

**REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**  
**OCTOBER 10, 2023**  
**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**  
**NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT**  
**VIDEOCONFERENCE AND CONFERENCE CALL VIA**  
**ZOOM AND IN PERSON**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Darrell Brooks; Michael Lawlor - (joined at 6:30 p.m. in person); Tracey Meares; Isais Miranda; Evelise Ribeiro; and Donald Walker

Chief Karl Jacobson: Department of Police Service  
Assistant Chief Manmeet Bhagtana: Department of Police Service  
Assistant Chief Bertram Ettienne: Department of Police Service  
Lieutenant Dana Smith: Department of Police Service  
Sergeant Paul Finch - (joined 6:15 p.m.): Department of Police Service  
Officer D. Cohen: Department of Police Service  
Officer Reginald McGlotten: Department of Police Service  
Asia Johnson-Clark: Administrative Assistant

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

Lucian Afragola  
Gerald Antunes - Alder  
Nathaniel Brackett  
Iesah Burgos  
Miguel Pittman, Sr.  
Gabriella Tuccinardi  
Thomas Smalls  
Krystal Sutherland  
Kiomi Williams

**OPEN SESSION**

The Regular Session meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners was called to order at 6:01 p.m., Evelise Ribeiro, Chair, presiding.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro further stated in the conference room with at One Union Avenue, New Haven, were Commissioner Evelise Ribeiro and Commissioner Donald Walker. They were at Headquarters in person.

■ In addition, the followings commissioners were present via videoconference: Commissioner Tracey Meares, Commissioner Isaias Miranda and Commissioner Darrell Brooks. Commissioner Michael Lawlor would be joining the meeting within the next 15 to 30 minutes.

**AGENDA**

- \*\* Commissioner Walker motioned to approve the Agenda for October 10, 2023
- \*\* Commissioner Miranda seconded
- \*\* Motion passed unanimously

### **DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### Discussion and Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2023

- \*\* Commissioner Walker moved the motion to discuss and approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2023
- \*\* Commissioner Miranda seconded
- \*\* Motion passed unanimously

#### Discussion and Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2023

- \*\* Commissioner Walker moved the motion for the discussion and approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2023
- \*\* Commissioner Meares seconded
- \*\* Motion passed unanimously

■ Commissioner Riberio indicated for the record that there would be no Traffic Authority Meeting.

### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Karl Jacobson

- Chief Jacobson greeted everyone.
- On Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> the Department had the graduation of its Resident Police Academy. Twenty-six residents completed a five-week program. They got to see how the Department does things. There was a great feedback from the participants who would like the Department to have what is akin to a second-level academy. He expressed appreciation for the staff who worked very hard on this program.
- There will be another residents academy in the Spring of 2024.
- The Department held its gun buyback event on October 7, 2023. They were able to seize 51 guns, 12 rifles and 13 shoguns. The guns will not be used on streets. They will be destroyed. He expressed appreciation for the staff who worked very hard on this event.
- There was a Police Athletic League Golf Tournament. There were 140 golfers which is the most the Department had ever had. They raised money PAL and got a lot of sponsorship. about \$25,000 to \$30,000 was raised for the PAL program.
- The PAL program which used to be a summer camp has now added several activities, activities run the gamut such as boxing, Jujitsu, flag football, girls basketball, boys basketball. The Department will be expanding. He thanked the staff who have worked together to make PAL what they envisioned it to be.
- The Department will be moving forward to begin the work with older kids and teenagers in the Cadet program and hopefully get them into the police department someday.
- Chief Jacobson stated that the Department had 10 officers who just got off field training.

This will help with the Patrol Division. Four are in remedial training from the 19-member class, and five are moving on to Phase IV. Of the 19 officers that came out, most of them are doing well. Five are on their own. Five others will be on their own shortly.

■ Commissioner Ribiero asked for an update regarding Chief Jacobson attending a PERF event.

■ Chief Jacobson reported that he had gone to Washington D.C. to work with PERF, Police Executive Research Forum, on how to do risk protection orders better throughout the country. He would say that Connecticut along with (he thought) Indiana had two of the strongest programs. It looks like the Connecticut program is heading in the right direction.

