

**REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**  
**JULY 9, 2024**  
**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**  
**AND THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY**  
**NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT**  
***VIDEOCONFERENCE AND CONFERENCE CALL VIA ZOOM***

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Darrell Brooks (joined - 6:50 p.m.); Michael Lawlor; Tracey Meares ; Isaias 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 Jessie Agosto: Department of Police Service  
Sergeant Paul Finch: Department of Police Service  
Sergeant Yelena Borisova: 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  
Bruce Fischer: Traffic and Parking

Josean Bauza-Santiago  
Aziz Takir  
Daniel Hunt

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY**

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

\*Commissioner Ribeiro indicated there was quorum.

\*Commissioner Ribeiro stated that the following were present: Commissioner Ribeiro, Commissioner Walker, Commissioner Lawlor, Commissioner Meares and Commissioner Miranda. Commissioner Brooks may join the meeting; if so, she would announce it when Commissioner Brooks joins the meeting.

\*Following the adjournment of the regular meeting of the Traffic Authority, Mr. Fischer excused himself at 6:17 p.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

The Regular Session meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners was called to order at 6:17 p.m., Evelise Ribeiro, Chair, presiding.

**AGENDA**

\*\* Commissioner Walker motioned to approve the Agenda for July 9, 2024

- \*\* Commissioner Meares seconded
- \*\* Motion passed unanimously

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated all commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Brooks who had not yet joined the meeting.

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

Discussion and Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2024.

- \*\* Commissioner Walker motioned to Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from the June 11, 2024 for the Board of Police Commissioners
- \*\* Commissioner Lawlor seconded
- \*\* Motion passed unanimously

### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Karl Jacobson

- Chief Jacobson greeted the commissioners. He thanked them for being present at the meeting.
- Chief Jacobson reported that they had been working hard to start an academy class on August 1, 2024.
- He thanked the commissioners for attending interviews on July 8, 2024. They were great. He always loves the experience of interviewing people and then telling them, we are recommending you for hire. It's just a great experience.
- The hope is to get 13 or 14 people into the academy on August 1, 2024. They will be having a 30-person academy. The Department will be training others people from difference police departments as well.
- It seems like the number of officers is going up because POST will, in a short time, seat a class. There were lots of seats being requested.
- The Department has reinstated district managers. The commissioners were sent e-mail regarding this. They have hit the ground running. Sergeant Alvarado comes from the Major Crimes Unit to Districts 8 and 9. Sergeant Lambe comes from the midnight shift to District 4 and 10. Sergeant Sanders is remaining in the Hill at Districts 5 and 3. Lieutenant Borer and Lieutenant McDermott will be Districts 1 and 2 respectively. They will be assisting the sergeants. And Sergeant Lowrey is back to Dixwell and Newhallville. There are lots of happy people over there because they like him a lot.
- The commissioners would see numerous community events start again as well. The hope is to restart CompStat in September. CompStat will be scheduled on two Thursdays. The first Thursday will be in-house and open to the public but at the police department going over crime statistics and other agenda items. And the second CompStat will be in the community. And again the Department did this last year. Going to different areas of the community worked very well last year.
- The first scheduled community event is tomorrow, July 11, 2024. Coffee with a Cop will be held at 1000 Chapel Street at Claire's Corner.

■ The Department will be working with the Youth and Rec Department for their family funding which is going to be every Wednesday starting on July 10, 2024 from 2:30 to 5:30. The meeting tomorrow is at Edgewood Park. The venue will change every week. This is a six-week event. This is a real successful gathering. Lots of kids and families come out. It's been a great summer event.

■ Also, scheduled on July 10, 2024 is Our Community Hero's Gala at Anthony's Oceanside during which Officer Curry who was shot almost two years in October will be honored. It's a nice law enforcement event and community event.

■ Last year at this time, there were 24 homicides; whereas, there are seven homicides currently. Last year at this time, there were 35 non-fatal shootings; there are 32 currently. And shots fired are down by 42 percent.

