

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, MAY 12, 2014
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chrmn. Jagoe called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sam Bergami, Carol Faruolo, Alberta Jagoe, Sharon Marrone, David Rubenstein, Richard Smith, Jerold Wanosky

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello, Deputy Chief Mooney, Mr. Mead (P & Z) and D. Candido, Secty.

A quorum was present to conduct the business of the meeting.

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS - Chief Mello introduced Officer Kyle Magnan who was present to be sworn in as a regular Officer. Comm. Rubinstein administered the oath to Officer Magnan.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- B. Carissimi – 64 Kirkland Ave – stated she was pleased to have had the privilege to attend the recent Police Academy Graduation, Citizens Police Academy Graduation and the promotion ceremony all of which were impressive ceremonies.
- J. Carissimi – 64 Kirkland – directed comments to the tragic situation which recently occurred in Milford and how well the situation was handled by Chief Mello and his entire department. He also complimented Officer Nielson for tending to the needs of the media at the calling hours of the young girl. He stated he is proud to be resident of Milford and associated with the Department.
- E. Mead – P & Z Liaison – referred to discussion held at the March Police Commission meeting regarding the role of the Department and the Board of Police Commissioners in reviewing P & Z applications. He stated he feels the Police Commission should have the opportunity to review and comment on the applications. Also, he referred to previous information regarding the Irish Heritage Society taking ownership of the Star Café and he was hopeful that ownership would be complete within a few months.

Chairman Jagoe also took the opportunity to echo the comments of many people regarding the way Chief Mello and the entire Department handled such a tragic situation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2014 meeting as presented. Motion carried with Comm. Wanosky abstaining as he was not present at the March 2014 meeting.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Mello shared the following correspondence:

- Emma Shea, Class of 2016 JLHS and the JLHS Family – on behalf of the students and faculty at JLHS, she thanked Chief Mello and the Department for the important role they played in the response and throughout the difficult and continuous journey of healing. She expressed her

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appreciation for the officers' large and small efforts and for watching over the students and staff.

- David Kohalmi – 72 Meadowside Rd – stated a work conflict prevented him from attending the Citizens Police Academy Graduation but wanted to commend the Department noting he was impressed with the caliber and training of our officers. He added he was pleased to have been part of the experience the Academy and working with the officers afforded.
- Terri Eblen, Bridges, representing the Management Team – noted the Management Team had asked the Crime Prevention Unit for a safety and security assessment following the expansion of the building. He noted Officer Nielson responded to that request promptly and provided a thorough and complete assessment that will facilitate staff continued efforts to mitigate any potential crime or incident that would endanger staff or clientele. Further, Officer Nielson's knowledge and awareness of the population served at the facility was apparent.
- Yale Child Advocacy Center – commended Officer Kiely (JLHS Resource Officer) and his efforts to handle a sexual abuse situation at the high school. It was noted that the victim was comfortable going to Officer Kiely who immediately got the student the help needed.
- Mary Ellen Grohn – Resident - expressed her appreciation for the care received as a response to her 911 call for assistance with her child.
- Suzette Hallstrom – Resident – recently attended the Citizens Police Academy Graduation and commended Chief Mello and the Department for the impressive ceremony.
- Anthony Batson – Teacher at JLHS – expressed his appreciation to Officer Kiely, Specialist Blythe and Det. Macharelli who recently visited his Crime & Violence Class at JLHS. He noted the officers engaged the students in the class and that was most impressive.
- Chief Tracey Gove – W. Hartford Police Dept. – thanked Chief Mello for allowing applicants to fill two spots in the Milford Police Academy adding he has no doubt that the training those officers received will help them develop into good, well-rounded law enforcement personnel and will be an asset to that Department.
- Chief Thomas Wydra - Hamden Police Dept. – took the opportunity to congratulate one of our recruits who had previously served as an intern in the Hamden Police Dept.
- Chief Michael Lombardo – Wilton Police Dept. – thanked Chief Mello for the training of one of his officers at the Milford Police Academy.
- Charlene Adams & Joseph Haering – Point Beach Dr. – took the opportunity to commend Det. Marino who responded and assisted them with several circumstances which occurred in their neighborhood; adding he was helpful and knowledgeable and he embodies the qualities brought forth in this Department's mission statement.
- Resident – noted that people are quick to complain about the alleged wrong police officers can do but he wrote to thank the officer (Badge 115) who took the time to pay attention and communicate to his two small children following the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

It was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to add to the agenda item 6e. Discussion regarding portable basketball hoops on city right of way. Motion carried unanimously.

a. Two Donations from car seat inspections – Chief Mello recommended a \$25 donation from Janet Aldrich and a \$5 donation from Michael Paoletta. Chief Mello asked that money be placed in the DARE Donation account

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It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept the donations as noted and apply that money to the DARE Donation account as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Safe Mileage awards to Sgt. Chris Doyle, Off. Antonio Moreno, Off. Thomas Wardowski. Deputy Chief Mooney requested that Officers Degnan, Mello and Holder also be included in this recommendation.

