

**REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**  
**APRIL 11, 2023**  
**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**  
**NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT**  
***VIDEOCONFERENCE AND CONFERENCE CALL VIA ZOOM***

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Darrell Brooks; Michael Lawlor; Tracey Meares; Isais Miranda; and Evelise Ribeiro

Chief Karl Jacobson: Department of Police Service  
Assistant Chief Bertram Ettienne: Department of Police Service  
Assistant Chief Manmeet Colon: Department of Police Service  
Assistant Chief David Zannelli: Department of Police Service  
Lieutenant Dana Smith: Department of Police Service  
Sergeant Paul Finch: Department of Police Service  
Sergeant Yelena Borisova: Department of Police Service  
Officer Chad Curry: Department of Police Service  
Officer Nancy Jackson-Jordan: Department of Police Service  
Officer Reginald McGlotten: Department of Police Service  
Eva Perry-Lambert: Administrative Assistant

Michelle Duprey, Esquire: Deputy Corporation Counsel  
Regina Rush-Kittle: Chief Administrative Officer  
Bruce Fischer: Traffic and Parking

Gerald Antunes: Alder  
Anthony D'Amore  
Ramona Davis  
Daniel Hunt  
Patrick J. Gilles  
Jamil Saffa  
NCurry's iPhone XR  
Karny

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY**

The Traffic Authority meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Commissioner Evelise Ribeiro, Chair.

\*Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that Commissioner Walker was excused.

\*Following the regular meeting of the Traffic Authority, Mr. Fischer excused himself at 6:06 p.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

The Regular Session meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners was called to order at 6:07 p.m., Evelise Ribeiro, Chair, presiding.

**AGENDA**

- \*\* **Commissioner Lawlor motioned to approve the Agenda for March 14, 2023**
- \*\* **Commissioner Miranda seconded**
- \*\* **Motion passed unanimously**

**DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Discussion and Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2023  
 Discussion and Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2023

- \*\* **Commissioner Brooks motioned to Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2023**
- \*\* **Commissioner Miranda seconded**
- \*\* **Motion passed unanimously**

- \*\* **Commissioner Brooks motioned to Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2023**
- \*\* **Commissioner Miranda seconded**
- \*\* **Motion passed unanimously**

■ Commissioner Meares indicated that Commissioner Meares had somehow been kicked out of the meeting. She would try to log back on.

**CHIEF’S REPORT**

Chief Karl Jacobson

- Chief Jacobson greeted everyone.
- So far this year, there have been eight homicides compared to the same time last year with three homicides. To date, there are 20 non-fatal shootings compared to the same time last year at 21 non-fatal shootings
- They have been doing very well working the cases involving the homicides. Another homicide warrant was signed this week. Chief Jacobson indicated he would not report on it because the person is in custody.
- Regarding the double homicide from two weeks ago, the Department does have a person of interest in custody. A murder warrant was being drafted for this person.
- So when that other warrant is done, the Department would have made arrests on five of the eight homicides this year. Unfortunately, this is not good enough. They need to stop these crimes ahead of time. As a result, there has been an uptick in the Department’s Custom Notifications. The Department will be having a Project Longevity call-in in the first week of May. The Department is doing a lot more visiting with Probation and Parole of at-risk people in order to offer them services, Project Longevity and other services from other city departments.
- Chief Jacobson indicated that he wanted to note that there has been a large increase regarding motor vehicle stops. Presently, they have had 2,709 motor vehicles stops compared to same time last year with 1,024 motor vehicle stops. This is to help combat violent crime, the risk of motor vehicle accidents and pedestrians being struck.

■ So far this year there has been one fatal pedestrian/motor vehicle accident. Last year there were very high numbers regarding pedestrians being struck. They are working on keeping this down.

■ Chief Jacobson reported that Sergeant Drive, where there was drag racing last year, is about to be changed so that people would not be able to go as fast. There would be a demographic change to the road. There are several areas of Ella T. Grasso Boulevard that have already been done. They are redesigning the road. He stated that he was happy that the city and the state are working with the Department to combat these issues.