■ We had a very good holiday weekend in the way of gun violence. The Patrol and Investigative Service Divisions seized eight guns, one of which was from a shots fired incident where a kid ran into a house. A search warrant was obtained which led to four guns being seized. All the guns are believed to have been used in recent violence in the city.

■ There were no shootings over the weekend. However, unfortunately, there was a homicide via stabbing.

■ The Department still has more work to do. The hard work is ongoing.

■ One good thing to report is the auto theft statistics. Last year at this time there were 639, presently there are 409. So motor vehicle theft is down by 35 percent.

■ The Department has been doing using technology, messaging, etc. People are locking their cars. The Department is also able to recover the cars more quickly. There have been lots of arrests related to motor vehicle theft.

■ There has been a decline in drag racing. There has been marked decrease in this. There is drag detail on Friday and Saturday nights.

■ Since the Department received the 1,000-dollar noise ordinance, the cars with loud speaks are not as much as they used to be. Chief Jacobson indicated he used to receive numerous calls during the weekends regarding noise. They haven't been receiving calls. Dispatch has not been receiving at many calls as the previous years.

■ The Department has seen a downward trend regarding ATVs. The regional team has been able to seize about one to three a week, issuing the 1,000-dollar fines. There has been a reduction in the amount of service calls for that. The tools utilized, the municipal tickets and the hard work of the officers have helped to curb some of these nuisance things and the reduction of violence.

■ Commissioner Meares stated that the first question she had had to do with the 1,000-dollar fines. She asked, if the Department was actually collecting those fines? And if the Department is not which she suspects the Department is not, she wondered how enforcement then takes place exactly. She asked if people would have to go to court or whether people are being put in the jail because they are unable to pay the fine. She wondered how this works. This is the first question.

■ Commissioner Meares' second inquiry had to do with Chief Jacobson to say a little more about traffic. She was in New York last year. She just got back. And interestingly every time she came home, literally every time, so it's like a random, she would be in her neighborhood and at least one time in a weekend or twice, she would see people running red lights. It was more kind of crazy driving than she had ever experienced in her 17 years of New Haven. She would love to get an update on where Chief Jacobson thinks that is.

■ Chief Jacobson responded by saying that he thought there had been improvements from the pandemic era during which traffic was getting out of control and there was a spike in pedestrian-motor vehicle deaths. He would have to get those numbers for Commissioner Meares at the next meeting because he does not know the numbers. He knows the numbers are lower.

■ The Department put another person in the Traffic Unit. The Traffic Unit continues to write thousands of tickets and make a lot of stops which has been positive. And they've seen that curb some of the driving. He thought the city is in a better place.

■ Obviously, what Commissioner Meares spoke about is still happening. They are still seeing stolen cars with the boys hanging out the windows. These boys are a bit weary in light of all the tools the Department is utilizing. It's a small group doing these, however.

■ The 1,000-dollar fine, that's a good question. The Department is not putting people in jail for that. Obviously, there's levers to be pulled related to taxes and people who live in the city. As for those out-of-city residents, he would have to double check on that.

■ The Adjudication Committee is made up the Chief Administrative Officer Regina Rush-Kittle and some other people. So they are not able to do bench warrants. So the Department is not doing that. He would have to double check on the collection side. They are definitely not putting people in jail for that.

■ There are other levers the Department can pull with regards to the City of New Haven residents.

■ The fact that the bike is gone is a good thing. They were not able to seize the bikes through the state. The state would rather have a hearing and just give them back. He thought that had shown that the Department is serious. Chief Jacobson thought they had found other places to ride where they are not taking their bikes. That is more of a deterrent than the 1,000-dollar fine, but it doesn't hurt as well. They are also not arresting people for it as much. That's a positive thing. However, he will get the numbers for Commissioner Meares regarding the 1,000-dollar fines and the overall traffic statistics of deaths.

■ Chief Jacobson indicated that he honestly could not say if the red light cameras are in commission yet. They are close. People keep asking him where the cameras are. He felt that the cameras would work once operable. He's been telling people not to run the red light.

