this last entire
12 year, and we haven't been doing the best job getting
13 the dogs out to new homes. So we're going to put
14 together better programs, better social media, and
15 better -- just kind of reshape the things in the animal
16 shelter, rewriting some policies and procedures, but
17 there will be an article coming out where I'm quoted in
18 it and some of the dogs are shown.

19 The dogs that weren't eating are not
20 in good shape. That's on us. We should have noticed
21 this problem earlier. We should have done more to fix
22 it. We're doing everything we can now.

23 Do you want any questions about
24 that, or you want to wait until the end, Madam Chair?

25 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: You can finish

1 your report, and we'll ask some questions.

2 CHIEF JACOBSON: I know that I
3 talked to this Board about Star Chaser, which is a
4 device that shoots a GPS device to the back of a
5 fleeing car. We have done a special order. We've done
6 training with the plain clothes units, and over the
7 weekend they rolled it out and used it. It was used
8 successfully on four occasions, three of them were
9 stolen cars, so the cars were tagged and the officers
10 were able to not chase them anymore, follow at a safe
11 distance, and when the cars pulled over or went back to
12 a house, or whatever, they were able to make
13 apprehensions on all four of those.

14 In one of the instances, somebody
15 was caught with a large amount of purple Fentanyl,
16 which is known, it's getting around New England to be
17 quite strong Fentanyl, possibly deadly. So I'm happy
18 to report that this Star Chaser technology is already
19 working. It's already made our City a little safer,
20 and we were able to get three car thieves off the road
21 and then a fourth pretty significant drug dealer.
22 We're happy about that. We're going to do extensive
23 press on that with all the information. So far, so
24 good. It gives us an opportunity to put this device on
25 and back off and not chase, so it's safer for

1 everybody.

2 We did have -- in the last two weeks
3 of January, we did have 12 fatal overdoses. I know
4 there was press about that. We got together with the
5 DEA and our criminal intel unit and looked at each case
6 specifically. We did not see anything, like a bad
7 batch or anything, you know, drawing to our attention
8 that we could prevent. I know that three of them were
9 prescription type overdoses, and three of them were
10 crack cocaine where the person was over 60 and using
11 crack cocaine. So we don't think that was a tainted
12 batch. The other six we're looking into and doing
13 everything possible from the law side to help.

14 I know that the Board of Health has
15 done a great job amping up warnings about it and amping
16 up attempting to help people to get off substances. So
17 we're working in collaboration with them.

18 My assistant chiefs have been
19 reading all week in different schools, and I thank them
20 for that. Assistant Chief Ettienne was at Highville
21 Charter School with some other African-American
22 officers for Black History Month. It was a great
23 showing, and we appreciate him doing that, and
24 Assistant Chief Zannelli was at Mauro-Sheridan and
25 Wexler-Grant Schools reading to kids for Black History

1 Month. I'll be scheduled next week to do the same, and
2 we're also bringing our district managers and other
3 officers along with us, so I appreciate those efforts.

4 That's all I got for now, Madam
5 Chair. I know we have a big meeting tonight.

6 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Thank you.
7 Any questions, Commissioners?

8 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Not
9 specifically about that, but Saturday you -- at the
10 substation in Whalley Avenue you gave out, I can't
11 think what they're called, to help prevent cars from
12 being stolen, specifically Kias and Hondas, which seem
13 to be the leader of the pack, as far as car thefts go
14 these days.

15 CHIEF JACOBSON: I apologize.
16 That's on my notes and I missed it. They're ignition
17 locks. Lieutenant Przybylski gave about 40 of them out
18 at the Beaver Hill Substation, Kias and Hondas, and it
19 went over very well. Just for stats wise, this year
20 we've had 86 car thefts up to last week, and last year
21 at this time we only had 74. So we've seen an increase
22 in car thefts, especially those models. I want to
23 really congratulate Lieutenant Przybylski because he
24 went out and set up this program on his own after
25 seeing some material on Tik Tok where they were

1 teaching you how to steal the cars. So he went and he
2 went to the dealership, and the dealerships provided
3 these locks, so that was great. It was great community
4 outreach. Thank you for noting that, Commissioner.

