

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2008
COMMISSIONERS ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

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

1. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Melvin Eisenhandler; Carol Faruolo; Carlton Giles; Alberta Jagoe; Sharon Marrone; Thomas Zawislinski; Jerold Wanosky

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Fournier; L. Stock, Secty; P. Vetro, Board of Aldermen; K. Patterson, Planning & Zoning Board Liaison

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS

None

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

K. Patterson stated there was discussion amongst the Planning & Zoning Board members regarding parking on the sand at Gulf Beach. Chief Mello noted he did receive an inquiry from Board member Kevin Liddy. The Chief explained that the area in question is seldom used except by Police and emergency personnel; however, with no signage present, there is nothing for the Police to enforce. From time to time, officers have asked people not to park there. The department has requested that signage and markings be installed.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2008 meeting.

DISCUSSION

Comm. Faruolo noted that on page 3, paragraph 3, line 3, "...violation were parking too **close** to the curb..." should perhaps read, "...too **far** from the curb..." However, Chief Mello reviewed the paragraph and it should read, "...violation were parking too close to the **corner**..." Chief Mello further noted that the current markings are 12' from the corner and they should be 25'. They will be repainted and parking will be reduced even further.

The minutes being so corrected, the motion carried unanimously.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

The following was noted by Chief Mello:

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2008
COMMISSIONERS ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Lynn Connors sent a letter thanking the Dispatcher for taking the time to be nice to her on the phone. Chief Mello explained that Ms. Connors sends complimentary letters to the Department from time to time and this correspondence included a poem.

Chief David Peck of the Fairfield Police Department sent a letter thanking Lt. Gary Compare for acting as an assessor during their recent promotion examination. Chief Mello added that Milford sends officers to other police departments to assist with these examinations. Milford has to request their assessors from departments that are at least 35 miles away.

Charles Sherwood of the South Central Criminal Justice System thanked Capt. G. Butler, who recently assisted in their oral examination for the position of Sergeant.

Kathy and Greg Hart thanked Offs. Localzo and DeMerjian for making “Jordan’s Ride Home” safe and fun. This motorcycle ride was a fund raiser in the memory of Cpl. Jordan Pierson.

Chris Carroll of Boys and Girls Village sent a letter thanking the department for their assistance, participation and traffic control during their 5K road race.

Chief Mello noted that a series of letters was received from Westfield Shopping Center thanking the department for their assistance with Westfield’s 2008 fireworks and concert and heroes recognition ceremony.

A letter was received from the Clinton police department commending Officers Ruggiero and Catino for their compassion and concern when responding to an elderly woman’s home. The woman had Alzheimer’s and the families appreciated the support of these two officers.

Frances Maco, from AAA, thanked the department for their participation in the monthly car seat inspections. Chief Mello explained that a number of officers are trained to teach how to install car seats. They partner with the Orange Police Department. The Chief further explained that if there is someone who does not have a car seat, the department will donate one to them. The car seats are either donated to the department or the department purchases them.

Another letter was received from AAA, thanking the Chief and Off. Vaughan Dumas for working with AAA Public Relations on their Police, Fire and Safety Day.

Chrmn. Giles asked for a motion to add item 6c to the agenda: Consideration of Reinstatement of DJ’s towing. The motion was made by Comm. Wanosky, seconded by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and unanimously carried.

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2008
COMMISSIONERS ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

- a. Officer Michael McCormack will retire effective 9/5/08

Chief Mello stated Off. McCormack has taken a job in the private sector and has already left the department. In response to Comm. Zawislinski, the Chief stated Off. McCormack was with the department of 24 years.

- b. Consideration of accident free mileage awards to Officers Kevin Macharelli, Keith Ruggiero and Sgt. Sean Moore

In response to Comm. Wanosky, Chief Mello explained that this is a safety award where officers are awarded 8 hours off if they drive for 25,000 miles with no accidents. They can accumulate a total of 40 hours to be used, for instance, to come in late or leave early.

Comm. Wanosky wondered what would happen if an officer was in a high speed chase and ended up in an accident. The Chief responded that he would lose whatever mileage he had previously accrued. He continued that an officer cannot even “ding” a car because if it is deemed it was his fault, he will lose the mileage collected. The standard is time off for no accidents, no matter how small, and the time can be used according to their strict standards.