■ Chief Jacobson further stated the things that the Department is doing are slowly leading to a safer city when it comes pedestrian-motor vehicle traffic.

■ Commissioner Meares thanked Chief Jacobson. She added the she would speak about her friends in Washington D.C. who had 250-dollar fines from red light cameras traffic which has led to speeding being transformed in D.C. Maybe they will have this to look forward to.

■ Chief Jacobson asked if the violators get a 250-dollar fine first.

■ Commissioner Meares indicated that it is a 250-dollar fine.

■ Chief Jacobson asked if the Washington D.C. started with \$250.

■ Commissioner Meares response was non-verbal.

■ Chief Jacobson indicated that they might have to replicate that.

■ Chief Jacobson said he forgot to report that the City of Miami officers are visiting the Department the following week for a peer exchange to meet about the Department's intel meetings, how the Department does its group violence intervention, how the Departments does a lot of stuff. This is really exciting. New Haven is still a place where other police departments are coming and learning.

## **INTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT**

Lieutenant Agosto

- Lieutenant Agosto indicated that they had seven closures since the last meeting.

**IA Case No.: 23C-035:** This was received in June of 2023. The complainant was Mr. Clarence McMillan. This happened in District 6. The complaint was against Officer Robert Haden. So in this incident officers were standing outside of their vehicles when they were approached by Mr. McMillan. Mr. McMillan was yelling profanities and stated that he wanted to hit Officer Haden. Officer Haden had had previous encounters with him. So he removed his OC spray from his belt and instructed Mr. McMillan to step away from the officers. He continued to yell profanities and ended up spitting on Officer Haden. He then ran away. Officers pursued him. When they caught up to him and attempted to detain him, he began fighting with the officers. And Officer Haden ended up deploying his Taser which was effective in subduing Mr. McMillan. He was taken to the hospital for evaluation and treatment. On June 6<sup>th</sup> of 2023 he filed a civilian complaint with the Office of Internal Affairs. He stated he was arrested by Officer Haden nine times in his life for no reason. He added that Officer Haden was harassing him. We reviewed body-worn camera footages of the incident and the police reports, and they confirmed the events that were documented in the Incident Report. In the histories between Officer Haden and Mr. McMillan there was no apparent harassing by Officer Haden. And the use of force in this incident was deemed justified because of the fighting. All the proper forms were completed. So the investigation was determined to be unfounded.

- Lieutenant Agosto asked if there were any question regarding this incident.

■ Commissioner Meares indicated that it was hard for her to know about the fighting here. She further stated that just as Lieutenant Agosto was reading, her thoughts were the guy is a jerk, maybe he spits, but she had not seen the video. What if he just spat in his direction and then he gets tased? That's one version of the story. Another version would be like, you know, real spit, real fighting. She is concerned about that there's no account of de-escalation techniques and so on. She doesn't know the complainant. However, if the officer had had some interaction with the complainant nine times previously, chances are he's a troubled person.

And even if we think, technically this is justified, she was actually troubled by this account.

■ Lieutenant Agosto responded by saying that the complainant spat on the officer and threatened to hit him and ran off. The officers kind of go after him. And then they attempted detain them, he then started to struggle with him, pulling away and swinging at the officers.

■ Commissioner Meares stated that she did not see any account of attempts to engage in de-escalation and so on. And tasing somebody is a pretty big deal, right?

■ Commissioner Lawlor indicated that he had just looked up the complainant. For this incident he received a sentence of five years in jail, execution suspended after two years, three years' probation. So he got two years to serve for this.

■ Commissioner Meares, said okay.

■ Commissioner Lawlor indicated that he did not disagree. And, of course, he did not know more about this incident. However, it seemed like an opportunity for de-escalation. It seems conceivable that there might be some mental health issues involved in here.