So PERF is putting together different models to push it throughout the whole United States.

■ This is important as it is about taking guns from people in mental health crisis or domestic violence situations and getting guns out of the hands of these people at least temporarily while they are going through these crises which will absolutely save lives.

■ He thanked PERF for inviting him. It was very good thank tank.

■ Commissioner Meares added that, just for the record, people should know that the evidence on which the evaluations of risk protection programs are based are on Connecticut data. Connecticut is like the nation's leader. Connecticut is actually providing the best evidence for the value of this report.

■ Chief Jacobson concurred and thanked Commissioner Meares.

## **INTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT**

Lieutenant Dana Smith

■ Lieutenant Smith stated that as of October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 when this report was generated, there were 78 complaints last year. Year to date there were 53 complaints. There are no updates regarding the breakdown.

■ The use of force last year at this time was 618 compared 213 this year. This is a significant drop

■ For the month there have been four closed cases, two were unfounded, one was exonerated and one was sustained.

## **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

1. Discussion and action on the recommendation of Chief Kark Jacobson to remove the following candidates from Eligibility List #22-68CR:
  - A. #3 Raymond Drepaul
  - B. #4 Lucian Afragola
  - C. #6 Kiomi Williams
  - D. #8 Nathaniel Brackett
  - E. #9 Gabriella Tuccinardi
  - F. #10 Krystal Sutherland
  - G. #11 Thomas Smalls
  - H. #24 Iesha Burgos

- Chief Jacobson indicated that the above-referenced candidates had reached a point in the process where they need to put up before the Board for removal.
- Commissioner Ribeiro asked if Sergeant Finch was present.
- Assistant Chief Bhagtana indicated that Sergeant Finch would join the meeting momentarily. She stated that the investigators were present.
- Assistant Chief Bhagtana added that with this background process and removal, the Department has a matrix. So whatever is on the matrix as it relates to the applicants, they have to appear before the Board.
- Commissioner Ribeiro asked which of the candidates were absent. She indicated she would question each candidate separately as to whether he/she wanted to be heard in an open or closed session. She went on to explain what each session meant. The seven candidates present opted for a closed session.

- \*\* Commissioner Walker motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters regarding removal of the candidates from the Eligibility List #22-68CR
- \*\* Commissioner Meares seconded
- \*\* The motion passed unanimously

- Commissioner Ribeiro invited, apart from the commissioners, the following: Assistant Chief Ettienne, Lieutenant Smith, CAO Regina Rush-Kittle, Assistant Chief Bhagtana, Sergeant Finch, Attorney Duprey, Officer McGlotten, Officer Cohen and Chief Jacobson.

(The Board entered Executive Session at 6:17 p.m.)

- \*\* Commissioner Walker motioned to exit Executive Session
- \*\* Commissioner Lawlor seconded
- \*\* The motion passed unanimously

(The Board exited Executive Session at 8:18 p.m.)

- \*\* Commissioner Walker motioned to follow Chief Jacobson's recommendation to remove Candidate Ryan Drepaull from the Eligibility List #22-68CR
- \*\* Commissioner Miranda seconded
- Commissioners for: Commissioners Meares, Miranda, Ribeiro and Walker
- Abstention: Commissioner Lawlor
- \*\* Motion passed

- Commissioner Ribeiro announced that Commissioner Brooks had to leave while the Board was in executive session. Commissioner Lawlor joined the meeting while the Board was also in executive session.

- \*\* Commissioner Walker motioned to follow Chief Jacobson's recommendation to remove Candidate Lucian Afragola from the Eligibility List #22-68CR
- \*\* Commissioner Miranda seconded
- Commissioners for: Commissioners Meares, Miranda, Ribeiro and Walker
- Abstention: Commissioner Lawlor

\*\* Motion passed

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that Commissioner Lawlor had an abstention because he was not present for the candidate's interview.