■ Commissioner Lawlor thanked Chief Jacobson because there is a motor cycle speed enforcement unit on the East Shore around the corner from his house. This is very much appreciated on behalf of everybody that lives around this side of the harbor.

■ Commissioner Meares indicated that she had just logged back on and had missed Chief Jacobson's report. She asked if Chief Jacobson had spoken about the possibility of speed cameras. There had been discussions about legislation. She was not sure if this was one of the issues Chief Jacobson spoke about.

■ Chief Jacobson responded by saying that he did not bring it up. They are putting in the cameras and LPRs that are tremendously helping with the violent crime. He did report that five of the eight homicides this year have resulted in arrest warrants or close to an arrest warrant due to the cameras and LPRs which if they can help with crime, they can also help with the traffic problems as well. They are in discussions and pushing it. He indicated he would reach out to Commissioner Meares.

■ Commissioner Lawlor stated that he wanted to point out that he did not think the Department needs legislation to put up cameras. He pointed out that the State Police are rolling out speed enforcement cameras on construction zones on the highway. They did not need legislation to do that. With or without enabling legislation, officers can issue tickets to people if there is a photograph of them going through a red light or otherwise speeding.

■ They have great evidence and support from the community related to some of these cases. And you will see a lot of cases coming forward and leading to arrests.

## **INTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT**

Lieutenant Dana Smith

■ Lieutenant Smith indicated that there were two closed cases in March, 2023.

**IA Case No.: 22C-064:** The complainant alleged that the officer threatened to arrest him while investigating a domestic dispute. There was physical evidence on scene to support the statements. This incident was sustained.

**IA Case No.: 22C-076:** The complainant stated that she was having difficulty locating her vehicle because it was towed by the Department. However, the vehicle was involved in a shooting so it was towed. Through various phone calls to various units they were able to make a phone call to actually get her vehicle back to her. So that reconciled.

■ Lieutenant Smith indicated there were three closed cases in April., 2023.

**IA Case No.: 22C-058:** The complainant stated that the officers knocked on her bedroom door and announced they had a search warrant for her fiancé. And then she alleged that his initial

were forced on the Miranda form and that he never signed it. Through the investigation, it was determined, and also by the body-worn camera footage, that the person was handed the search warrant. And the audio copy also revealed that he waived his right to counsel. This incident was unfounded.

**IA Case No.: 22C-070:** The complainant stated he was having difficulty figuring out why he was not contacted by the Department when he was a victim of a severe hit and run. He alleged that the officer didn't follow-up and didn't do his due diligence. This investigation determined that the office did do his due diligence on that side, but he did have misconduct that was not based on the original complaint. This one was sustained.

**IA Case No.: 22C-072:** The complainant stated he believed that an arrest was made just to violate his release from a previous arrest. After review of the body-worn camera footage, it was determined that there was probable cause for this arrest. This incident was unfounded.

■ Lieutenant Smith indicated that he e-mailed the use of force and statistics reports. He was happy to answer any questions the commissioners had.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that Commissioner Lawlor had used the Chat feature of Zoom to share the news article regarding the cameras.

## **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

1. Discussion and action on the recommendation of Chief Karl Jacobson to remove the following candidates from the Eligibility List #22-68:

- A. #13 Abdessamad Elyajouri
- B. #29 Jamil Saffa
- C. #33 Patrick Jean-Gilles
- D. #36 Anthony D'Amore
- E. #49 Marissa Spisak

Commissioner Ribeiro indicated two of the five candidates had withdrawn prior to this meeting.

The following candidates were present: Jamil Saffa, Patrick Jean-Gilles and Anthony D'Amore

Abdessamad Elyajouri and Marissa Spisak withdrew from the process.

Commissioner Ribeiro asked the candidates if they would like matters heard in an open or a closed session. She explained what each meant. Mr. Jamil Saffa and Anthony D'Amore opted to be heard in open session. Mr. Patrick Jean-Gilles opted to being heard in closed session.