5 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Chief, can I
6 ask you a question? So for all the car thefts you've
7 become aware of, do you have a breakdown for how many
8 of those were unlocked with the keys inside versus
9 broke into to be stolen?

10 CHIEF JACOBSON: I don't have it
11 officially, but I want to tell you, it's got to be
12 about 80, 90 percent. My car was broken into in
13 Westville back in December. They didn't take anything.
14 I think they saw my business cards and put it on the
15 seat and didn't take anything. I will say I left my
16 car unlocked, so that's 80 to 90 percent.

17 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: I have a Honda
18 and it locks itself the minute I walk away from it. If
19 I leave the keys in there, it just starts beeping at
20 me. Maybe that's a technological solution that will
21 get rid of this problem.

22 CHIEF JACOBSON: Thank you, sir.

23 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: No problem.

24 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Any other
25 questions, Commissioners?

1 Chief, you mentioned earlier, and I
2 think your audio might have gone out. You mentioned
3 diversity, and I didn't hear the second part.

4 CHIEF JACOBSON: We had discussed
5 getting deeper into how we're going to make this police
6 department more diverse and diversify the ranks. What
7 I said was this is kind of stage one; right? We need
8 more diversity within the police department, New Haven
9 candidates, etc. This is stage one for us, starting
10 with the young kids and getting them into the police
11 department.

12 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Okay. So
13 we'll have some followup at a future meeting; correct?

14 CHIEF JACOBSON: Yes, absolutely.

15 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Any other
16 questions for the chief? Seeing none, thank you,
17 Chief, for your report. We'll move on to Internal
18 Affairs.

19 LIEUTENANT COLON: Good evening,
20 Madam Chair. Good evening, everyone. I have quite a
21 few case closers for January and February. I'll try to
22 move along quickly as I can. The first one is 22-008.
23 In this, an officer, while on duty, notified another
24 officer that they were involved in a domestic dispute
25 in the town of North Branford. The victim alleged that

1 Officer Parra physically assaulted them, which resulted
2 in multiple injuries that the victim had sustained.
3 Eventually, North Branford Police Department had
4 submitted a warrant for the officer who was arrested.
5 The case was ultimately dismissed based on an early
6 termination of a nontraditional diversionary program.
7 The officer, while the investigation was still open in
8 IA, was placed on administrative leave and, based on
9 the interview conducted and the statements obtained and
10 the arrest, it was found that the officer was in
11 violation of the conduct and this was sustained.

12 Next is 22C-044, Alicia Laureano
13 filed a complaint saying that Officer Hoffman did not
14 properly document the details in a motor vehicle
15 accident that she was involved in. Officer Hoffman,
16 based on her body camera footage, spoke with both
17 parties that were involved in the accident and, based
18 on the information she had gathered on scene and from
19 both parties, the damages on the vehicle involved also
20 concluded that Laureano was, in fact, at fault and the
21 officer's actions were lawful and proper. This was
22 unfounded.

23 Next is 22C-055. Mr. Raman
24 (phonetic) filed a building complaint and complained
25 about Officer Matt Williams' attitude when he reported

1 a vandalism complaint regarding his vehicle. Raman
2 alleged that Officer Williams did not take his
3 complaint seriously and instead claims that the
4 civilian complainant was the one that could have
5 damaged his own vehicle. This investigation was
6 assigned to Officer Williams' direct supervisor,
7 district manager Lieutenant Smith. He watched the body
8 worn camera footage, both of the complainant and the
9 officer, and based on Lieutenant Smith's investigation
10 Officer Williams did not commit any malfeasance or
11 misconduct. This was also unfounded.