It was moved by Comm. Rubinstein and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to award eight hours of comp time for an accumulation of 12,000 safe driving miles with no safety violations to Sgt. Doyle, Officer Moreno, Officer Wardowsky, Officer Degnan, Officer Mello and Officer Holder as recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Off Duty weapon request for Det. Tyrone Dancy - Chief Mello explained Det. Dancy has requested to carry his personal weapon off duty. Chief Mello stated the weapon has qualified and is in good working order.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to approve Off Duty Weapon Authorization to Det. Dancy as recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Police Sick and Relief Fund CD renewal – It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to continue with the existing CD at Milford Bank for the Police Sick and Relief Fund. Motion carried with Comm. Bergami abstaining from the vote as he is a member of the Board of Directors of Milford Bank.

e. Discussion regarding portable basketball hoops on city right of way – Chief Mello explained the situation involves youngsters playing basketball with portable basketball hoops placed on the right of way. He referred to the fact this matter came before the commission last year. He explained he personally has visited the area, asked the residents to move the hoops but he is now receiving complaints the hoop has been relocated to the curb again and the youngsters are playing in the streets. He explained he has received complaints about this but has instructed the officers to not issue infractions to the property owners. He specifically noted that one resident has come to the Department three consecutive days regarding this matter and Chief Mello felt the current city ordinance addressing this needs to be changed. He further explained that if the city feels these hoops can be on the city right of way then it should be spelled out in the ordinance as his Department needs some clarification on the matter. He noted some communities allow the hoops to be in the right of way with some guidelines.

Comm. Faruolo questioned if there are other extenuating issues with the neighbors and she was told by Chief Mello that he was not aware of any. He added the hoop is not causing any obstruction, not creating a hazard on the road or sidewalk but the complaint as noted is based on the ordinance which is in place.

Chief Mello explained he would like to know if the Commissioners feel this is something the Department should pursue.

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Vice Chrmn. Bergami asked how this is different then upholding any other ordinance and by not abiding by it, it is an act of defiance to the ordinance. He felt it should be brought to the attention of the elected official who represents that area.

Comm. Smith felt Vice Chrmn. Bergami's point was a good one and they should be contacting their aldermen to change the ordinance rather than it being initiated through the Police Dept.

Chief Mello added they have contacted their aldermen but no one has taken the initiative to make any change occur.

Comm. Rubinstein stated he did not like the concept of someone impugning the authority of the Police Dept. and he agreed if there is someone who doesn't like the law, there is a process to be followed to change the ordinance.

Chrmn. Jagoe stated if Chief Mello sees a need to have an ordinance changed, she personally saw nothing wrong with this Commission making the request on his behalf.

Chief Mello added he personally has gone to the neighborhood to try to mediate between the neighbors regarding the matter and he will contact them and strongly suggest the avenue they should be taking to attempt to remedy this situation and have them contact their elected representatives regarding the matter.

Chief Mello asked to read into the record another piece of correspondence he received:

- Greta Stanford – Ald. 1st District – thanked Chief Mello for the privilege she and her husband had in attending the recent Police Academy Graduation noting they are proud to have such a fine Department and adding the entire ceremony was truly spectacular.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS

a. Connors Properties – Auto Dealer – 535-537 Boston Post Rd – It was moved by Comm. Rubinstein and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to approve Traffic Div. recommendations regarding Connors Properties – Auto Dealer – 535-537 Boston Post Rd. Motion carried unanimously.

b. DPC Associates – New Mixed use building – 255-257 Naugatuck Ave. – it was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to approve Traffic Div. recommendations regarding DPC Associates – New Mixed use building -255-257 Naugatuck Ave. Motion carried unanimously.

c. 843 North St. – Renovation/Subdivision – it was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to approve Traffic Div. recommendations regarding 843 North St – Renovation/Subdivision. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Shop Rite Supermarket – 230 Cherry St – it was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to approve Traffic Div. recommendations regarding Shop Rite Supermarket – 230 Cherry St. Motion carried unanimously.

e. Lauralton Hall synthetic turf field – 200 High St. – it was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to approve Traffic Div. recommendations regarding Lauralton Hall synthetic turf field – 200 High St. Motion carried unanimously.

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8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to approve the following reports:

- a. Special Investigations Unit Report
- b. Detective Bureau Report
- c. Crime Prevention Services Report
- d. Traffic Division & Licensing Unit Report

Motion carried unanimously.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. No Parking west side of road – Settlers Ridge Rd at New Haven Ave. – it was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding No Parking west side of road – Settlers Ridge Rd at New Haven Ave. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Move stop sign from original location – Timber Trail/Whitman Place – it was moved by Comm. Rubinstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding moving stop sign from original location – Timber Trail/Whitman Place. Motion carried unanimously.

11. COMMENDATIONS - none

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. for Consideration of Report of Chief of Police on matters concerning the Appointment, Employment, Performance, Evaluation, Health, or Dismissal of Department Employees.

- a. Consideration of the performance of 2 employees.
- b. Final probationary rating for one Officer.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Smith to reconvene in public session at 8:09 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to uphold Chief Mello's recommendation regarding

- a. Consideration of the performance of 2 employees.
- b. Final probationary rating for one Officer.

Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to adjourn at 8:11 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido
Submitted to City Clerk, May 13, 2014