

**SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES
OCTOBER 27, 2020
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT**

PRESENT: Commissioners Anthony Dawson; Tracey Meares; Isaias Miranda;
Evelise Ribeiro; and Ronald Walker

Assistant Chief Herb Sharp: Department of Police Service
Lieutenant David Zannelli: Department of Police Service
Sergeant Dana Smith: Department of Police Service

Michael Wolak, Esquire: Senior Deputy Corporation Counsel

Daniel Hunt

OPEN SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m., Anthony Dawson, Chair, presiding.

- Commissioner Dawson read an excerpt of the Notification/Agenda into the record.
- The commissioners introduced themselves for the record.

The Special Meeting will be held to consider the following:

Chief Reyes is requesting approval of the Board of Police Commissioners to send out 3 conditional offers of employment from Eligibility List 20-22 to the position of Police Officer (Lateral):

**Jazmine Delgado
Mark Berretta
Christopher Butler**

- Assistant Chief Sharp expressed Chief Reyes' apologies for not being present at the meeting. He thanked the commissioners for taking the time to make this happen. This is something the Department had been trying to get accomplished.
- There are currently 23 fillable positions in the Department. The background process would ensue once this list is approved by this Board.
- Commissioner Meares asked if this was the process for the lateral people. Lieutenant Zannelli and Assistant Chief Sharp answered yes.
- Commissioner Meares asked whether the background documents would encompass the reasons why the laterals are separating from their current agencies, for example, if they were fired, etc.

- Lieutenant Zannelli said yes. Ms. Jazmine Delgado, for instance, was a former New Have Police Department officer who wishes to return. However, she has been separated from this Department for over a year now. She will return under the New Hire Policy now in place.
- Assistant Chief Sharp added by saying that background investigators are required to pay heed to the applicants' Internal Affairs files and personnel files from the agencies the officers are currently working for.
- Commissioner Meares stated that the Board would have an opportunity to look at the documents regarding each applicant as there are specific policies about how applicants with derogatory information are handled.
- Lieutenant Zannelli stated that Commissioner Meares was correct. Anyone attempting to escape an Internal Affairs investigation from his or her current agency by applying to NHPD or any findings of malfeasance or any sustained finding for a *Giglio* or *Brady* issue, those would be disqualifying factors that would be presented to the Board.
- Commissioner Meares asked, what if they are not sustained, and just under investigation, what is the policy?
- Lieutenant Zannelli stated that according to POST, the officer could be decertified. An officer cannot leave a police department while under an IA investigation for malfeasance even if a finding is not rendered. That is disqualifier.
- Assistant Chief Sharp confirmed that an officer could not just up and leave their current employment for any type of malfeasance. An open IA investigation is an automatic disqualifier.
- Lieutenant Zannelli added that this is further reflective of the recent accountability bill as well.
- Assistant Chief stated once the background reports are complete, recommendations would be made to the Board. The Board then makes its determination.
- Commissioner Dawson inquired as to whether there were any other officers interested in lateral transfers.
- Assistant Chief Sharp responded by stating that the current list is the only list in existence. However, the Department has been in touch with Human Resources. Human Resources is just awaiting background checks to commence to open it up.
- The hope is that by November 1st there will be a new test posted for laterals. Recruitment efforts would begin in earnest through social media. Funds are being sought to, hopefully, put up a billboard for lateral recruitment.

- ** Commissioner Walker moved to Offer Jazmine Delgado, Mark Berretta and Christopher Butler Conditional Offers
- ** Commissioner Meares seconded
- ** Unanimously passed

** **Commissioner Dawson called for an adjournment. All the commissioners were in favor of an adjournment.**

The Board adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sotonye Otunba-Payne