

NEW HAVEN BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
AND
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT
AUGUST 8, 2023
6:03 P.M.
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND CONFERENCE CALL VIA ZOOM

A P P E A R A N C E S:

COMMISSIONER DARRELL BROOKS - Joined at 6:05 p.m.
COMMISSIONER TRACEY MEARES
COMMISSIONER ISAIAS MIRANDA
COMMISSIONER EVELISE RIBEIRO
COMMISSIONER DONALD WALKER

CHIEF KARL JACOBSON
ASSISTANT CHIEF MANMEET BHAGTANA
ASSISTANT CHIEF BERTRAM ETTIENNE
LIEUTENANT DANA SMITH
SERGEANT YELENA BORISOVA
SERGEANT PAUL FINCH
OFFICER D. COHEN
OFFICER REGINALD MCGLOTTEN
ASIA JOHNSON-CLERK, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MICHELLE DUPREY, ESQUIRE - DEPUTY CORPORATION COUNSEL
BRUCE FISCHER - DEPT OF TRANSPORTION, TRAFFIC AND PARKING
REGINA RUSH-KITTLE - CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
YAOGUE LIU

GERALD ANTUNES: ALDER
JOHN BRUNETTI
RAMONA DAVIS
TYLER EVAND
ERIC LOPEZ
WILLIAM SIMMONS, JR.
NH CITIZEN

SOTONYE OTUNBA-PAYNE
COURT REPORTERS' OFFICE
235 CHURCH STREET
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06511

1 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: I am Commissioner Evelise
2 Ribeiro. We have Commissioner Tracey Meares,
3 Commissioner Donald Walker, Commissioner Isaias
4 Miranda. Commissioner Brooks should be joining us
5 shortly. And Commissioner Lawlor will not be at the
6 meeting this evening.

7 So the first order of business is approval of
8 the agenda for the Traffic Authority. Commissioners,
9 what is your pleasure?

10 COMMISSIONER MEARES: I move that we approve the
11 agenda for the Traffic Authority Meeting today.

12 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. We have a motion
13 by Commissioner Meares. Is there a second?

14 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: I'll second it.

15 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. We have a motion
16 to approve the agenda for the Traffic Authority by
17 Commissioner Meares, seconded by Commissioner
18 Miranda. And any discussion? For the record, we've
19 been joined by Commissioner Brooks. I just wanted to
20 note for the record in the event he chooses to
21 participate in the vote. This is for approval of the
22 agenda. All those in favor please signify by saying
23 aye?

24 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

25 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Aye.

1 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye.

2 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Aye.

3 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: And, Commissioners, I
4 apologize. I need to go back. It's been requested
5 that -- for the transcriptionist that for the
6 commissioners that I do take a voice vote so she can
7 be clear as to who has voted. She doesn't always get
8 to hear all of the ayes. So I will go back.
9 Commissioner Meares?

10 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Aye.

11 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Commissioner Brooks?

12 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Aye.

13 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Commissioner Miranda?

14 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye.

15 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Commissioner Walker?

16 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

17 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: And I am an aye. And so
18 motion has passed. We'll move on to the minutes,
19 discussion and approval of regular meeting minutes of
20 January 13th, 2023.

21 MR. FISCHER: That will be June.

22 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: What did - what did I
23 say? I'm sorry.

24 MR. FISCHER: You said --

25 COMMISSIONER MEARES: January

1 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Oh. That's because it'[s
2 my birthday month. I just got ahead of myself.
3 We'll go back and approve the meeting minutes of June
4 13, 2023. Commissioners, what is your pleasure.

5 COMMISSIONER MEARES: I move approval of the
6 minutes of the meeting of June 13th.

7 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I'll second -

8 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Commissioner Miranda
9 seconds.

10 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. We have a motion
11 by Commissioner Meares, seconded by Commissioner
12 Miranda to approve the regular meeting minutes of
13 June 13, 2023. Any discussion? All those in favor
14 signify by saying aye.

15 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

16 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Aye.

17 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Aye.

18 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Did - did you get
20 everyone? Could you -- maybe it's better to just
21 identify yourself when you aye than for me to go back
22 and call on everyone every single time.

23 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Meares, aye.

24 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Walker, aye.

25 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Brooks, aye.

1 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Miranda, aye.

2 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. We'll figure out
3 an easier way of doing this that's easy for us and
4 easy for the transcriptionist as well. Any opposed?
5 Okay. Abstentions? Okay, motion carry.

6 Moving on to action items. Bruce?

7 MR. FISCHER: Good evening. I want to put the
8 agenda up. The item, Item 1, which is a request of
9 the alders in the Ninth --

10 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: I'm sorry. Can -- Bruce,
11 before you start, can we make just a little large for
12 those of us that have challenged eyesight?

13 MS. JOHNSON-CLARK: Is it bigger now?

14 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Yep. It's a got a thing.
15 You've got to move it over a little bit unless it's
16 just my computer. Someone else can tell me if they
17 can see it.

18 COMMISSIONER MEARES: No, it's not centered. It
19 is now.

20 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay, thank you.

21 MR. FISCHER: The -- it's now centered. Some of
22 the items are landscaped. The -- the first item is a
23 request from the alders from the ward -- Ward 9 and
24 Ward 16, Alder Herrera and Alder Santiago
25 establishing All Way Stop control on Blatchley Avenue

1 and Pine Street.

2 There have been a number of crashes at that
3 location with detailed and the report. There were
4 five in 2022 and about 27 in the last five years, and
5 three up until now this year. So we are recommending
6 that we approve an All Way Stop. It's currently stop
7 now in the westbound direction. Pine Street is a one
8 way westbound. And we would make north -- putting
9 stop signs for the north and southbound on Blatchley
10 Avenue. We recommend the approval.

11 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. Commissioners, any
12 questions? Okay. Seeing none, what is your
13 pleasure?

14 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: I make a -- Commissioner
15 Miranda. I make a motion for Item 1 to be approved.

16 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Is there a second?

17 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Commissioner Meares
18 seconds.

19 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. So we'll call the
20 vote. And I am going to just call for the -- for the
21 ayes and nays and then I'll call for a voice vote, if
22 I detect any opposition. So all those in favor,
23 please signify by saying aye.

24 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

25 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Aye.

1 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye.

2 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Opposed? Abstentions?
3 Okay, motion carry.

4 MR. FISCHER: Item 2 is a request of the
5 department for a change on the section of York Street
6 between South Frontage Road and Martin Luther King
7 Boulevard. It's currently a one way in the
8 northbound direction. And we would like to change it
9 to two ways in that one block. It -- it was
10 previously a one way from Howard Avenue to South
11 Frontage Road. And that segment was changed about a
12 year and a half, two years ago to two ways.

