

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2010
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chrmn. Giles called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sam Bergami; Melvin Eisenhandler; Carol Faruolo, Carleton Giles; Alberta Jagoe; Sharon Marrone; Jerold Wanosky

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Fournier; P. Vetro, Board of Aldermen; K. Patterson, P & Z Liaison; D. Candido, Secty.

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS – Chief Mello stated there are five officers who have completed probation and are recommended to be sworn in as regular officers.

Comm. Marrone administered the oath to the following: Officers, Senatore, McDonnell, Cruz, Delmonte and Sopchak.

Those in attendance took the opportunity to personally congratulate each of the officers.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ald. Vetro stated he has received a few complaints regarding the intersection of Lawrence and Welch's Point Road. He recalled this matter coming before this commission in the past. Specifically it is a line of sight issue due to large utility boxes (telephone company installed) and a huge tree.

Chief Mello stated he will have the matter looked into.

Ald. Vetro also noted that he continues to be impressed at the number of officers that receive special recognition from individuals inside and out of the city. He stated this information is shared with this Commission and included in the minutes but he also would like the opportunity to share this information at the Board of Aldermen meeting. He added that all too often the great work of our officers is not shared with the general public.

Chief Mello stated he would see to it that Ald. Vetro receives a summarized report of the correspondence and recognition in order for him to share that information at the aldermanic meetings.

K. Patterson, P & Z Liaison introduced herself and stated she will be the liaison from P & Z for the next year. She took the opportunity to share a concern brought to her attention regarding a request for an addition of a stop sign at Bayview and Oakland Avenue.

Chairman Giles assured her that will be looked into.

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4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2010 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Mello shared the following correspondence:

[Name withheld] - a letter commending Sgt. Vitti for his professionalism and respect while conducting a recent investigation.

Lauri Ross, Orchard Hills School PTA President – stated she recently attended a DARE Program at the school and she commended Officer Frawley who did a great job with the children in conveying important information to the class.

Soledad Meade – parent of Orchard Hills student – commended Det. Frawley for his presentation at the school. Noted that he is a social worker in another community and is proud of the efforts and involvement of our officers in our community. He extended an invitation to Det. Frawley to do a similar presentation in the school system he is employed in.

Resident of Milford, University of Bridgeport student, commended our officers who are polite and helpful in this beautiful and safe city.

Maria Mackin – Guidance Counselor at Harborside Middle School – thanked Det. Frawley for his informative presentation on cyber-bullying at Harborside. Also noted that on occasion she has had reason to contact Det. Frawley with a question and his prompt reply has been helpful and very much appreciated.

City Resident – shared comment regarding his dad's recent funeral procession noting that on the way to the cemetery, the procession passed an officer working at a construction site and when his father's flag-draped casket passed, the officer did not hesitate to snap to attention and held a continuous salute until the entire procession had passed. He added that the officers gesture was noted by everyone in the procession and he thanked Chief Mello for the professionalism and compassion not only with this incident but in the past when he and his family have had reason to call on the department.

Kathy Tortora – Paraprofessional at Mathewson School – in a letter originally sent to Mayor Richetelli, she stated that each year students at Mathewson donate to the Animal Shelter. This year after visiting the shelter with their donations, Officer Rick George and Det. Gall conducted a Pet Safety Program for the children and she was pleased to have the opportunity to give some positive feedback to this successful and fun program.

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6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

a. Donation from Frank Matthews in the amount of \$1,000 for purchase of rifles – Chief Mello explained that Mr. Matthews is enrolled in the Citizens Academy and he recently made a personal donation specifically for the purchase of rifles.

Chief Mello stated that an officer in the department (SWAT Team) had purchased his own weapon and he is no longer enrolled in that program. Being the rifle was his personal weapon, there became a need for additional weapons.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Eisenhandler to accept the donation of \$1,000 from Frank Matthews for the purchase of rifles for the department. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Off Duty Weapon Authorization – Chief Mello reported that each of weapons of the officers had been inspected and qualify for off duty authorization.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to authorize Officers Bethke, Lennon and Localzo to carry off-duty weapons. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Accident Free Mileage Awards - Chief Mello stated the officers recommended are the first officers to be awarded mileage awards under the new program (eight hours of comp time)

Chrmn. Giles noted that Officer Connor's name should not have been included on the list of recommended officers at this time.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to award eight hours comp time for accident free mileage to Sgt. Dumas, Officers Cortes and McMahon and Sgt. Vitti. Motion carried unanimously.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS - none

8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

- a. Uniform Crime Report
- b. Youth Bureau Report
- c. Crime Prevention Services Report
- d. Detective Bureau Cases Report
- e. General Highway Safety Summary

Chrmn. Giles noted these reports were included in the Commissioners packets.

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It was moved by Comm. Eisenhandler and seconded by Comm. Bergami to accept reports A through E as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

10. NEW BUSINESS - none

11. COMMENDATIONS - none

12. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF OF POLICE ON MATTERS CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, PERFORMANCE, EVALUATION AND HEALTH OR DISMISSAL OF DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

Chief Mello noted that the officers listed had previously been administered the oath to become regular officers. (item 12 a.)

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to add to the agenda Executive Session item 12 b. Consideration of Grievance and 12 c. Discussion of contract of Chief of Police. Motion carried unanimously to add these items to the agenda.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to adjourn to Executive session at 7:24 p.m. to discuss

- b. Grievance 2-2010
- c. Contract of Chief of Police

Motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Chief Fournier remained in executive session for the discussion of item 12 b. (Grievance 2-2010).

[Ald. Vetro and Mrs. Patterson left the meeting at 7:24 p.m.]

Deputy Chief Fournier left executive session at 7:35 p.m.

Chrmn. Giles reconvened the meeting in public session at 8:12 p.m.

b. It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Eisenhandler to uphold the Chief's recommendation regarding Grievance 2-2010. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Chrmn. Giles announced the appointment of a sub-committee to review the contract of the Chief of Police. Members of the sub-committee will be Comm. Bergami and Faruolo.

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It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Candido, Secretary