■ Chief Jacobson stated there is some measure of de-escalation. It's just a little faster. Maybe the guy has dealt with Officer Haden and doesn't like him. So Officer Haden was unable to de-

- escalate at a certain point, but he had not seen this video. So he did not want to say too much.
- Commissioner Meares commented that's one way to tell the story, the one she offered earlier. Obviously, it could have been much worse. Since these are the public accounts, it would probably just be useful to have the information for members of the public that wouldn't have access to the information that Commissioner Lawlor had. Our ability to sort of dot our i's and cross t's about the efforts that people are taking to follow procedures she thought is helpful because tasing somebody is a big deal, and it should be considered a big deal.
  - Commissioner Lawlor commented that the further information on the complainant's background is that he was picked up for three arrests including this one, and all these happened while he was on probation for violating a criminal protective order. So it sounds like the sentencing incorporated the violation of probation also.
  - Commissioner Ribeiro said, duly noted. She thought Commissioner Meares would be interested in seeing the body-worn camera footage; if so, the staff can make arrangements.
  - Chief Jacobson indicated that they are looking at the use of forces, all of them, whether they result in a complaint or not to ensure that people are de-escalating. That is part of the whole IA training process.
  - Commissioner Meares commented that this is a public account where an officer has actually been vindicated. She asked Chief Jacobson if it would be useful to put even a sentence, an account, saying we observed the body-worn camera footages, the reaction is consistent with our de-escalation policy or something to that effect.
  - Chief Jacobson indicated he would discuss it with Lieutenant Agosto and assistant chiefs. They could do that.
  - Commissioner Meares thanked Chief Jacobson.

**IA Case No.: 24C-004:** The complainant is Mr. Adams. This complaint came in on January 3, 2024. The incident actually occurred on December 9, 2023. Officers responded to the New Haven Downtown area for a fight inside of Chipotle. Officers arrived on scene. They were attempting to disperse a large number of groups of teenagers and adults. They encountered resistance. There was an incident where it looked like the crowd was coming on the officers. Officer Dragoi deployed his OC spray into a group. Mr. Adams was one of the members in that group. On January 3, 2024 the Office of Internal Affairs received a civilian complaint from Mr. Adams stating he was threatened and sprayed by officer Dragoi. During this investigation, reports and body-worn camera footage were read and viewed and interviews were conducted which determined that the use of force by Officer Dragoi against Mr. Adams was justified. However, while they reviewed the body-worn camera footage, they observed Officer Dragoi running after he deployed the OC spray to the first group. He is seen running after a separate group that was actually running away from the incident. He runs after them and sprays a female in the back. This use of force was determined to unnecessary and against our Use-of-Force General Order. That misconduct which was not originally based on the original complaint was sustained. He will be going up for discipline on September 11, 2024.

- Lieutenant Agosto asked if there were any questions.
- Commissioner Lawlor indicated he wanted to add one more information to the first complaint by Mr. McMillian. He pointed out that Mr. McMillian is currently incarcerated at Garner Correctional which is an indication that he has been assessed by the Department of Corrections of having a serious mental illness. So it's a little bit more context. He was not surprised to see that. This is an intervention, at least all are aware, which officers end up in the

middle of quite a few times. He thought it was important to understand this when dealing with a person with serious mental illness. He hoped that context is helpful to people's thinking on this.

■ Commissioner Meares asked if Commissioner Lawlor was back on the first person who was tased?

■ Commissioner Lawlor responded in the affirmative. He added that he is in Garner which is the correctional facility for persons with severe mental illness. However, the sentence incorporated a violation of probation. It just wasn't that once incident but it was a whole assortment of things. In terms of assessing the interaction between police officers and a guy on the street that acting like that, he would assume if there's a track record between this officer and Mr. McMillian that he probably was generally aware of that it was a serious mental health situation going on here. So this is not to blame the police officer. It's just to say, this is the kind of challenge which is familiar to officers these days, he thought. It's coming up with a better way of handling these is the goal of the policy, he thought. So here is an example of where perhaps a different approach would have been more appropriate.

■ Chief Jacobson commented that a female officer was just punched in the face. She drew her taser. She was giving verbal commands and the guy railed off and punched her and knocked her out. So there is de-escalation. However, the other side of that is that the perpetrator is obviously a violent person who has violent tendencies and had had issues in the past. Yes, they need a better way to work it out, but Officer Haden knows the perpetrator can go from zero to 90 quicker than the average person.