13 The segment between York Street -- excuse me,
14 South Frontage Road and MLK was not changed because
15 there was no study done on the impact of -- on
16 traffic between -- section between York and MLK.

17 We have subsequently completed a traffic study
18 on the impact that it would have and the necessary
19 single improvement we would have to do. And we would
20 now -- we have confirmation that it would actually
21 rightly help traffic on South Frontage Road to make
22 the section between South Frontage and MLK that will
23 reduce the congestion along South Frontage Road very
24 slightly during the afternoon peak. We would now
25 like to --

1 If -- if somebody could actually go through
2 about 20 pages. If somebody could go report there
3 and change. There's a -- there a drawing for ... Next
4 page I believe. Right here.

5 So what happened is the -- there was -- the
6 result, it's right now two lanes heading from South
7 Frontage Road towards north -- towards MLK Boulevard.
8 And it will become -- in the section that's painted
9 slightly yellow, that section will become two ways.
10 The signal at South Frontage and York would be
11 revised to have head spacing in the southbound
12 direction. And this would reduce the traffic that's
13 now going around the block on MLK up to Park Street.
14 It has to go Park Street and turn left onto South
15 Frontage Boulevard.

16 It would traffic to South Frontage which will
17 now just turn left at York Street and head to the
18 emergency room door. And it would actually help
19 traffic operations.

20 So we are asking the Board to -- the Commission
21 here to approve this change. And it would be under
22 construction shortly.

23 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Questions, Commissioners?

24 COMMISSIONER WALKER: How long will it take to
25 complete the necessary --

1 MR. FISCHER: Well, it would probably --
2 construction will probably -- we have to input a new
3 -- if you see where that no-right-turn sign is and
4 there's an arrow pointing to that corner, that corner
5 we need to put in a new signal pole. And the
6 construction will probably take two to three months
7 and the wiring, etc., is another few months. So we
8 have --

9 So we hope to have it completed within six
10 months of approval or so.

11 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: So I'm just trying to --
12 is -- is that the -- the block that's like under the
13 garage with the --

14 MR. FISCHER: Yeah.

15 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: -- business? I'm sorry.
16 You said yes?

17 MR. FISCHER: Yes, yes, I did. This is -- this
18 is the -- this is the garage -- this is going to
19 be -- the Ellis Garage is above this block.

20 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. So with the study,
21 though, I mean were the business owners in that
22 block, were they -- were they spoken to or do they
23 have any input at all?

24 MR. FISCHER: Not really, no. It wouldn't have
25 any impact on them. There would be no change to

1 parking. I don't think there'd be any concern, no
2 change to loading.

3 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: There's still parking on
4 both sides?

5 MR. FISCHER: Yes, there'll still be park -- no,
6 no change whatsoever in the -- in the condition
7 towards the abutter.

8 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: So, Bruce, help me
9 understand. What is the point of -- of this change?
10 And if I understand it, this is just in between this
11 -- this short block here, in between north and south?

12 MR. FISCHER: There's overriding background
13 things going on here. First of all, it's -- it's
14 part of a -- of a larger plan to convert a number of
15 downtown streets to two way. This is -- this is an
16 overriding concern of the -- the -- the politicians
17 and -- and residents and business owners who have
18 looked to apply this street system. They feel the
19 one-way street system is too complicated. And there
20 lies concerns with making many of the streets
21 converted from one way to two way.

22 The other thing is that there's been a -- the
23 Yale New Haven Hospital administration has been
24 working to make this change. They have been pushing
25 us to do this because they feel it's -- it's better

1 access to the emergency room and to the front -- the
2 front entrance to their hospital. So people coming
3 off the highway, I-95 and I-91, have better access to
4 their main entrance on -- on York Street.

5 COMMISSISONER BROOKS: So, so if I'm -- if I'm
6 understanding you correctly, then heading north on
7 York Street will be -- will be a two-way street. Is
8 that what you are saying?

9 MR. FISCHER: Well, it will be two ways from
10 Howard -- from Howard Avenue to MLK. And then it
11 will be one way from MLK moving towards Broadway.

12 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Gotch you. Is -- is
13 Howard to -- to -- to South Frontage, is that a two
14 way now?

15 MR. FISCHER: Yes. It's -- we've made that way
16 during the construction of the South Frontage Road
17 work that was done in conjunction with the
18 construction of 101 College Street. South Frontage
19 Road was widened. And it was part of the detours,
20 etc. So that the road was made two ways during the
21 construction.

22 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Okay.

23 MR. FISCHER: And -- and we've -- it's work that
24 hasn't -- hasn't caused any problems and it's worked
25 out to be helpful. Yale New Haven Hospital is very,

1 very happy with the results. And this -- this was
2 contemplated at that time. So we weren't sure that
3 it would work from -- from a signalization
4 standpoint. And we held off at that time.

5 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Okay.

6 MR. FISCHER: And then we -- we went out and we
7 had a -- outside consultant do the study. The --

8 The backup, there's about 30 pages more after
9 this feed with the backup to the -- all the -- all
10 the engineering calculations that showed that it
11 actually worked.

12 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Okay.

13 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Bruce, just, just help me
14 understand. How -- how does that get you close to
15 the emergency room entrance? I'm not getting that
16 part.

17 MR. FISCHER: Yeah, I -- I -- misspoke. It --
18 it does get you to the emergency room on Howard
19 Avenue which is emergency for the child center. But
20 it's supposed to actually get you closer to the --
21 the actual emergency room. You could still go down
22 on Park Street and get in that way too.

23 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Oh, okay. All right.
24 Thank you.

25 MR. FISCHER: But the -- this -- it provides

1 additional access to the emergency room. What --
2 what I meant is that when I said that when I
3 misspoke, I -- I meant to say their front entrance on
4 Howard -- on York Street.

5 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. All right. So
6 that makes --

7 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Yeah. Madam Chair, I mean
8 if you are coming down Mark -- Martin Luther King
9 Boulevard, you could take that left on York and then
10 within a block and a half you could be in the
11 emergency area rather than coming in from Howard or
12 going all the way down to Park to turn.

13 COMMISSIONER RIBERIO: Right. But the rest of
14 York is still one way so that's why I -- I was a
15 little confused because I'm saying you still can't go
16 all the way down York to get to the emergency room.
17 I mean it's fine but I was just trying to understand
18 the --

19 MR. FISCHER: No, no. York Street -- York
20 Street is two way from MLK Boulevard all the way to
21 Howard Avenue.

22 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. Because the
23 diagram looks differently. Okay, no problem. All
24 right. Any other questions, Commissioners? All
25 right, thank you, Bruce. Seeing no other questions

1 --

2 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Do we need to move this
3 item, Madam Chair?

4 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Yes, we do. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: I make a motion we accept
6 this change. Commissioner Brooks.

7 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Commissioner Miranda
8 seconds.