Commissioner Ribeiro reiterated what she had said previously about what an open and a closed session meant.

Mr. Saffa greeted everyone and introduced himself. He was a police officer at the NYPD from October until July 1<sup>st</sup> at the 38 Precinct in West Harlem before moving back to Connecticut. He came back to Connecticut because he got married. Since then he had applied to the New Haven Police Department and waiting for the process.

He was a peace officer in the Bronx. They were very close with the NYPD. He covered 35 high-rise buildings with 15,000 people residing there. There were three schools there from elementary to high school.

Early years of experience had been retail management during which he had worked with a very diverse community. He has worked a business manager at Macy's. A manager at T-Mobile. He has worked with very diverse groups.

He moved to the United States when he was 10 years old from Pakistan to Massachusetts. He speaks five different languages. He has an associate in criminal justice.

He believed the decision was not made correctly regarding the psychological evaluation because he had taken three different psychological examinations including one for CCPD, one for NYPD. Twenty-four hours later after taking the examination for the New Haven Police Department, he took one for the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in D.C. He had passed that also. He has an academy date of the 24<sup>th</sup> of April., 2023.

He shared his experience with the psychologist. As soon as he walked into the room, the gentleman told him to sit down on the couch. He sat where he was told to. Right of the bat, the examiner was quiet a little so he tried to break the ice. He talked about the baseball pictures the examiner had in his office. He asked if he liked baseball. The examiner ignored him completely. The examiner did not respond. He sat quietly for a little while and then the examiner began asking questions. The examiner spent at the maximum 15 minutes asking basic questions about his life compared to his previous experiences with examiners who asked him detailed questioned for 45 minutes to an hour.

Commissioner Meares asked for the background investigators' assessments of the candidate.

Officer McGlotten indicated that he was of the opinion that Mr. Saffa was very professional. He was outstanding. He spoke well. He seems to be educated. He had no problems with Mr. Saffa. He did get in touch with a couple of the Mr. Saffa's previous supervisors at the NYPD. His supervisors indicated that he was a hard worker. They didn't have any problems with Mr. Saffa. They hated losing him. They did say that they would rehire him if he came back. The University of Hartford basically said the same thing.

Officer McGlotten further commented that he was disappointed when he learned about the psychological. Mr. Saffa actually passed the psychological examinations for the Federal Reserve, the NYPD, etc.

Officer McGlotten opined that Mr. Saffa would be a good candidate for the Department.

Commissioner Meares indicated she read the psychological evaluation. She understood that the examiner indicated that the results were inconclusive. Remember, she has an issue with people talking about failing and passing the psychological because as she understood it, state law simply requires that it's completed. She asked if she was correct.

Officer McGlotten responded by saying, correct.

Commissioner Meares asked Sergeant Finch for this thoughts.

Sergeant Finch indicated that he had had a lot of interactions with Mr. Saffa. His interactions began with Ms. Saffa just attending the Department's training sessions and showing interest there. Sergeant Finch further commented that he liked his background. He liked the fact that Mr. Saffa did go through a whole background process and was hired by the NYPD along other security jobs, a job with the University of Hartford and the possibility of the Department losing him to the Federal Reserve.

Sergeant Finch indicated that when he looked over the psychological report, on the areas where the examiner did give Mr. Saffa an assessment, there was no high risks in those categories. And as far as the polygraph is concerned, the background investigators knew all the information about Mr. Saffa regarding illegal drug use. Mr. Saffa admitted to things in his interview. There's no more new information that was involved.

Sergeant Finch concluded his comments by saying that he would like to see Mr. Saffa continue in the process

Chief Jacobson indicated that he was recommending that Mr. Saffa be removed because of the Department's matrix. He would also say, after speaking to staff, that he would like to see Mr. Saffa go forward in the process.