■ Commissioner Lawlor indicated that he was not judging it because he did not know all the facts as he had not seen the reports. He was just saying, sometimes it's okay to just walk away.

■ Commissioner Meares added that Mr. McMillan ran away.

■ Chief Jacobson added that on this one, just to add some context, while it says the officers tried to disperse the group, they encountered resistance. The incident involved a group of people fighting. It was not just a group of people not moving. There was an active fight going on. Perhaps, the summaries could be a little more descriptive.

**IA Case No. 24C-022:** The complainant is Mr. Courtney Edwards. This complaint also came out of Chipotle, downtown, via a call related to a possible weapons. Mr. Edwards was identified as the person who had pulled gun out during an altercation. A short time later officers located Mr. Edwards who came back to the area of Chipotle. When officer tried to detain him, a struggle ensued. They were able to place handcuffs on him. And they did arrest him and issued him a misdemeanor summons because they did not find the weapon on him. The original complainant did not make a complaint or left the scene prior to making a complaint. The officers did locate crack cocaine in his possession. He filed a complaint with the Office of Internal Affairs. In this complaint, Mr. Edwards indicated that he was thrown to the ground and he was handcuffed and the handcuffs were too tight. He complained to the officers while he was on scene, but they were never loosened. He also complained about being the only person detained and stated he did not have any drugs on him. Through review of the reports and body-worn camera footage along with interviews, it was determined that the officers did have probable cause for the arrest. Mr. Edwards did complain about the handcuffs and the officers did not check the handcuffs for fit or double lock them after Mr. Edwards became compliant. There was no severe injury caused by this. The officers involved were relatively new and had not had any prior complaints of this nature made against them. It also

did not appear to be done intentionally or maliciously. So it was determined that the officers were in violation of the rules of conduct per General Order. And the officers were sent to have counseling by their immediate supervisors regarding proper use of handcuffs and checking for fit. This investigation was closed with a summary action.

**IA Case No. 24C-030:** Ms. Daniels Herbert is the complainant. This stemmed from an incident where officers responded to an emotionally-disturbed person call. During the investigation, it was determined that Ms. Daniels had to go to the hospital. Obviously, due to HIPAA, Lieutenant Agosto could not get into the particulars of what ensued. However, officers had to physically remove her from her vehicle and place her on the stretcher. While she resisted, officers assisted AMR personnel until they could strap her for her safety. She filed a civilian complaint with the Office of Internal Affairs. She stated that she was snatched and thrown on a stretcher. Again, she cannot get into any more of the information because it talks about her condition. The investigation included reviews of the report. They reviewed body-worn camera footage. It was determined that the officers actions did not violate the Use-of-Force General Order. And the complaint was determined to be unfounded. She can speak about this offline a little bit given the limited information at this forum.

■ Commissioner Meares stated that if officers are responded to a call and it is determined that the person has to go to the hospital, presumably the officers are not driving ambulances. If it's a situation where medical personnel come, and then the officers are assisting the medical officers. She asked if this was what happened.

■ Lieutenant Agosto responded by saying yes. She further added that if a person was resisting, the medical personal could not do it themselves.

■ Commissioner Lawlor added that there is a general exception in HIPAA for law enforcement agencies. He was not a 100 percent confident that the information that's in possession is limited in terms of disclosure by law enforcement. The other rules like FOIA and stuff like that are. If there's anything about a hospital record that's been turned over to the police or made known by the police that can be disclosed, he was not sure that's actually prohibited by HIPAA.

■ Lieutenant Agosto indicated it was more the nature of the hospitalization related to mental health status that we would be discussed.

■ Commissioner Lawlor indicated that it was health information. He was not saying Lieutenant Agosto should discuss it. He just thinks HIPPA does not prohibit law enforcement agencies from releasing information related to their own investigations which may actually include something that happens in the hospital. He added that Lieutenant Agosto might want to get some clarify on that because it's not the first time it has come up. He just thought there waw a broad exception for law enforcement when it comes to HIPAA.