12 Next up, 22C-057, Arthur Williams
13 filed a civilian complaint against a New Haven police
14 officer, who was later identified as Officer Ricci.
15 Williams alleged that Officer Ricci had a bad attitude,
16 and he also said that Officer Ricci was the same
17 officer that he had a negative encounter with in the
18 past. We checked the Internal Affairs civilian
19 complaint log, could not locate any complaints made by
20 Williams against Officer Ricci. This complaint, based
21 on the type of complaint it was, was assigned to
22 Sergeant Sanders, who is Officer Ricci's district
23 manager. Sergeant Sanders reviewed the complaint, the
24 incident report, the body worn camera footage, and it
25 was determined that there was no indication of serious

1 misconduct or violation of any departmental rules. The
2 case was unfounded.

3 Next is Jared Erin filed a complaint
4 against Officer Ryan Flesch, case No. 22C-001. He
5 alleged that there was excessive force used and that
6 the officers wrongfully arrested him. There was no
7 force used. A use of force instructor was interviewed
8 regarding this incident and, based on that
9 investigation and the interview, it was found that the
10 officers did not commit any misconduct or malfeasance.
11 This was unfounded.

12 Next up, 22C-037 is a civilian
13 complaint about Officer Markle and alleged that the
14 police report Officer Markle wrote was insensitive,
15 dismissive, and full of her statements. This
16 investigation, based on the type of complaint it was,
17 was given to the patrol division. Lieutenant Rosa
18 reviewed the incident report, the body worn camera
19 footage, spoke with the officer involved and spoke with
20 the special victim supervisor, DCF, and the
21 complainant, and it was determined that Officer
22 Markle's complaint contained all the pertinent
23 information reported by the complainant and it did not
24 show any insensitive language that was used by the
25 officer. Officer Markle conducted a proper

1 investigation and acted within department policies and
2 procedures. This complaint was unfounded.

3 Lastly, 22C-056. In this the
4 complainant is Jerry Bellamy. The officer he
5 complained about is Officer Heinz. Jerry Bellamy filed
6 a civilian complaint with the office of Internal
7 Affairs against Officer Heinz. It was found that Mr.
8 Bellamy complained about Officer Heinz's non-friendly
9 nature and his hostile demeanor at a scene. This
10 complaint was investigated by Internal Affairs, and
11 there was no evidence of allegations found. However,
12 during a thorough review of the body worn cameras from
13 the incident, it was found that Officer Heinz failed to
14 activate his body worn camera at the beginning of the
15 incident; therefore, a summary action was issued for
16 the body worn camera violation for Officer Heinz.

17 That's it for the complaints.

18 Nothing noteworthy in the reports that I sent you, but
19 if you have any questions, I'd be more than happy to
20 answer. And, so far, for 2023 we have eight civilian
21 complaints. That's all.

22 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Thank you.

23 Any questions, Commissioners? Okay. Thank you,
24 Lieutenant.

25 LIEUTENANT COLON: You're welcome,

1 ma'am.

2 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: We'll move on
3 to personnel matters. Item one, discussion and action
4 on a recommendation from Chief Anthony Campbell, Yale
5 Police Department, to hire the following candidate to
6 the Yale Police Department, Miguel Aponte. I thought I
7 saw Chief Campbell. Hello, sir. Welcome, once again.

8 CHIEF CAMPBELL: Hello, Madam Chair.
9 It's good to see you again.

10 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: You too.

11 CHIEF CAMPBELL: Good evening to all
12 the Commissioners on the board. This evening I bring
13 before you a fantastic candidate, a retired New Haven
14 police officer, Miguel Aponte, a 17-year veteran of the
15 Department, school resource officer, great resource in
16 the community. He has continued his work and currently
17 is employed as the school resource officer.

18 He's gone through our entire
19 process, and I know that some of the members of the
20 Board had the chance to interview him. I would
21 honestly say this is probably one of the easiest
22 candidates I've ever had to interview and to bring
23 over, because I know the man, not just from working
24 with him, but I know his character and his character is
25 impeccable. If you could make 100 Miguel Apontes, you

1 would have a great police force.

2 We look forward to what he brings to
3 the table, not just his experience with the New Haven
4 Police Department but his maturity, his sense of
5 wisdom. I think he will be a great instructor to many
6 of the officers here on really how to talk to people,
7 especially people who are a little younger and kind of
8 making their way up as officers and as students. I
9 think he would be a great addition to our Department,
10 so hopefully, by the end of this night, we'll be
11 bringing him on board and continuing to diversify our
12 Department and to bring great experience to this
13 Department.