\*\* Commissioner Walker motioned to follow Chief Jacobson's recommendation to remove Candidate Kiomi Williams from the Eligibility List #22-68CR

\*\* Commissioner Miranda seconded  
Commissioners for: Commissioners Meares, Miranda, Ribeiro and Walker  
Abstention: Commissioner Lawlor

\*\* Motion passed

■ Commissioner Lawlor indicated he heard a part of this applicant's presentation.

\*\* Commissioner Walker motioned to follow Chief Jacobson's recommendation to remove Candidate Nathaniel Brackett from the Eligibility List #22-68CR

\*\* Commissioner Miranda seconded  
Commissioners for: Commissioners Meares, Miranda, Walker, Lawlor and Ribeiro

\*\* Motion passed unanimously

\*\* Commissioner Walker motioned to follow Chief Jacobson's recommendation to remove Candidate Gabriella Tuccinardi from the Eligibility List #22-68CR

\*\* Commissioner Miranda seconded  
Commissioners against: Commissioners Miranda, Meares, Lawlor, Ribeiro and Lawlor

\*\* Motion failed

\*\* Commissioner Walker motioned to follow Chief Jacobson's recommendation to remove Candidate Krystal Sutherland from the Eligibility List #22-68CR

\*\* Commissioner Miranda seconded  
Commissioners for: Commissioners Meares, Miranda, Walker, Lawlor and Ribeiro

\*\* Motion failed

\*\* Commissioner Walker motioned to follow Chief Jacobson's recommendation to remove Candidate Thomas Smalls from the Eligibility List #22-68CR

\*\* Commissioner Miranda seconded

\*\* Motion passed unanimously

\*\* Commissioner Walker motioned to follow Chief Jacobson's recommendation to remove Candidate Iesha Burgos from the Eligibility List #22-68CR

\*\* Commissioner Miranda seconded

\*\* Motion passed unanimously.

**RETIREMENTS (For Board information only)**

Officer Lindsey Nesto, eff., September 29, 2023

**RESIGNATION (For Board information only)**

Officer Jack Cardi, eff., October 22, 2023  
Officer Nicholas Samartino, eff., November 27, 2023

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

Sergeant Paul Finch

- Sergeant Finch reported that they were continuing to recruit at the area colleges. The Board may have seen a variety of highlights from different videos on social media regarding the Department's specialized units. This is money well spent through the grant that the Department received.
- They are beginning to see a large number of candidates at their training sessions. They are getting 20 or more every week. He was thankful for that because it does allow them to interact more with potential applicants and just have the face to face and kind of a get-to-know-you piece that allowed them to just answer questions and just be a resource to people that need it.
- Sergeant Finch indicated the next scheduled written and oral test will be in December. The hope is to have an academy at the end of November.
- Commissioner Ribeiro thanked Sergeant Finch and his team for the work they are doing regarding recruitment.

### **EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE REPORT**

- Commissioner Meares reported that they had nothing to present this month. There are a couple of really important policies coming down the pipe. They just got the final versions on October 9, 2023 and October 10, 2023. The hope is to approve these in November.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

There was none.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was none.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was none.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- \*\* Commissioner Walker motioned to go into Executive Session for preliminary drafts and notes and personnel matters
- \*\* Commissioner Miranda seconded
- \*\* The motion passed unanimously

- Commissioner Ribeiro invited the commissioners, Attorney Duprey, CAO Rush-Kittle, Assistant Chief Ettienne, Assistant Chief Bhagtana, Chief Jacobson, Sergeant Finch, and Lieutenant Smith.
- Commissioner Ribeiro informed the public that they were welcome to stay. However, when the Board exits executive session, the Board would adjourn.

(The Board went into Executive Session at 8:29 p.m.)

- \*\* Commissioner Lawlor motioned to come out of Executive Session
- \*\* Commissioner Walker seconded
- \*\* The motion passed unanimously

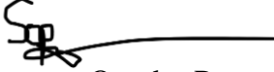
(The Board exited Executive Session at 8:51 p.m.)

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The next regular meeting will be on November 14, 2023.  
The Board adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sotonye Otunba-Payne