■ Commissioner Meares commented that it is. With respect to this particular person, they have questions but they could look at the body-worn camera footage, etc., themselves.

■ Commissioner Lawlor indicated that he only raised this as it relates to oversight responsibilities. We need to find this out as it relates to HIPAA because it gets thrown around a lot.

■ Commissioner Meares said that she assumed that Lieutenant Agosto was saying this because we are in a particular kind of forum. There is no reason why the commissioners cannot see the report. She asked Lieutenant Agosto if that was her view as well.

■ Lieutenant Agosto replied by saying that she agreed.



- Commissioner Lawlor indicated that his view was that beyond this narrow issue right here, generally speaking, if information that medical records gets released because it's part of a criminal investigation, there's no sanction or penalty against the department that's released it, even if they release it publicly. There may be other considerations, but HIPAA does not limit law enforcement's ability to share information they have come in possession of in the context of a criminal investigation publicly. However, some clarification around that might be helpful.
- Commissioner Meares concurred.
- Lieutenant Agosto indicated that this case was not a criminal matter.
- Commissioner Lawlor reiterated that the exemption was applicable to law enforcement. This individual filed a complaint. And generally when a person files a complaint, they kind of open the door.
- Commissioner Meares commented that it was an interesting question.
- Commissioner Lawlor concurred. However, that gets to be thrown as an excuse not to give out information. He is not accusing anyone here of doing that. HIPAA is a lot more limited than people think it is.
- Attorney Duprey commented that there are also ADA considerations, just to raise that as well.
- Commissioner Lawlor responded by saying that is fine but it is not HIPAA. He was just saying people assume that you cannot talk about healthcare stuff under any circumstances, but if you are not really a healthcare provider, it does not really apply to you.

**IA Case No. 24C-045:** Sade Murray is the complainant. Officers responded to a harassment complaint in January of 2024 where Ms. Murray was the complainant. She stated was being harassed by her ex-boyfriend and family. She further reported that there had been a dispute, but denied any threats or physical altercation. She just wanted them to leave her alone. Ms. Murray stated that they were accusing her of having her ex's PlayStation 5. She informed the officers she did not have it. During the investigation, officers spoke to the ex-boyfriend who stated that Ms. Murray was upset with him because he had come home late. She kicked him out of the house with his belongings. He stated that during this interaction, Ms. Murray slapped him in the face. The victim did not provide any additional information. He just stated he wanted his PlayStation back. He stated he paid \$490 for it. And he provided text messages showing Ms. Murray confessing to having possession of it and stating she was going to sell it to pay her bill. Officer Rubino completed an arrest warrant for Ms. Murray which was signed and then served on March 6, 2024. On March 15, 2024 Ms. Murray filed a complaint stating that she was arrested and the warrant was out for her arrest without a proper investigation. She claimed she never misspoke to the officers regarding the incident. Through review of records, body-worn camera footage and incidents, it was proven that the officer did conduct a thorough investigation and spoke with her on several occasions. All the information from the reports were in the warrant that was signed by a judge which she was later arrested under. He was able to establish probable cause for the warrant and the subsequent arrest. There was no violation of law or General Order found. The officer was exonerated.

**IA Case No. 24C-048:** The complainant is Mr. McNamara. The complaint was against Detective Roger Kergaravat who at the time was a Financial Crimes detective. They received a complaint from Mr. McNamara stating he filed several complaints against some former employees for stealing. The case was assigned to Detective Kergaravat And he felt that the

detective was not conducting a proper investigation. The investigation is actually currently open. The investigation conducted by IA showed that Detective Kergaravat was working on the case and had been in communication with Mr. McNamara on several occasions informing him of the status of what he was finding throughout his investigation and informing him of what the next steps would be. There was nothing found to indicate that he was not conducting a proper investigation. And this was closed as unfounded.

- Commissioner Meares asked that when Lieutenant Agosto indicated that the investigation was still ongoing, she meant the underlying investigation.

- Lieutenant Agosto indicated that the Financial Crimes investigation was still open, and the detective was actively working on it while the IA investigation took place.