9 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. So we have a
10 motion to approve Item 2 on the agenda made by
11 Commissioner Brooks and seconded by Commissioner
12 Miranda. Any further discussion? All right. All
13 those in favor, signify by saying aye.

14 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

15 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Aye.

16 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye.

17 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Aye.

18 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Any -- thank you, ma'am.
19 Any opposed? Abstentions? Okay, motion carry.

20 MR. FISCHER: Okay, Item 3. I'm going to break
21 this up into two parts. There's an Item 3A, would be
22 the request for seven handicap spaces at 79 Chapel.,
23 655 -- 655 Orange, 250 Orchard, 56 Perkins, 105
24 Ramsdell, 69 Spring and 962 Townsend Avenue.

25 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay.

1 MR. FISCHER: If we could scroll ahead about 30
2 pages or so to the next drawing.

3 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: You wanted to A and B.
4 Do you want us to take A and B together?

5 MR. FISCHER: We can vote on A if we -- you
6 would like.

7 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. All right.
8 Commissioners, what's your pleasure on Item 3A? Is
9 there a motion?

10 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I'll make a motion --

11 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Commissioner Miranda --

12 COMMISSIONER WALKER: -- we accept the
13 recommendation for Items A and B -- A -- 3A and B.

14 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. We haven't heard B
15 yet. So is it okay if your motion is just for 3A?

16 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Sure.

17 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay, thank you. Is
18 there a second?

19 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Meares seconds.

20 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. We have a motion
21 to approve Item 3A. Any -- I'm sorry. A motion
22 made by Commissioner Walker and seconded by
23 Commissioner Meares. Any discussion? All right.
24 Seeing, none, all those in favor please signify by
25 saying aye.

1 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

2 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Aye.

3 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye.

4 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Opposed? Abstention?

5 Motion carry. Three B, Item 3B. Bruce?

6 MR. FISCHER: Item 3B is a -- if we could just
7 go to the next feed. Maybe we can reduce the size
8 there.

9 So this is a portion of Prospect Street just
10 south of Edward Street. And Yale is constructing
11 what they are calling a new Chemical Safety Building
12 where they store some -- not necessarily hazardous
13 chemicals, but chemicals used in -- and I'm not
14 really good at explaining what -- what they are
15 actually doing here. But they're --

16 They're storing chemicals used in their Science
17 Building adjacent to this area. And they are
18 actually are doing this already. This is not new.
19 But they are building a new building to do this. And
20 they're building a new driveway. And, oh, this is a
21 warehouse for this storage.

22 They are rearranging their driveway off of
23 Prospect Street. And they are relocating a current
24 driveway. And they are asking us to rearrange
25 parking spaces so that they can get in with tractor

1 trailers off of Prospect Street. And they are asking
2 us to post No Parking for the truck and interfacility
3 without necessarily encroaching on traffic.

4 And you can't actually see the old driveway in
5 this drawing, but the No Parking would be from 150
6 feet south of Prospect Street which you can't see in
7 this drawing. And the spaces that are Ex'd out here
8 will be where they -- it's the grouping parking. And
9 those spaces would be removed and made No Parking.

10 The driveway is where the green lane is there.
11 You can -- I guess because of the way -- the drawing
12 are a little big for the screen here, but where the
13 green line is and it says new 30-foot wide driveway.
14 And you need a little more because of the size of the
15 vehicles that have to turn into this driveway.

16 They'll need -- they'll need this -- what's
17 called a turning radiant. They'll need the other --
18 so that they don't scratch out or dent any cars that
19 park near there. They re going to need these extra
20 spaces.

21 We will get back some spaces. There are
22 currently no parking. So it's kind of a tradeoff.

23 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Well --

24 MR. FISCHER: We are asking you to approve the
25 new signing that will be necessary to do this.

1 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Bruce, has this been --
2 this plan been to City Plan?

3 MR. FISCHER: Oh, yes. This is -- this went to
4 City Plan about six or seven months ago. And it was
5 approved. We just can't -- because we skipped some
6 of the meetings, it hasn't been -- and, you know,
7 they haven't actually gotten anywhere near the curb
8 work on this yet. So we -- we weren't in a hurry to
9 bring this to you, but we did -- we -- we do want to
10 get it to you before they actually start doing this
11 work.

12 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Okay. And -- and so it
13 had to go through City Plan. Did it have to go
14 through the BZA as well or just --

15 MR. FISCHER: Oh, yeah. Oh, it goes to BZA
16 before, yes. This is all -- this is all approved and
17 Yale has all the plan approvals that it needs.

18 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Okay.

19 MR. FISCHER: You probably read some -- some
20 stories about it in the New Haven Independent.

21 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: So just a question. So
22 is this like a two-part request? You are asking us,
23 one, to rescind the five spaces that's on Prospect
24 Street, but then you are also asking us to
25 establishing a turning radiant?

1 MR. FISCHER: No, no, no. We -- we're -- their
2 engineers have done that.

3 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay.

4 MR. FISCHER: And as a result they've determined
5 that this would be the necessary requirement to make
6 this work.

7 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. And this is a
8 permanent request or a temporary request?

9 MR. FISCHER: Yeah, this is permanent. Yeah.
10 This will be their -- this is to make their facility
11 usable.

12 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay, thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Bruce, did I hear you --
14 I'm sorry, Madam Chair.

15 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: No, go ahead.

16 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Bruce, did I hear you say
17 that -- that you were going to get parking back
18 somewhere? Did I hear that correctly?

19 MR. FISCHER: Yeah. This driveway -- this
20 drive -- this facility existed in another location on
21 the site. And we're -- we're relocating the driveway
22 to accommodate the relocation of the same facility.
23 So we're shifting where this driveway is.

24 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Okay. And so the old
25 driveway will pick up -- will pick up --

1 MR. FISCHER: Yeah.

2 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: -- new parking spots?

3 MR. FISCHER: Right. Correct.

4 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Okay.

5 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Um-hmm. Any other
6 questions, Commissioners? All right. What is your
7 pleasure?

8 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Madam Chair, I'd like to
9 move this item and we approve the reduction of these
10 five parking spots to accommodate this new driveway.

11 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay.

12 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I second it.

13 COMMISSINOER RIBEIRO: Okay. There's a motion
14 made by Commissioner Walker and -- I'm sorry,
15 Commissioner Brooks and seconded by Commissioner
16 Walker. Any further discussion? All right. All
17 those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

18 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Aye.

20 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye

21 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Aye.

22 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Opposed? Abstentions?
23 Motion carry. I believe that's it for action items.
24 Thank you, Bruce. And thank you for sending the --
25 the detail, background information in advance. It's

1 much appreciated. And I don't think you have
2 anything further.

3 MR. FISCHER: That's it. Thank you very much.

4 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: All right. Thank you.