Commissioner Meares indicated that in thinking about how the matrix worked in the past, there is an issue with compliance with the state law, for example, if the polygraph isn't completed even if the polygraph examiners have some particular evaluation of the polygraph. We use that as a piece of information in terms of the Department's assessment. She asked the background investigators whether the status of this particular psychological evaluation is still in compliance with state law. She knows what she believes should be the outcome. She just wants to ensure that the status of this was not an issue. She wanted an explanation regarding this issue.

Sergeant Finch asked if Commissioner Meares was talking about the outcome.

Commissioner Meares said no.

Chief Jacobson responded by saying whatever needs to be completed had been completed. It was his understanding that given the verbiage, Mr. Saffa could be moved forward in the process; if not they will get the wording to move Mr. Saffa forward.

Commissioner Meares said that the way she thought about these things is that these are pieces of information that the commissioners use, but the commissioners are not actually obligated to defer to the psychological evaluator's recommendations.

Chief Jacobson replied by saying, absolutely.

Commissioner Ribeiro responded by saying, that is correct.

Commissioner Lawlor asked Mr. Saffa had read the report the psychological examiner wrote. Mr. Saffa replied by saying that he had read the report.

Commissioner Lawlor indicated that, lest people watching were wondering what is in the report, it seemed to boil down to a relatively straightforward statement that the psychological examiner felt that Mr. Saffa presented himself in an overly favorable light and in a manner which demonstrates a lack of attention to detail which noted random and inconsistent responding. He asked Mr. Saffa if he wanted to respond to that in some fashion.

Mr. Saffa responded by saying that he did write a letter about the examiner's comments also to the Board explaining how he felt about it. He said for all present again, that he also saw some other things in the report that were not true such as the examiner's statement that he had said he was arrested due to using a pen marijuana which he had never shared that information with him. He has never been arrested. This is something he put in the report that was not true.

Mr. Saffa responded to the examiner's comment regarding his lack of attention, he would like to share his experience at the NYPD, albeit short. He began in Harlem where he responded to difference calls ranging from homicides to shootings. Right before moving back to Connecticut he had a six-year old in his police car who he rushed to the hospital. Unfortunately, the kid did not make it in spite of his efforts. In Manhattan traffic is very, very bad but he got him to the Harlem Hospital within four minutes.

Commissioner Lawlor indicated he wanted to give Mr. Saffa a chance to respond as people were watching.

Mr. Saffa thanked Commissioner Lawlor.

Mr. Patrick Jean-Gilles commented that he would to explain why he has not agreed with the decision because he had worked for the New York City Police Department for more than five years. His performance was always outstanding. He is a dedicated public servant. He had never had any complaints. He had written more than 72,000 tickets since he has been working for the NYPD for the last five years.

He had also worked as an emergency medical technician for 10 years. He took people to hospital with injuries ranging from gunshots, stabbings, etc. His job as an emergency medical technicians has taught him a lot such as using good judgment to solve problems in stressful situations.

Mr. Jean-Gilles added that he was also a volunteer in Haiti like in 2010. He saw a lot of things happen. More than 250 people died. He traveled to Haiti to offer help to friends and families which helped him become a highly-detail oriented individual.

Mr. Jean-Gilles indicated that he spent less than seven minutes speaking with the psychologist. He was asked five questions. The examiner asked him his age, his address, why he got a divorce, if he ever hit a wall or whether he believed in Santa Claus. He was of the believe that the questions asked could not define him as an individual. He believed that his experience and qualifications make him an excellent fit for the police department.

Commissioner Lawlor asked the background investigators what their thoughts were regarding Mr. Jean-Gilles.

Officer McGlotten indicated that Mr. Jean-Gilles was very professional, very clean. Everybody he spoke to, as far as a reference, spoke highly of Mr. Jean-Gilles. The interview went well. From what he had observed, like he said, he is very professional. He has been with the NYPD traffic for over five years. One thing about New York is that you have to actually pass a psychological. He's had two different job experiences of which one is as an EMT which is very difficult job too. He was at a loss for words when he found out about the psychological results.