**IA Case No. 24C- 052:** The complainant is anonymous. They had no contact. He did not put any information on there. He just wrote on the comment section. The complaint was against Officer Christopher Chin. He stated on June Officer Chin made an indecent proposal towards him, and he turned him down. He added that on that a couple of days later, Officer Chin gave him a ticket for crossing the street. So with this information, they were able to identify who the anonymous person was by locating the ticket that Officer Chin gave him. They were able to review body-worn camera footage of that incident. During that exchange with the anonymous complainant, the complainant never mentioned anything to Officer Chin about being inappropriate with him. He disputes the ticket. And he says that the other day you saw me and you asked me what I was doing. They could not find a body-worn camera footage or any past interactions between Officer Chin and the anonymous complainant. So the investigation was unable to determine if the misconduct complained of did or did not happen. And the investigation was closed as not sustained since they were unable to make any contact with the complainant.

- Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that the commissioners received the rest of the reports. She asked if there were any questions to which there no response.

- Commissioner Ribeiro stated that Commissioner Brooks had joined the meeting. She asked when Commissioner Brooks joined the meeting.

- Commissioner Brooks indicated he joined at about 6:50 p.m.

## **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

1. Discussion and action on the recommendation of Chief Karl Jacobson to remove the following candidates from Police Eligibility List 22-68CR dated February 12, 2024:

- A. #15 Elias Flores
- B. #16 Josean Bauza-Santiago
- C. #19 Aziz Takir

- Chief Jacobson read this agenda item into the record.

- Commissioner Ribiero indicated that she was of the belief that only two of the three candidates were present.

- Sergeant Finch responded in the affirmative.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro asked if the two candidates wanted to be heard an open or a closed session. She went on to explain what open and closed session meant. Both candidates opted to be heard in a closed session.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- \*\* Commissioner Meares motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss Item No. 1, Personnel Matters, regarding the removal of the candidates from the Police Eligibility List
- \*\* Commissioner Walker seconded
- \*\* Motion passed unanimously

■ Commissioner Ribiero invited the following to the closed session: The commissioners, Chief Jacobson, Assistant Chief Ettienne, Assistant Chief Bhagtana, Sergeant Finch, Attorney Duprey, CAO Rush-Kittle and the background officers, Sergeant Borisova, Officer McGlotten, Officer Cohen.

Executive Session began at 7:05 p.m.

- \*\* Commissioner Walker motioned to come out Executive Session
- \*\* Commissioner Miranda seconded
- \*\* Motion passed unanimously

Execuitve Session ended at 7:45 p.m.

- \*\* Commissioner Walker motioned to adhere to Chief Jacobson's recommendation to remove the following candidate from the Police Eligibility List 22-68CR: Elias Flores
- \*\* Commissioner Miranda seconded
- \*\* The motion passed unanimously

■ Commissioner Ribeiro had indicated earlier that her the charge on her computer was low. She lost connection at 7:48 p.m. Hence, Commissioner Walker, vice chair, called the vote.

- \*\* Commissioner Walker motioned to adhere to Chief Jacobson's recommendation to remove the following candidate from the Police Eligibility List 22-68CR: Josean Bauza-Santiago
- \*\* Commissioner Miranda seconded
- \*\* The motion passed unanimously
  
- \*\* Against: Commissioners Meares, Commissioner Miranda, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Lawlor and Commissioner Walker

■ Commissioner Walker indicated that the motion failed.

- \*\* Motion failed unanimously
- \*\* Commissioner Brooks motioned that in keeping with Chief Jacobson’s recommendation that No. 19, Aziz Takir, be removed from the Police Eligibility List 22-68CR
- \*\* Commissioner Meares seconded
- \*\* The motion passed unanimously

**RETIREMENTS (For Board information only)**

Officer Joseph Aurora, eff., June 30 2024

**RESIGNATION (For Board information only)**

There were none.