5 So, Commissioners, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn
6 from the Traffic Authority meeting.

7 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I make a motion we adjourn
8 from the Traffic Authority meeting.

9 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Commissioner Miranda
10 seconds.

11 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. A motion by
12 Commissioner Walker to adjourn and seconded by
13 Commissioner Miranda. Any discussion? All right.
14 All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

15 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Aye.

16 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye.

17 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

18 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Opposed? Motion carries.

19 MR. FISCHER: Thank you very much.

20 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Thank you. Have a good
21 evening.

22 MR. FISCHER: Thank you.

23 **(Whereupon, the Traffic Authority meeting adjourned at 6:30**
24 **p.m.)**

25 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay, 6:30 p.m. And I'll

1 call to order the Board of Police Commissioners
2 Meeting. I will, first, ask before we approve the
3 agenda, Commissioners, I will ask for a motion to
4 actually amend the agenda to add discussion and
5 approval of the corrected -- of the corrected Special
6 Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2023 due to technical
7 errors.

8 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: So moved.

9 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Second.

10 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. Motion for
11 amendment of the Agenda made by Commissioner Miranda
12 and seconded by Commissioner Brooks. Any discussion
13 on the motion to Amend the Agenda? Okay. Seeing
14 none, all those in favor, please signify by saying
15 aye.

16 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

17 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Aye.

18 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Aye

19 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye.

20 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Opposed. Abstentions?
21 Motion carry. Now, I'll entertain a motion to first
22 approve discussion and approval of the Regular
23 Meeting Minutes of June 13 -- I'm sorry, July -- let
24 me go back --

25 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: July --

1 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: We'll -- we'll do
2 discussion and approval of the Special Meeting
3 Minutes from July -- June 28, 2023 due to technical
4 errors. Is there a motion? And I'll explain during
5 the discussion portion. Is there a motion?

6 COMMISSIONER WALKER: So moved, Madam Chair.

7 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: I'll second.

8 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. There's a motion
9 by Commissioner Brooks. Is that correct? I'm sorry.
10 Mr. Brooks.

11 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Yeah.

12 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: And seconded by
13 Commissioner Walker.

14 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Yeah.

15 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: So it's essentially just a
16 technical error that just need to be updated. We
17 did -- we did approve the agenda at the last meeting
18 but no one caught the -- the technical error.

19 So we just wanted to be clear. Because for the
20 record, if you look on page 1 which you may not have
21 in front of you, but in terms of stating who was at
22 the meeting, we listed all the commissioners. And
23 under Commissioner Miranda it stated he will be
24 joining us this evening which was not the case. It
25 should be will not be joining. And that just needed

1 to be correct because we need to clear particularly
2 for the -- the hearing that had occurred who was
3 actually at the meeting or not. So that was a
4 technical error that needed to be updated for the
5 minutes which our transcriptionist has done.

6 And then on page 7 it was just a -- a missing
7 word. The sentence read, and we just wanted no that
8 the behavior of this ... And it should read we just
9 wanted to note that the behavior of the this ... So
10 they were technical but needed to be corrected and
11 voted upon nonetheless. Any questions? Okay.

12 So you should -- you should be given a copy if
13 you haven't already what's to vote on a copy of the
14 corrected minutes which will then be posted
15 accordingly. So with that being said, all those in
16 favor of approving the corrected minutes of the
17 Special Meeting of June 28, 2023 please signify by
18 saying aye.

19 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Aye.

20 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Aye.

21 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. Opposed?

22 Abstention? Motion carry.

23 I will now entertain a motion to approve -- for
24 the discussion and approval of the Regular Meeting
25 Minutes of July 11th, 2023.

1 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: So moved, Madam Chair.

2 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Is there a second?

3 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Second.

4 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. We have a motion
5 by Commissioner Brooks and a second by Commissioner
6 Walker to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July
7 11th. Any discussion? All those favor, please
8 signify by saying aye.

9 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Aye.

10 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Aye.

11 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Opposed? Abstentions?
12 Motion carry. Okay. We'll move into the Chief'
13 Report. Good evening, Chief.

14 CHIEF JACOBSON: Good evening, Madam Chair and
15 the rest of the commissioners. Good to see you this
16 evening. I'm going to try to make it quick. I've
17 got a couple of quick things.

18 To start with, we are starting an ATV Dirt Bike
19 Taskforce so to speak which we will be using other
20 towns with us that also have the same problem. We
21 started about a week ago. We had the assistance of
22 Wallingford -- Wallingford, North Haven and Naugatuck
23 that day. Naugatuck actually helped us with a drone.
24 They were to seize five bikes safely and give out I
25 believe 4,000-dollar tickets.

1 We are going to continue that because we've seen
2 an uptick in ATV dirt bike activity in all
3 communities. So we are working with our partner
4 communities.

5 We are doing that through South Central Police
6 Chiefs Association which I was just elected to as a
7 vice president. I got into the organization to help
8 -- you know, help change policing and help others to
9 do things that we are doing in New Haven.

10 I've also become an Executive Board member of
11 the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association. And the
12 same thing, I want to learn what everybody else is
13 doing. And I want to spread -- spread what we are
14 doing. And those roles should help me do that.

15 We've also been using our drone technology. We
16 had the Gospel Festival this weekend. We used the
17 drone and just to make sure that there was no threats
18 on the outside. We also use drone on crash scenes
19 already, and also like I said for the ATV details.
20 And it's working out good. The officers are using
21 their technology in a good way.

22 Now, for some other news. Now, we had National
23 Night Out last Tuesday. That was excellent. Thank
24 you, Madam Chair, for attending. AC Colon is going
25 to put up some pictures. We had a real good couple

1 of 100 citizens showed up. We had giveaways.

2 The FBI had a tent. The DEA had a tent. The
3 U.S. Marshal Service had a tent. Our fire department
4 brothers and sisters had a tent. It was a very good.
5 I can't see any pictures. Maybe --

6 ASSISTANT CHIEF BHAGTANA: You Can't see the
7 pictures, Chief? All right.

8 CHIEF JACOBSON: No.

9 ASSISTANT CHIEF BHAGTANA: Okay.

10 CHIEF JACOBSON: Well, I see them but they are
11 not -- they are small.

12 ASSISTANT CHIEF BHAGTANA: Okay. I'll try it
13 again.

14 CHIEF JACOBSON: Well, I'll keep going. So had
15 giveaways, kids won bikes, TVs. We had a lot of kids
16 from PAL that we engage with. It was really a great
17 event.

18 And our comfort dog, Finn, has been excellent.
19 The comfort dog has been at all these events but also
20 been used in a situation where in helping sex assault
21 victim kind of come in and feel comfortable and give
22 a statement. So the dog is paying off already. We
23 appreciate the dog.