14 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Thank you,
15 Chief. We did have an opportunity to interview Officer
16 Aponte, and I was impressed. I don't know if any
17 Commissioners want to say anything or Officer Aponte
18 wanted to say anything to the Board.

19 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Yeah, I was
20 impressed as well. You know, another great catch for
21 the Yale PD. This is the most recent in a whole series
22 of high quality, well-motivated, significantly
23 experienced officers coming on board over there.
24 Obviously, what's good for the Yale PD is good for the
25 NHPD, because we're all working in the same turf here.

1 That's great. I would be happy to vote for him in a
2 few minutes.

3 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Thank you,
4 sir. Anyone else? Okay. So I'll call the question.
5 We have -- Commissioners, what is your pleasure on the
6 action for the hire of candidate Miguel Aponte?

7 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Madam Chair,
8 if I may, was Mr. Aponte going to speak or not?

9 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: I'm sorry. Do
10 you want to say something, Mr. Aponte?

11 MR. APONTE: No. I'd just like to
12 thank you for your time. Thank you for inviting me to
13 this meeting. Chief Campbell, Chief Jacobson, I think
14 it's a great idea of bringing back the Explorer
15 program. I know that we worked closely together right
16 before Covid, so I think that's a great idea on the
17 part of Chief Jacobson.

18 I just want to thank you. I'm just
19 looking forward to getting on Yale and partnering up
20 with New Haven back again. I think it's a great
21 opportunity, and I'm looking forward to it.

22 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Thank you.
23 Now, Commissioners, what is your pleasure?

24 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: I'm moving to
25 accept the Chief's recommendation that we appoint

1 Officer Aponte as a member of the Yale University
2 Police Department.

3 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I'll second
4 that.

5 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: We have a
6 motion by Commissioner Lawlor, and I think Commissioner
7 Walker seconded it first. Any further discussion? All
8 those in favor, please indicate by saying aye.

9 (All in favor.)

10 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Any
11 opposition? Nay. Not that I'm a nay by saying nay.
12 Any abstentions? Motion carries. Congratulations, Mr.
13 Aponte and Chief Campbell.

14 MR. APONTE: Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: You're more
16 than welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting if you
17 so choose. If you do not, you have a wonderful rest of
18 your evening.

19 CHIEF CAMPBELL: Thank you,
20 Commissioners.

21 MR. APONTE: Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Item 2, we
23 have discussion and action on the recommendations to
24 remove the following candidates from eligibility list
25 22-68. No. 1, Treyvon Briggs; No. 1, Ramon Rios; No.

1 5, Prince Prescott III; No. 7, Karina Cook; No. 9,
2 David Spruance; and No. 10, Kayla Kelly.

3 Chief, are any of the candidates
4 here and want to speak to the Board?

5 CHIEF JACOBSON: I'm not sure.
6 Sergeant Finch?

7 SERGEANT FINCH: We have some
8 candidates here today, Karina Cook and Ramon Rios.

9 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Mr. Rios and
10 Miss Cook, I must ask you if you want to have your
11 session as an open or closed session. Open means that
12 it will be held in this room here, and it will be on
13 the record. Closed session means we'll go in executive
14 session and have a discussion, and it will not be on
15 the record.

16 What would like to do, Mr. Rios?

17 MR. RIOS: Closed.

18 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: And Miss Cook?

19 MS. COOK: Closed, as well, please.

20 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: I'll then
21 entertain a motion to go into executive session to
22 discuss personnel matters regarding removal from the
23 eligibility list.

24 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Commissioner
25 Miranda moves.

1 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Commissioner
2 Brooks seconds that motion.

3 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: All those in
4 favor, signify by saying aye.

5 (All in favor.)

6 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Opposed?
7 Motion carries.