Referring back to item 6a, Chrmn. Giles questioned if Off. McCormack was already on leave. Chief Mello explained that he has taken his vacation. Officers are allowed to carry over 5 vacation days per year. Off. McCormack has completed his work with the department and is now using his vacation time.

It was moved by Comm. Zawislinski, seconded by Comm. Faruolo and unanimously carried to approve the Chief’s recommendation for item 6b.

- c. Consideration of Reinstatement of DJ’s on the Tow List

Chief Mello stated that the Chief’s office makes the decision as to who is put on the list and the Commission makes the final decision as to who stays on the list. He would prefer that the Commission review those requests.

Comm. Jagoe interjected that when this item was discussed in detail several meetings ago, there were some issues, i.e., there was a fire at the facility; they were operating out of another facility and blaming Planning & Zoning for their delays. She recalled there was additional information noted in the newspaper and she was confused as to whether they were operating out of two facilities or just one.

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2008
COMMISSIONERS ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chief Mello responded that the Monacos are brothers and the incident noted in the newspaper happened in New Haven. The situation in Milford was that they were operating out of DJ's without approvals and there was no telephone at that facility and no one manning the facility. They were operating a storage lot which was not open for business. They are now operating from another facility on Bridgeport Avenue. Everything has to pass inspection and they have to meet the guidelines set forth. Currently they have fulfilled the requirements of the current guidelines.

Chrmn. Giles reiterated that the Chief makes a recommendation to the Commission. Chief Mello stated he was recommending they be reinstated because they meet the guidelines.

Comm. Faruolo moved to reinstate DJ's Towing based on the Chief's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Comm. Wanosky.

DISCUSSION

Comm. Zawislinski stated that although he would support the Chief's recommendation, there is a perception that they may be "getting two businesses for the price of one." Chief Mello responded that was not the case in this situation, they have fulfilled all the requirements with a separate phone and storage area. However, he will be asking the City Attorney to develop stricter guidelines.

Comm. Faruolo asked if this was "open ended," and if it was reviewed yearly, to which the Chief responded they are never reviewed. They allow ten wrecker services on the list and he would like to maintain that number; there is no reason for it to be increased. If it can be done legally, they will revisit these companies. Currently, they do not go out and reinspect premises.

For clarification, Comm. Wanosky stated they are two separate facilities, Anthony's and DJ's, and they have separate phone numbers which cannot be transferred to one another. The Chief responded in the affirmative, noting that if anything should change, the department will make sure that they adhere to the regulations.

There being no further discussion, the motion to reinstate DJ's carried unanimously.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS

- a. 40 Quirk Road – New England School of Montessori

It was moved and seconded by Comms. Zawislinski and Faruolo, respectively, to adopt Traffic's recommendation.

DISCUSSION

Comm. Faruolo noted that this was a "perfect place for a school."

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2008
COMMISSIONERS ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

There being no further discussion or comments, the motion carried unanimously.

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

It was moved by Comm. Zawislinski and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe to accept reports “a” through “e.”

DISCUSSION

Regarding the ticket operation for July, Comm. Faruolo noted that it was extremely high. Chief Mello explained they have put additional resources in Milford center based on the complaints they have received and their meetings with the Downtown Merchants Business Association. They are staffing it on overtime.

Comm. Faruolo determined that the increase had nothing to do with Silver Sands. Chief Mello added there were very few tickets being written in that particular area. In addition, with other issues at hand, officers have less time to write tickets in the summer months.

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe mentioned that she had been at the library at lunch time and there were several people circling trying to find parking. Chief Mello stated the officers are trying to keep cars turning over. At one point, the department was criticized for their ticketing; however, the Chief believes that the proper course in the center is to be aggressive.

With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

10. NEW BUSINESS

None

11. COMMENDATIONS

None

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2008
COMMISSIONERS ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

At 7:25 P.M., it was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe, seconded by Comm. Zawislinski and carried by roll call vote to enter into Executive Session to discuss items 12a and b. Chief Mello and Deputy Chief Fournier were asked to remain.

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

- a. Probationary Reviews – 2nd quarter probationary review of Officers D. Chila, A. Moreno and E. Robinson
- b. Consideration of the performance of one employee

The Commission left Executive Session at 7:45 P.M. at which time Vice Chrmn. Jagoe moved to uphold the recommendation of the Chief of Police regarding item 12b. The motion carried unanimously after a second by Comm. Zawislinski.

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe moved to adjourn at 7:46 P.M. The motion was seconded by Comm. Zawislinski and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Stock, Secretary