24 ASSISTANT CHIEF BHAGTANA: Can you -- can you
25 see this photo of the chief on the bike?

1 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: No.

2 ASSISTANT CHIEF BHAGTANA: N? Oh. Okay.

3 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: If -- if you click on it,
4 doesn't it enlarge?

5 ASSISTANT CHIEF BHAGTANA: Automatic screen is
6 showing up that way. All right.

7 CHIEF JACOBSON: All right. We'll -- we'll do
8 the pictures next time. Just update on --

9 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: You can see it now.

10 CHIEF JACOBSON: Oh, there you go. Go ahead.
11 So the motors were out there. If you see the tents
12 in the background, these are booths of the comfort
13 dog, Yale and ours.

14 ASSISTANT CHIEF BHAGTANA: And Sergeant Finch.

15 CHIEF JACOBSON: Sergeant Finch. You always got
16 to put Sergeant Finch in the pictures.

17 ASSISTANT CHIEF BHAGTANA: Sergeant Sanders

18 CHIEF JACOBSON: Sergeant Sanders. Comfort dog
19 again. We did have a recruitment table and our
20 Survivors of Homicides table, very good. We had the
21 bear cart. The kids loved the bear cart. Lots of
22 kids went into to the bear cart in their --

23 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Is that the chief?

24 CHIEF JACOBSON: Forget that picture. I'll
25 never ride a motorcycle. And I'm not a good driver

1 but they wanted me to sit on it.

2 It was really a good night. You know, it -- it
3 was up between Brookside and the Manor. And a lot of
4 people came out so thank you for that, Chief Colon.

5 Just an update on the violence numbers. Right
6 now we have 42 non-fatal shootings where last year at
7 this time we had 72. So we have a 30 per -- 30 --
8 actual 30 less people have been shot in the category.
9 And then last year at this time we had seven
10 homicides. Right now, we have 14 homicides. So
11 overall 23 less people have been shot in the city.

12 I just wanted to comment on a federal case we
13 took down last week as well. We've been working with
14 our federal partners. Actually all -- all of them
15 have worked on this case together which is very rare
16 that you see them all indict in the same case, but
17 the FBI, the ATF and the DEA. There were three more
18 arrests which covered eight shootings and another
19 homicide. So this case in general has solved three
20 homicides in this city and solved 15 shootings.

21 We hope this is going to help with our violence
22 in this city. We -- we -- we feel it will. There
23 was even some indictments related to stolen cars.
24 And, therefore, the stolen cars were used in
25 shootings which is a new method that U.S. Attorney's

1 Office doesn't often use. You don't see them indict
2 for stolen cars. But, although, it was only three
3 people -- like we've always talked about, it's a very
4 small number of people that commit the violent crime
5 in the city.

6 So the first roundup was six. This was three.
7 So we have nine. Actually, they are gang members
8 that were indicted fed -- federally and we'll be
9 moving forward on that. And we thank our partners
10 for that.

11 And the last thing, if you can put up the flyer,
12 Chief Bhagtana. The citizen -- the Resident Civilian
13 Academy. We decided to call it a Resident Civilian
14 Academy because you don't have to be a citizen to
15 live in this city and -- and get the services of the
16 police department. So we took the suggestion of our
17 friends in the community. And it's going to be
18 Resident Civilian Academy. Starting September 6
19 through October 4th on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 9:00.

20 Anyone could sign up. We are going to do a big
21 media blitz of getting people to sign up. And then
22 take through all the topics, you know, structure of
23 the department, ethics, Patrol operations, community
24 policing, Investigative Services, the court system,
25 de-escalation, use of force, pretty much everything

1 we do.

2 It will be at 200 Wintergreen. We encourage
3 anybody to sign up. I'm sure we will have a small
4 segment where any commissioners that want to come in
5 and talk to the group will be able to or any
6 commissioners want to come in and sit in on any of
7 the classes, certainly able to. And this is our
8 opportunity to, again, use our community policing
9 model and keep engaging with citizens and kind of get
10 people to understand why we do things and what we are
11 doing.

12 That's the end of my presentation. So any
13 questions, Commissioners?

14 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Commissioner Meares?

15 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Thanks, Chief. I love
16 this idea. Question about the curriculum. Is it
17 just -- for the thing that you just mentioned. Is it
18 a sort of translated version of a curriculum that you
19 already use for cops? Is it something that you
20 developed especially for civilians? Where did the
21 curriculum come from?

22 CHIEF JACOBSON: So, we've used the -- we've
23 used one for several years. I think we need to tweak
24 it though because we have changed a lot of stuff
25 So... But it does come from our own trainings and our

1 own teachings. So it's what we taught the cops.

2 It is, you know, condensed so that we can get as
3 much as possible in in that period of time. But I
4 wouldn't say it's custom fit for residents but more
5 our stuff. But as much as possible putting out there
6 so people understand what we do and how we train.

7 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Um-hmm. And it's not till
8 September. So have you thought about or -- you know,
9 I don't how -- whether the curriculum is -- is set in
10 stone. But have -- have you thought about having
11 them analyzed body-cam footage of a stop or something
12 like that? That's something that's being done in
13 other cities. And it can be very illuminating
14 actually for -- for people just to see how those
15 kinds of encounters just occur.

16 CHIEF JACOBSON: Absolutely. I think the
17 Internal Affairs part will have something like that
18 but I will take that suggestion and make sure that's
19 in our curriculum.

20 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Yeah.

21 CHIEF JACOBSON: The only thing that I've seen
22 recently, the expected -- Inspector General's Office
23 has done community meetings where they actually show
24 use of force that's been use -- the cases are
25 already clear, of course.

1 COMMISSINER MEARES: Yeah.

2 CHIEF JACOBSON: But they show it and say --
3 talk about it with community members. So we'll
4 probably invite them as well to do a tour segment
5 because I saw that myself with the Yale community
6 course with Chief Higgins and it was excellent
7 because you had both sides of the room seeing it in
8 different ways. And I think in that room, at least,
9 we all agreed in the end that these are very
10 difficult situations.

11 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Yeah. Well, and I think
12 that's a great idea too. What I had in mind was just
13 really sort of an ordinary encounter, just really
14 ordinary.

15 CHIEF JACOBSON: Yeah.

16 COMMISSIONER MEARES: I'm thinking about it
17 because in my work in Baltimore we do audits of, you
18 know, scores of arrests and stops. And one of the
19 things that's just really interesting is for people
20 to just see how regular encounters happen where most
21 people actually don't get arrested and sort of how an
22 interaction goes. Because what people tend to see
23 on, you know, on social media and -- and the like are
24 the -- the more extreme events. You know, even
25 arrests as -- as common as people think it is is

1 actually not typical, in fact.