Commissioner Meares indicated she had no questions. She just wanted to point out again that they got a recommendation from the psychological examiner that Mr. Jean-Gilles was not recommended. And in face of lots of other information, she just urged all to think a little bit more about the language that is used with respect to these evaluations.

Commissioner Brooks indicated he would like to know if Chief Jacobson felt the same way about this candidate as the previous candidate.

Chief Jacobson thanked Commissioner Brooks for asking. Yes, he felt the same way. He felt that Mr. Jean-Gilles should continue in the process.

Commissioner Ribeiro asked Mr. D'Amore if he still wanted to be heard in closed



session. Mr. D'Amore said yes.

**Executive Session.**

- \*\* Commissioner Meares motioned go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues
- \*\* Commissioner Brooks seconded
- \*\* Motion passed unanimously

**The Board went into Executive Session at 6:38 p.m.**

- \*\* Commissioner Meares motioned to leave Executive session
- \*\* Commissioner Miranda seconded
- \*\* Motion passed unanimously

**The Board exited Executive Session at 6:56 p.m.**

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that they still have to official removed the candidates who withdrew from the Eligibility List.

- \*\* Commissioner Lawlor motioned to remove #13 Abdessamad Elyajouri and #49 Marissa Spisak from the Eligibility List
- \*\* Commissioner Miranda seconded
- \*\* Motion passed unanimously

- \*\* Commissioner Lawlor motioned to accept the recommendation of the Chief for the removal of #29 Jamil Saffa
- \*\* Commissioner Miranda seconded
- \*\* (0-5-0)
- \*\* Motion failed unanimously

- \*\* Commissioner Lawlor motioned to accept the recommendation of the Chief for the removal of #33 Patrick Jean-Gilles
- \*\* Commissioner Miranda seconded
- \*\* (0-5-0)
- \*\* Motion failed unanimously

- \*\* Commissioner Lawlor motioned to accept the Chief's recommendation to remove #36 Anthony D'Amore
- \*\* Commissioner Miranda seconded
- \*\* (0-5-0)
- \*\* Motion failed unanimously

■ Commissioner Ribeiro wished all three candidates the best of luck as they move forward in the process.

### **RETIREMENTS (For Board information only)**

Police Records Clerk Elaine Lesane, eff., April 16, 2023

### **RESIGNATION (For Board information only)**

Police Records Clerk Dre'Ana Grant, eff., March 20, 2023

### **RECRUITMENT/SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Sergeant Paul Finch

- Sergeant Finch reported that they were coming to the end of career fairs. They will be at the University of New Haven this week. They were at Gateway Community the previous week. They were also at Housatonic. They will start hitting the pavement again. The City of New Haven's International Festival of Arts & Ideas is coming up. So the Department will be planning to be more involved such more community work. They will utilize the social media to push through their training sessions and encourage people the run-along so that they can get a good idea of what it's like to be like a really good police officer.
- Commissioner Lawlor asked when they would be at the University of New Haven.
- Sergeant Finch replied by saying April 13, 2023. They will be there from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. It's usually a full and fun day. A lot of the students want to be detectives instead of patrol officers first.

### **EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Discussion and action on General Order 2.04 Bloodborne/Airborne Pathogens, Hepatitis B Vaccination, TB Testing Policy.

- Commissioner Meares indicated that no one on the Efficiency Committee had any questions about the work that the Department did on bloodborne pathogens.
- Assistant Chief Ettienne concurred that there were no concerns about this, just detention and transport are not being presented tonight.
- Commissioner Ribeiro asked if there was anything different that they have to be aware The version she got was not redlined so she could not tell what the changes were.
- Commissioner Meares indicated that they had to make changes consistent with POST requirements. Usually when these changes were made, the person who takes the lead in drafting does the presentation.
- Chief Jacobson indicated that that would be done in the future.
- Commissioner Ribeiro indicated she reviewed the General Order. she would, however, like a follow-up regarding what the changes are for the public.
- Assistant Chief Colon indicated that she had the changes.
- Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that she was not sure if this General Order was attached to the agenda. If it was not, it needed to be sent out immediately after this meeting.
- Assistant Chief Ettienne indicated that he believed it had been sent out.
- Assistant Chief Colon indicated initially it was just bloodborne pathogens. They added airborne pathogens, Hepatitis B vaccination, TB testing policy. A few things were added to the portion where it says 2.04.02 policy. "Employees ... shall not discriminate against any individual known or suspected of being infected with HIV and any other disease such as