**RECRUITMENT/SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Sergeant Paul Finch

- Sergeant Finch stated that they are testing. The written examination is scheduled for July 18, 2024. The oral interviews following the written examinations have been scheduled for July 30 and July 31, 2024.
- So they will have another round of testing next with hopes of putting candidates in an academy in the fall.
- So they are continuing with their quarterly testing. They are continuing to move forward by putting people in the academies.

**EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE REPORT**

- Commissioner Meares stated that there was nothing to report.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Assistant Chief Bhagtana

- Assistant Chief Bhagtana indicated she had sent the report to the commissioners and that she would be brief.
- They are working with engineering to try to get the shelves in the property room warehouse. Meanwhile Sergeant King and Lieutenant Portella with the help of the academy had begun fire alarm queue training which is an electronic tracking system for evidence coming in.
- They are working with the Humane Commission and Corporation Counsel for a policy manual and also getting cameras installed at the Animal Shelter.
- There is a Captain’s test, an oral assessment, has been tentatively scheduled for August 28, 2024.
- Sergeant Finch already went over the academy classes.
- As far as Facilities, they are working with the Office of Management and Budget with funds to get an animal storage project completed at 200 Wintergreen. It is progress.
- As far as vehicles, Patrol would receive Dodge Durango’s this year to maintain a safe fleet.

- The Board of Alders also approved an explosives dogs with makes this our third explosive detection dog. It's the newest addition to the Departments Hazardous Devices Unit. The dog would go to Officer Brandon Way
- As far as personnel updates, the Animal Shelter is looking for an assistant animal control officer. There is a job that had been posted with a closing date of July 21, 2024.
- The Records Division is also seeking records clerk. A new Civil Service list would be certified hopefully on July 10, 2024.
- As far as the grants coordinator position that was vacant, four people were interviewed the previous week. One of them was requested to be appointed. They are waiting for Human Resources to process that individual.
- Commissioner Walker asked why the Department is changing vehicles from Explorers to Durangos.
- Assistant Chief Bhagtana responded that they were initially told that the Chargers which the officers were using would no longer be produced. They are slowly stopping the production of Chargers. In order to prepare for the future, they got Dodge Durangos. They have the same footprint. They consulted with their superintendent of the garage to make sure that they are able to work on the vehicles and have any parts and training that is available to remain with the same company.
- Chief Jacobson added that the division is to change to all SUVs eventually with the climate is, with flooding and with snow. The Chargers do not go great in the snow. They are too low
- Commissioner Walker indicated that some of these could be cheaper but it does not sound like they are going to be.
- Chief Jacobson responded by saying that, nothing is really cheap. The Department is getting one EV. They will try it out. They will eventually start getting those as well. It's just a Chevy Blazer. So it's an SUV. If that's product that works well, this is what they would like to change to eventually.
- Commissioner Walker asked if was hybrid or EV.
- Chief Jacobson replied that it would be full EVs.
- Commissioner Brooks asked if they would be SUVs.
- Chief Jacobson indicated New York was using them. They are one of the better models for full EV when it comes to SUVs and police work.
- Commissioner Miranda indicated he wanted to inquire of Sergeant Finch regarding the candidates who took the agility test earlier in the day.
- Sergeant Finch said they had tested 14 candidates. Ten out of the 14 passed today. There will be a final retest on July 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. One candidate failed the sit-ups by one. Two candidates failed the run by six seconds. And a third candidate failed the run by 54 seconds.
- Commissioner Brooks asked if the candidate with six seconds would get a chance to retry.
- Sergeant Finch responded by saying that the final test would be on Tuesday, July 16, 2024.
- Commissioner Walker commented that there was a basketball game last week that the Department participated. Chief Jacobson participated in it. It was at Goffe Street Park. The kids were really involved in it. It was a good thing to see.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

There were none

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was none.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

■ Commissioner Walker asked if there was any reason to go into executive session and there was no response.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- \*\* Commissioner Meares moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting
- \*\* Commissioner Miranda seconded
- \*\* Motion passed unanimously

The next regular meeting will be on August 12, 2024.  
The Board adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*sotonye otunba-payne*

Sotonye Otunba-Payne