2 CHIEF JACOBSON: No, absolutely. No, I --

3 COMMISSIONER MEARES: So just a --

4 CHIEF JACOBSON: -- I appreciate that. I'll
5 make sure we are doing that too. Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Madam Chair, if I may just
7 piggy back a little bit on what Commissioner Meares
8 raised. How about the simulator of where, you know,
9 you send the officers through and they are engaging
10 the public, you know, and they have to make a -- make
11 a decision? I don't know if you remember if I'm
12 describing it right, Chief.

13 CHIEF JACOBSON: Yeah.

14 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: But the stimulator.

15 CHIEF JACOBSON: It's the virtual. We actually
16 purchased one. And we have it for our academy. It's
17 the virtual something. And I forget what the name
18 is. But, yeah, I know we were having a problem with
19 that machine and we are upgrading it. But if it is
20 upgraded prior to that time, we'll look at sending
21 them through that too. I know we've done it in the
22 past.

23 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Okay. I just think that
24 would be a phenomenal experience for a resident to
25 understand, at least from the police perspective,

1 what an officer potentially is facing on a routine
2 traffic stop and/or a domestic, you know, situation.
3 So I -- I think it's a complete eyeopener.

4 CHIEF JACOBSON: Absolutely. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Chief, what's the
6 capacity for the -- for the class? So --

7 CHIEF JACOBSON: That's a good question. I
8 think the room is 50 but I don't know if we've set
9 the limit yet.

10 ASSISTANT CHIEF BHAGTANA: We are thinking 30
11 but we -- we can get up to 50 people.

12 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. So you have ...

13 ASSISTANT CHIEF BHAGTANA: So we also want to be
14 proportionate to instructor if the instructors want
15 to do breakdown groups, we'd like to have some of
16 that as well.

17 CHIEF JACOBSON: And we -- we do have funding to
18 do another one in the spring. So we will be doing
19 two this year. This fiscal year we'll be doing two.

20 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: And it may have been in
21 the flyer and I probably just didn't see it. What's
22 the deadline for it?

23 ASSISTANT CHIEF BHAGTANA: The deadline is
24 August 30th. And, ma'am, we'll be sending out
25 something to the commissioners as well. When we do

1 the introductions, it will be the mayor, chief,
2 assistant chiefs, the Board of Police Commissioners.

3 We'll talk a little bit about the structure of
4 the Department. Ethics, citizens' complaints, and we
5 talk about Patrol operations, the COMPASS program,
6 Yale Child Study, CRB, and then we'll go into
7 Investigative Services, the court systems, State's
8 Attorney's Office. We'll talk about de-escalations,
9 stop and frisk, use of force and emergency services
10 as well as school resource officers. And then the
11 graduation is set for 10/4, October 4th.

12 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay.

13 CHIEF JACOBSON: And the -- the flyer was put
14 into the Chat. And I agree, Commissioner Meares. We
15 will, if we can, keep it smaller so there's better
16 instruction and better opportunities for people.
17 Like I said, we are going to do two. So, hopefully,
18 we get a good response.

19 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Yeah. I think -- I think
20 this is great. I know we did a training as
21 commissioners which was part of this, but I did the
22 citizens -- when it was called the Citizens Academy,
23 we -- many, many moons ago. And I thought it was
24 awesome. So I'm looking forward to redoing it this
25 time around. So congratulations on that.

1 Any other questions or comments for the chief?

2 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I have one. Chief, I
3 just -- this is just a thank you for the traffic
4 units and radar. There have -- there had been
5 several requests for -- to have radar on my street.
6 And they came out. They did a great job.

7 In fact, I mean this is kind of funny. Some of
8 the neighbors actually put -- brought out chairs and
9 put in on their front lawn to watch the Traffic Units
10 who pulled people over radar, and pulled people over.
11 And they did such a great job we asked them to come
12 back. And they came back again.

13 So I want to thank you for that. It really made
14 my neighbors very, very happy to see that, you know,
15 the request they made to try and get traffic calming
16 down on our street were actually honored and adhered
17 to. So thank you.

18 CHIEF JACOBSON: No problem. Chief Zannelli,
19 Captain Marcucio, when we were making decisions about
20 moving -- you know, because we don't have enough
21 people but you want to use your people in the best
22 possible light. We were able to make a B-Squad
23 traffic unit that has been -- helped us in every
24 aspect that you could think.

25 So, you know, more people die in the city from

1 motor vehicle accidents. And we've got make sure we
2 are on it. So we are on it. Thank you for saying
3 that.

4 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. Thank you,
6 everyone. So if there are no further questions or
7 comments, we'll move on to Internal Affairs Report --
8 Internal Affairs Report.

9 LIEUTENANT SMITH: Good evening, Madam Chair.

10 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Good evening.

11 LIEUTENANT SMITH: I'm just going to go over the
12 statistics for IA. It's going to be for IA. The
13 total for 2023, for this year, we have a total of 43
14 complaints. So far we have 30 that are open in IA.
15 So we did close a significant amount.

16 Comparison from last year to this year. Last
17 year we were at 78. Right now we are 43. As far as
18 for the -- for the total year is twenty -- 22 -- with
19 78. This year we are at 43. So we are doing fairly
20 decent in having our numbers down.

21 I'm going to go down to the actual discipline
22 portion as far as for the year which we have -- just
23 a second. I'm just scrolling down. We had one
24 officer received a 15-day suspension. We have six
25 officers that received a verbal reprimand. One

1 officer received a 10-day suspension in abeyance.
2 One officer received an eight-day suspension in
3 abeyance. Two officers received a five-day
4 suspension in abeyance. One officer received a
5 written reprimand and four officers were terminated.

6 I'm going to move on to the use of force. Our
7 use of force is on a downward spiral as well.
8 Comparison from last year to this year, from January-
9 August of 2022, we were at 540. This year from
10 January to August we are at 133.

11 For the sake of time, for the Internal Affairs
12 closed cases, we did have a total of nine. So I'm
13 not going read all of them but I will just give a
14 synopsis of what the dispositions were. We had two
15 that were exonerated. We had six that were
16 unfounded. And we had one sustained. But I will
17 verify that you did receive all three of these
18 reports, ma'am.

19 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Yeah, we did. Just a
20 question. This is for --

21 LIEUTENANT SMITH: Yeah.

22 COMMISSIONER RIBBEIRO: -- discipline. That's
23 from January to date? Or from ...

24 LIEUTENANT SMITH: Which one? The use of force?
25 Or which one are we going to talk about?

1 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: No, the discipline
2 breakdown. Is that from January, '23 to August?

3 LIEUTENANT SMITH: Um --

4 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: It's that time frame?

5 LIEUTENANT SMITH: Yeah. But it's been
6 breakdown, yes.

7 CHIEF JACOBSON: Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: So we have --

9 CHIEF JACOBSON: So far this year.

10 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: I thought we had five
11 terminations.