tuberculosis ... hepatitis. Such individuals shall be provided with the same compassion and consideration ...” That was something that was added.

- Assistant Chief Colon further stated that there was an addition to definitions which was the airborne pathogen and infection contracted by inhalation of microorganisms. It’s a very textbook definition of airborne pathogens. There were a few more definition revisions for “communicable diseases.” In addition, anywhere it says bloodborne now has bloodborne and airborne pathogens

- For tasks and procedures involving occupational exposure, they have added that packaging for disposal for infectious waste. Previously there were no guidelines concerning what to do with infectious waste. Now, there is a directive for packaging for disposal.

- They have just added that the Department’s academy commander will be providing the training. She will be reaching out to Lieutenant Rehnquist regarding the training aspect of this General Order.

- On page 10 of 12 says notify PMA which is now the Department’s Workers’ Compensation.

- There are additions regarding TB testing and exposure, symptoms, general procedures as to what officers are required to do, and prevention and clean-up procedures for TB. There is a large section added regarding TB specifically.

- And this supersedes the General Order for bloodborne pathogens that was issued in 2014.

- Commissioner Meares added that all of that is putting the Department in compliance with the Connecticut POST requirement.

- Assistant Chief Colon replied, yes, ma’am/

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

There was none.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Discussion and action on the reimbursement request from Officer Chad Curry.

- Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that their prayers have been with Mr. Curry during this time. She is glad that he was back in action.

- Chief Jacobson expressed that they are very proud of Officer Curry. He has been working hard to get back. He’s coming back soon. They are extremely proud of him. He’s been dying to come back. They keep telling him to just wait until after his therapy. He’s a fine example of a New Haven officer. He forgot what he was asking for, but he hoped they could reimburse Officer Curry.

- Officer Curry said thank you.

- The request is for damaged property. It appears that during the unfortunate incident that happened back in October during which Officer Curry was shot, his work boots were damaged. He is asking for reimbursement for a new pair of boots at the price of \$233.97. Approval of reimbursements can only be up to \$250.00 per the union contract.

- Officer Curry indicated that the boots were damaged.

- Commissioner Ribeiro thanked Officer Curry for the clarification.

- Commissioner Miranda addressed Officer Curry that he was born and raised in Fair Haven. All of his businesses are in Fair Haven. The incident involving Officer Curry happened three houses away from where his grandchildren live. He admired and praised Officer Curry’s

service not only to New Haven but especially Fair Haven. He indicated that if Officer Curry adjusted what he was asking for, he would be happy to approve anything he asks for.

■ Officer Curry replied, thank you, much appreciated.

\*\* **Commissioner Miranda motioned to approve Officer Chad Curry's reimbursement**

\*\* **Commissioner Brooks seconded**

\*\* **Motion passed unanimously**

■ Commissioner Ribeiro expressed that she was glad to see he was back and healthy.

■ Officer Curry replied, thank you.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was none.

■ Assistant Chief Colon said the General Order had not been approved.

\*\* **Commissioner Meares motioned to approve General Order 2:04 Bloodborne and Airborne Pathogens, Hepatitis B Vaccination, TB Testing Policy**

\*\* **Commissioner Brooks seconded**

\*\* **Motion passed unanimously**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

\*\* Commissioner Miranda moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting

\*\* Commissioner Lawlor seconded

\*\* Motion passed unanimously

The next regular meeting will be on May 9, 2023.

The Board adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sotonye Otunba-Payne