8 So we'll go into the Executive
9 Session and invite the Commissioners, Chief Jacobson,
10 Chief Ettienne, Chief Zannelli. I thought I saw the
11 CAO here. I don't know if she's still here, but she's
12 invited and our attorney, Michelle Duprey. I believe
13 I've captured everyone.

14 (Whereupon, the Commission went into
15 executive session from 6:50 p.m. until 7:22 p.m.)

16 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Back on at
17 7:22 p.m. I will entertain a motion to come out of
18 executive session.

19 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Commissioner
20 Brooks makes a motion that we come out of executive
21 session.

22 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Second.

23 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: We have a
24 motion to come out of executive session. All those in
25 favor?

1 (All in favor.)

2 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Opposed?

3 Abstentions? Motion carries.

4 Commissioner, we have a
5 recommendation from the Chief to remove candidates from
6 the eligibility list 22-68. What is your pleasure?

7 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Are we going
8 to do these one at a time?

9 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Yes, please.
10 The first one is Treyvon Briggs.

11 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: If I may,
12 Commissioner Miranda here, make the motion to file a
13 recommendation to Chief Carl Jacobson to remove
14 candidate No. 1, Treyvon Briggs, from the eligibility
15 list, 22-68.

16 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Second that.

17 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Any
18 discussion? All those in favor of removal signify by
19 saying aye.

20 (All in favor.)

21 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Opposed?

22 Abstentions? Motion carried. What is your pleasure --

23 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: I'll make the
24 motion to file the recommendation of Chief Jacobson to
25 remove candidate No. 1, Ramon Rios, from the

1 eligibility list 22-68.

2 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Second that.

3 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Second that.

4 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: There is a
5 motion to remove. All those in favor of the
6 recommendation please indicate by saying aye. Those
7 opposed, please indicate by saying nay.

8 (All opposed.)

9 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Any
10 abstentions? The motion is not carried. The candidate
11 moves forward in the process.

12 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: I make a
13 motion to follow the recommendation of Chief Karl
14 Jacobson to remove No. 5, Prince Prescott III, from the
15 eligibility list, 22-68.

16 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I'll second
17 that.

18 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: We have a
19 motion and a second. Any discussions? All those in
20 favor, signify by saying aye.

21 (All in favor.)

22 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Opposed?
23 Abstentions? Motion carried for removal.

24 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: I make a
25 motion to follow the recommendation of Chief Jacobson

1 to remove candidate No. 7, Karina Cook, from the
2 eligibility list 22-68.

3 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: I'll second
4 that.

5 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: There's a
6 motion and a second. Any discussions? All those in
7 favor signify by saying aye.

8 (All in favor.)

9 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Opposed?
10 Abstentions? Motion carries for removal.

11 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: I make a
12 motion to follow the recommendation of Chief Jacobson
13 to remove candidate No. 9, David Spruance, from the
14 eligibility list 22-68.

15 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Second.

16 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: We have a
17 motion and a second. Any discussion? All those in
18 favor, signify by saying aye.

19 (All in favor.)

20 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Opposed?
21 Abstentions? Motion carries.

22 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: I make a
23 motion to file a recommendation of Chief Jacobson to
24 remove candidate No. 10, Kayla Kelly, from the
25 eligibility list 22-68.

1 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Second.

2 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: A motion and a
3 second. Any discussion? Okay, there's a motion and a
4 second. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

5 (All in favor.)

6 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Opposed?
7 Abstentions? Motion carries.

8 Thank you, everyone. We'll move on
9 to retirement (for Board information only), Officer
10 Ronald Pressley, effective January 7, 2023, and Officer
11 Nancy Jordan, effective January 28, 2023. Officer
12 Jordan is here, so I want to say thank you for your
13 service, Officer Jordan, and we'll move forward to our
14 resignations (for Board information only). No
15 resignations and recruitment/selection Committee
16 Report.

17 SERGEANT FINCH: I'll make it kind
18 of brief. As you all heard, we're looking to start an
19 academy in April, and we currently have 97 applicants
20 that we have a list for. We have 34 open files for
21 those current applicants. Nineteen are still in the
22 process out of that 34. We have two that are at the
23 medical phase, five at the psyche, four at the -- and
24 eight still in the interview.