12 LIEUTENANT SMITH: For now, yes, ma'am.

13 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: I'm sorry. I thought we
14 had five terminations.

15 CHIEF JACOBSON: No. One of them we put him up
16 for termination and he resigned. And one of them we
17 put up for termination and he retired.

18 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. We'll talk
19 offline.

20 CHIEF JACOBSON: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: There's -- I think
22 there's one that you are missing from this report.
23 Okay. All right. Thank you.

24 LIEUTENANT SMITH: Yes, ma'am.

25 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: All right. Anything for

1 IA?

2 COMMISSIONER MEARES: But I have a question,
3 Madam Chair.

4 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Yes. Yes, it's --

5 COMMISSIONER MEARES: I really appreciated the
6 -- the data. I was having like a -- a wonk holiday
7 reading through all of it. So it's excellent. I
8 don't know if you have an answer to this question.
9 And -- and now that I think about maybe just for next
10 time. But there wasn't information that I saw about
11 sort of time to disposition of complaints over time.
12 Right.

13 So often you talk about how long it takes to
14 resolve the complaints. And -- and I was just
15 wondering if that is the kind of data that you can
16 get retrospectively over time?

17 LIEUTENANT SMITH: We could look into that,
18 ma'am. I -- I can speak with the chiefs and see what
19 we can try to come up with to actually gather that
20 data for you.

21 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Yeah. I'd like to see --
22 and not only average but -- but medians as well.
23 Because your averages are going to be dragged down by
24 super long cases. So I'd just love to see the
25 medians over time because of things that was

1 interesting looking at the time, as you could see
2 there, is sort of like a spike where you are getting
3 tons of complaints. And then over time they went
4 down. And there's an interesting story you can tell
5 about that which related to the public's perception.

6 Like I don't know if this is true, but there's a
7 story you could tell. The public's perception that
8 you all are handling cases in better, being more
9 responsive and so on that that would be an
10 explanation of -- of spike and then decline. And one
11 way to back that story up would be to look at data on
12 disposition time.

13 LIEUTENANT SMITH: Roger that. Thank you,
14 ma'am.

15 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Lieutenant, just for --
16 for the public, could you explain what the suspension
17 in abeyance means?

18 LIEUTENANT SMITH: The suspension in abeyance
19 would mean let's say if the officer did receive --
20 just give an example of a total of -- of five days
21 and -- and they had to serve -- a total of five days
22 as far as discipline but they had to serve three and
23 they would be able to have two in abeyance that will
24 equal to five. So they have to serve actually three
25 days as far as for discipline and as for as for the

1 Chief, but they will still have two in abeyance so if
2 there an additional occurrence, then they will have
3 to serve those two additional days as far as for the
4 whole entire discipline.

5 CHIEF JACOBSON: Yeah. And none of those that
6 he mentioned were all abeyance. The officers -- so
7 for instance, the officer that got eight days is
8 serving five and three in abeyance. The officer that
9 got five days is serving three and two in abeyance.
10 So some kind of -- not formula but some kind of --
11 they -- we -- at least me as the chief, I've never
12 given five days all in abeyance. That's what I'm
13 trying to explain.

14 LIEUTENANT SMITH: Okay.

15 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Any discussion? I'm
16 sorry, go ahead.

17 LIEUTENANT SMITH: It's on that, ma'am. Our
18 next -- next meeting, I'll make sure that I have a
19 total breakdown so that will be better clarity as far
20 as for everyone who is in attendance as far the
21 minutes so they have full understanding of the whole
22 entire breakdown.

23 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay, thank you. We
24 appreciate that.

25 LIEUTENANT SMITH: You are welcome, ma'am.

1 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Any other discussion?

2 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Chief, Madam -- Madam
3 Chair, just one quick question for the chief. Chief,
4 are those that are -- these suspensions for 2023,
5 obviously, you would want there to be a corrective
6 nature to -- to -- to the behavior. Are you seeing
7 that the suspension or the discipline is -- is
8 creating the corrective -- corrective behavior and --
9 and changing the morale in -- in the Department or --
10 or is it having an opposite effect?

11 CHIEF JACOBSON: No. I mean I think if you look
12 at the data, and I think that's what Commissioner
13 Meares was kind of getting at, we've -- we've -- I
14 mean although we have four this part of the year,
15 last part of last year, the end of last year, I think
16 as chief, I had another three or four people put up
17 for termination.

18 And then you look at this year, our gun arrests,
19 our car stops, every -- all our productivity is up.
20 But our use of force, do you see how dramatically low
21 use of force is? How even low -- lower IA is, you
22 know, IA complaints. So I feel like the discipline
23 is getting officers to do the job better. Right.
24 And that's what we want.

25 So, you know, I can't say hard facts but I'm a

1 data guy. And you look at the data -- now if
2 activity went down and all that stuff went down,
3 well, then we've got a problem. They are not working
4 for us. But I feel like the data shows that the
5 activity went up but the -- but the IAs and the use
6 of forces went down. So I think that's a good thing.

7 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Thank you, Chief.

8 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. Anything else?
9 All right. Thank you, Chief. All right. I'm sorry,
10 Lieutenant. I just promoted you. Sorry, Chief
11 Jacobson.

12 LIEUTENANT SMITH: Thank you, Madam Chair.

13 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: You're welcome. Okay.
14 We'll move on to Personnel Matters. We have a
15 recommendation from Chief Karl Jacobson to hire
16 Candidates from the Eligibility List 22-68: No. 67,
17 John Brunetti; No. 83, Eric Lopez; No. 90, Aisaiah
18 Rodriguez, I hope I pronounced that correctly; and
19 No. 102, Williams Simmons, Jr.

20 Chief. Do you want to say anything before we --

21 CHIEF JACOBSON: No. I appreciate the
22 commissioners that came in and interviewed these
23 candidates. I interviewed all the candidates. I
24 think this is a good group. They'll be going to
25 Waterbury. I'm very excited to have more bodies on

1 the -- on the job.

2 Personally, I'm excited to see William Simmons
3 there. We've known each other for several years.
4 He's a New Haven resident. But all four of them are
5 great candidates. And we are hoping to keep moving
6 the Department forward with a diverse group of
7 candidates.

8 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Commissioners, what is
9 your pleasure?

10 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Commissioner Miranda. I
11 would like to make a motion to hire Candidate No. 67,
12 John Brunetti, from the Eligibility List No. 22-68.

13 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Second.

14 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay, moved by
15 Commissioner Miranda and seconded by Commissioner
16 Brooks. Any discussion? All those in favor, please
17 signify by aye.

18 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Aye.

20 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

21 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye.

22 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Opposed? Abstentions?
23 Motion carries. Next candidate. Commissioners, what
24 is your pleasure?

25 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I'll make a motion that we

1 adhere to the Chief recommendation to hire Candidate
2 Eric Lopez, No. 83, from the Eligibility List 22-68.
3 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Second.

4 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. We have a motion
5 by commissioner -- made by Commissioner Walker to
6 approve Candidate 83, Eric Lopez, seconded by
7 Commissioner Miranda. Any discussion? Okay. All
8 those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

9 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

10 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Aye.

11 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Opposed? I'm sorry.
12 Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carry.

13 Candidate No. 90, Aisaiah Rodriguez. What is
14 your pleasure?

15 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Well, I -- I'll make a
16 motion to follow the Chief Kark Jacobson's
17 recommendation of hiring Candidate No. 90, Aisaiah
18 Rodriguez, of Eligibility List 22-68.

19 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Second.

20 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. We have a motion
21 to approve the hire for No. 90., Aisaiah Rodriguez
22 made by Commissioner Miranda, seconded by
23 Commissioner Brooks. Any discussion? All right.
24 All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

25 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

1 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Aye.

2 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye.

3 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Opposed? Abstentions?

4 Motion carry. Candidate No. 102, William Simmons,
5 Jr.

6 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I'll make a motion that we
7 hire -- follow Chief Jacobson's recommendation to
8 hire Candidate 102, William Simmons, from the
9 Eligibility List 22-68.

10 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Second.

11 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. We have a motion
12 to hire No. 102, William Simmons, Jr., made by
13 Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner
14 Miranda. Any discussion? All those in favor,
15 signify by saying aye.

16 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye.

17 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Aye.

18 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Opposed? Abstentions?

20 Motion carry. Congratulations to the candidates soon
21 to be recruits. And congratulations to the Chief and
22 the team for another group of hires so ...

23 CHIEF JACOBSON: Yeah. Congratulations. Stay
24 in shape. Be ready for the academy.

25 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Congratulations.

1 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you, sir.

2 MR. SIMMONS: Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: All right. Moving on.

4 Retirements for Board information only. Supervisor
5 of Management Service Alissa Ebbson, effective August
6 7, 2023. I didn't know that she was -- was leaving.
7 So I'm sorry to hear that. She was a great part of
8 the team.

9 Resignations for Board information only, Officer
10 Jacob -- Jacob Wright, effective July 28, 2023 and
11 Temporary Assistant Animal Control Officer Laura
12 Burban, effective July 29, 2023. Any questions or
13 comments, Commissioners? Okay. Do we have a report
14 for the Recruitment/Selection Committee?

15 SERGEANT FINCH: Yes. Good evening, everyone.
16 I'm excited to -- to let you all know that we joined
17 up with the South Central Criminal Justice
18 Association. And they are going to be doing our
19 entry-level police exam testing.

20 The reason why I'm so excited is because I know
21 that they do exams four times a year. And for us,
22 that's huge because we can actually get more testing
23 done in one year with, you know, hopefully, a quick
24 response and expedited process.

25 So our first test will be this August 23rd. And

1 we hope to get test results rather quickly so that
2 way we can continue to move on and begin background
3 processes for upcoming applicants.

4 And then on top of that, we just continue to
5 push recruitment. Like the chief said, we've been
6 hitting the community with a lot of different events
7 throughout the summer trying to be out there as much
8 as possible. Thank you for those that have been out
9 there as well and just showing their faces.

10 It's been good to see just more people from the
11 community applying to become police officers. And
12 like we saw tonight, we had William Massey Simmons
13 from New Haven. And so I think when we do continue
14 to see more, you know, residents from New Haven
15 become officers, then it just piques the interest of
16 if I -- if he can do it or she can, then, you know, I
17 -- I think I can do it. So we are beginning to see
18 that.

19 So I just continue, you know, continue and love
20 to work and put in the work and be available. I know
21 we got college starting up again. So we'll be in the
22 college campuses as well. So if you have any
23 questions, let me know.

24 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Questions, Commissioners?
25 So I just wanted to say thank you for the recruitment

1 effort. I've never seen it like this since my time
2 on the Board or even before that the way that it's
3 constant. I -- I love the way that your vehicle is
4 the driving advertisement for recruitment. I just
5 hope that you're, you know, driving all over town or
6 the many towns. And to see you and your staff, the
7 whole team at so many different community events --
8 just in the past month alone I think I've seen you
9 like at three or four different community events with
10 the tent and applications and everything. So I think
11 that's wonderful.

12 We are getting the word out there. So we just
13 need to get people more interested. And also found
14 -- realize that you are even going out of town and
15 other jurisdictions to -- to look for folks. So I
16 think that's awesome. I just want to say
17 congratulations and keep up the good work.

18 SERGEANT FINCH: Thank you, ma'am.

19 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. Efficiency
20 Committee?

21 COMMISSIONER MEARES: I don't have anything.

22 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay, thank you.
23 Finance Committee? Okay. All right. Any other
24 business? Okay. I don't think -- we don't -- we
25 don't have. There's nothing else. Public Comment?

1 Okay. Is there a reason, Commissioners or anyone, go
2 to into Executive Session?

3 All right. Okay. You know I'm trying to
4 prolong this. It's short. So I just want to spend a
5 little bit more time with everyone so ... I'm just
6 kidding.

7 So if we have no further business for this
8 evening, then I will entertain a motion for
9 adjournment.

10 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: So moved.

11 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I make a motion we
12 adjourn.

13 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: I have a motion by
14 Commissioner Walker. Is there a second?

15 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Second.

16 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: And seconded by
17 Commissioner Brooks. Any discussion? All right,
18 seeing none, all those in favor please signify by
19 saying aye.

20 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

21 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye.

22 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Aye.

23 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Opposed. Abstentions?

24 Motion carry. The meeting is adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

25 Thank you, everyone. Enjoy the rest of your evening.

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And I will see you next time.

COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Goodnight.

COMMISSIONER MEARES: Bye.

COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Goodnight.

COMMISSIONER WALKER: Thank you, everyone.

CHIEF JACOBSON: Thank you. Congratulations.

ASSISTANT CHIEF BHAGTANA: Goodnight.

Goodnight, everyone.

COMMISSIONER WALKER: Congratulations to the
candidates. Thank you. Take care.

COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Goodnight.

COMMISSIONER WALKER: Goodnight.


(Whereupon, the Board adjourned.)

NEW HAVEN BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
AND
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT
AUGUST 8, 2023
6:03 P.M.

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I hereby certify the foregoing pages are a true and correct transcription of the audio recording of the above-referenced meeting, held at the New Haven Police Department, in New Haven, before the New Haven Board of Police Commissioners, on the 8th day of August, 2023

Dated this 7th day of September, 2023 in New Haven, Connecticut.



Sotonye Otunba-Payne

NEW HAVEN BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
AND
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT
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