25 So speaking with the Academy staff,

1 I believe, and with Post, the max that we can have in
2 this overlapping Academy is 16, due to certain
3 trainings that take place. So we're hoping to fulfill
4 all 16 spots in that Academy, and we plan to have five
5 seats filled for the New Britain Academy the next month
6 in May. We're continuing to move forward with the
7 process of trying to put the recruits in as many
8 Academies and seats as possible.

9 We're currently hiring right now.
10 We actually have, I believe earlier today it was 87
11 applicants that have applied already for this next
12 list, so we're moving forward with the open enrollment
13 list where we'll be able to pull from the applicant
14 pool when we need to and just make sure we're as
15 efficient as possible in trying to hire as many people
16 as possible in a timely fashion.

17 We're looking to open up another
18 lateral list so we can accept officers from different
19 police departments within the state and outside the
20 state, as well. If you know anybody that's interested,
21 please send them our way. They can come to our
22 training sessions, I believe, what we have in place
23 with Coach Davis and just members of the police
24 department just helping out.

25 I believe it's a good resource for

1 anybody who just needs any type of assistance, and also
2 I believe it does help people grow up, especially if
3 they come to our process, some of them come in not --
4 never have the idea of wanting to be a police officer,
5 but we plant the seeds and watch them grow, and we
6 build a community to where people are, you know,
7 working together and actually going to the Academy
8 together. They're not going in not knowing anybody.

9 I like to say a lot of people don't
10 have police officers in their family. They're first
11 generation, and when you're first generation, it's a
12 tougher environment to break into, but when we have the
13 training sessions in place and we have the resources,
14 it does help, so if you know anybody, just send them
15 our way. Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Thank you.

17 Any questions from the Commissioners?

18 All right, the Efficiency Committee
19 Report. Commissioner Meares is not here. Does anyone
20 else on the committee have anything to report?

21 The thing I will say on her behalf
22 is that the Committee is working very closely with
23 Chief Ettiienne on general orders that will be coming
24 forward in the queue.

25 Finance committee. All right.

1 So now we're to other business. So
2 this evening we need to take care of business, election
3 of the chair for our bylaws, election of the vice
4 chair, appointment of the clerk/secretary, and
5 appointment for the following committees; efficiency,
6 finance, recruitment, selection and bylaws and rules of
7 order.

8 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Madam Chair?

9 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: If it's in
11 order, I would like to make a motion that we elect you
12 to be our chair of the Board of Police Commissioners.

13 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I will second
15 that.

16 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Thank you,
17 Commissioner Brooks, for your motion and Commissioner
18 Walker for your second.

19 Any discussions?

20 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Madam Chair,
21 if I may, I'm relatively new to the Board and sitting
22 under your leadership, as you guided the Board, and
23 particularly for the last several months it's been
24 challenging, particularly with the number of items that
25 came up before the Board, and I'm highly impressed with

1 your leadership and your ability to kind of help the
2 Board move through these challenging issues in a
3 cohesive manner. I wanted to echo that and put it in
4 the record, I find it an honor to serve on this
5 Commission with you as our chair and with all the other
6 Commissioners, so I just wanted to put that in the
7 record.

8 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Thank you. I
9 appreciate that. So all those in favor of the motion,
10 please signify by saying aye.

11 (All in favor.)

12 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Opposed?
13 Certainly none. No. Any opposition? Any abstentions?
14 Motion carries.

15 Thank you, thank you, Commissioners,
16 for reelecting me. It is a pleasure serving with this
17 commission. As your chairwoman, I totally enjoy
18 working with you all of you and the staff. I think we
19 are a great team, a great department, and I just look
20 forward to moving the robust and very aggressive agenda
21 of the Department forward in the next year. Thank you
22 for your vote of confidence.

23 We'll move on to the second item,
24 election of the vice chair.

25 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Madam Chair, I

1 would like to, if it's in order, to make a motion that
2 we -- I would like to make a motion that we place
3 Donald Walker as vice chair of the Commission for the
4 New Haven Police Department.

5 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: I'll second
6 that.

7 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: We have a
8 motion and a second. Any discussion?

9 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Again, Madam
10 Chair, I just want to put in the record, I'm new to the
11 Board, and under the tutelage of Commissioner Walker
12 and yourself, I just find the leadership exceptional.
13 I think it's appropriate for him to remain in that
14 position as vice chair and to continue to assist this
15 Commission as we move forward in helping this
16 department be the best in the state.

17 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Thank you.
18 Thank you. I agree. I vote with that. I will save
19 any remarks for after the vote. All those in favor
20 signify by saying aye.

21 (All in favor.)

22 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: All those
23 opposed? Once again, certainly none. All those
24 opposed? Any abstentions? Motion carries.

25 Congratulations, Commissioner

1 Walker, and it's a pleasure serving with you as the
2 vice chair. You are always there when I need you. I
3 try not to call on you too much, but when needed,
4 you're certainly there to help me on this Commission,
5 so I thank you for your service and look forward to
6 working with you once again.

7 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Thank you,
8 Madam Chair. I want to thank the members of the
9 Commission. I think we have, not just a good
10 Commission, I think we have a great Commission. The
11 newer members have chipped in and learned a lot. I
12 think we all have learned a lot, and I think we have
13 one of the best Boards in the state. I would say the
14 country, but I don't know about all that.

15 I think we've worked very well
16 together. We had a very challenging year, and we
17 jumped through it. It's been painful at times but,
18 again, everyone has pitched in and helped out and,
19 again, we moved -- I think with the help of the
20 officers that we've been working with and the command
21 staff, we helped to move the department in the
22 direction that I think it should go, and I appreciate
23 all of you. Thank you again. Thank you for your
24 confidence in me.

25 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Thank you,

1 thank you, sir.

2 So for appointment, once again,
3 appoint Eva Perry-Lambert for secretary. I assume
4 you're accepting.

5 MS. PERRY-LAMBERT: Thank you. I
6 accept.

7 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: The
8 appointment to our follow-up committees, and,
9 Commissioners, help me out because, of course, I didn't
10 write it in my notes. But to the efficiency committee,
11 reappoint Commissioner Meares, Commissioner Lawlor, and
12 Commissioner Walker. For finance, it was Commissioner
13 Miranda and Commissioner Brooks. Do you accept?

14 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Yes.

16 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: For
17 recruitment and selection, I believe it was
18 Commissioner Lawlor, Commissioner Miranda, and
19 Commissioner walker.

20 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Bylaws and
22 rules of order. I did not speak to anyone about that
23 committee. If anyone's interested, you can speak now;
24 otherwise, I'll have conversations outside the meeting
25 and appoint Commissioners at that time.

1 Public comment? Are there any
2 public comments? Any public comments? Is there a
3 reason to go into executive session for legal purposes
4 or for anything else this evening? Anything you want
5 raised in executive session at this point? Perfect.
6 Well, seeing none, thank you everyone, and I will
7 entertain a motion for adjournment.

8 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: So moved.

9 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: So moved.

10 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Second.

11 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: All those in
12 favor, signify by saying aye.

13 (All in favor.)

14 CHAIRPERSON RIBEIRO: Opposed?
15 Abstentions? Okay. Thank you and have a good night.

16 (Whereupon, the meeting was
17 adjourned at 7:39 p.m.)

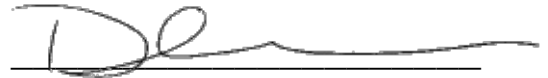
C E R T I F I C A T E

NEW HAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

I, DEBRA A. CHASSE, Court Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of Connecticut, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify the foregoing pages are a true and accurate transcription of the Special Meeting - Board of Police Commissioners, on the 21st day of February, 2023 via Zoom.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal this 7th day of March, 2023.



Debra A. Chasse, CSR
Notary Public
State of Connecticut

My Commission Expires:
June 30, 2026
CSR No. 00055