

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2007
COMMISSIONERS ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chairman Fellenbaum called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Kenneth Fellenbaum, Melvin Eisenhandler, Carlton Giles, Tony Candido, Carol Faruolo and Thomas Zawislinski.

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Keith Mello; Deputy Chief Steve Fournier; Sgt. Sharoh; L. Streit, Secretary

Comm. Fellenbaum noted that A. Jagoe would not be present tonight but would be at the October meeting. He further announced the Awards Dinner for Persons with Disabilities on 9/28/07 noting that Officer Neilson will be receiving an award for his participation.

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS

None.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made by Comm. Faruolo, seconded by Comm. Giles to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented and carried unanimously.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Mello noted the following:

- A letter was received from resident George Fitch regarding traffic in downtown Milford. He stated that it was out of control, people using cell phones, pedestrians ignorant of crosswalk rules and no police presence. He further stated that the town needs to reopen the budget and allow more funds for more police officers. The Chief referenced the Downtown Business Association meeting in which Joe Agro stated to the Mayor that more police officers were needed. Cell phone violations are monitored in Milford Center and a 2 week aggressive cell phone push was done and 432 violations were given.
- A letter was received from David Shepack, State's Attorney Department of Criminal Justice regarding a murder that took place in Bantam, CT. Thanking Sgts. Youd and Carney for their cooperation in the investigation and conviction. The Sgts. obtained a

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full confession and assisted with the transcription. The person was sentenced to 40 years.

- A letter was received from David Hulme, of the Milford Rotary Club thanking the Police Department for their support at the Annual Lobster Bake that took place on 7/21/07. \$51,000.00 was raised from this event. The Rotary Club is a non profit organization that grants college scholarships, day care scholarships, donated Amber Alert equipment as well as assisting with Health Foundations.
- A letter was received from Lorraine Velardi of Hamden, CT thanking the Milford Police Department for assistance. She was a stranded driver in an unfamiliar area with a flat tire in a hazardous spot. The police stayed with her until AAA came; they made her feel safe and eased her tension.
- A letter was received from Frank O'Connor thanking the Police Department for their assistance. He came home and found a man lying on the property of his condo unit. He was impressed with the police assessment and handling of the situation.
- A letter was received from Paul Miller thanking Officer Dumas and Loretta for their assistance with a situation with his parents. He also thanked the Chief specifically to take the time to speak with him.
- A letter was received from a parent thanking the Police Department for sending a patch to her son. These were special circumstances.
- Comm. Candido stated that he introduced the Chief to the Chief of the Waterbury Bomb Squad at the Oyster Festival and he was very impressed with our Chief. Comm. Fellenbaum stated that the Canine Demonstration at the Oyster Festival was very well received and very successful.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

- a. **Informational – Officer Jason Barry will resign effective 9/15/07** - The Chief reported that Officer Barry has 2 years employment and has been trying to get on the DEA since and has been hired. He is a good Officer and the Chief wished him luck. Comm. Giles asked if there was a leave of absence policy. The Chief stated that there is not, any leave is up to the Chief.
- b. **Consideration of accident free mileage award for Officer Steve Young**
– A motion was made by Comm. Giles, seconded by Comm. Zawislinski to grant Officer Young 8 hours time for 25,000 accident free miles. The motion carried unanimously.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS

- a. **10 Unit/1 Bedroom Complex – 314 Bridgeport Ave**
A motion to adopt Traffic's recommendation was made by Comm. Zawislinski, seconded by Comm. Candido. The motion carried unanimously.

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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**

A motion to accept reports a-e was made by Comm. Zawislinski seconded by Comm. Faruolo. The motion carried unanimously.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Request for No Parking zone on west side of street, convert East Ave. to one-way street – Elizabeth Beirne**

A motion to adopt Traffic's recommendation was made by Comm. Zawislinski, seconded by Comm. Giles. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. Milesfield/Bayshore Drive – Request for Pedestrian Crosswalk, 4-Way Stop Sign, Stop Sign written in roadway – William Shaw II**

A motion to adopt Traffic's recommendation was made by Comm. Candido, seconded by Comm. Faruolo. The motion carried unanimously.

- c. Ridgewood Drive/Thompson Hill Rd. – Request for 4-Way Stop Sign, On-Street Handicapped parking space – Tracy Carroll**

A motion to adopt Traffic's recommendation was made by Comm. Faruolo, seconded by Comm. Candido. The motion carried unanimously.

- d. Astor Rd./Seabreeze Ave – Request for Stop Signs – Fred Van Pala**

A motion was made by Comm. Zawislinski, seconded by Comm. Eisenhandler to wholeheartedly adopt Traffic's recommendations. Comm. Zawislinski stated that the offensive tone of language in Mr. Van Pala's correspondence was troubling and revisiting the same issues and feels it is wasting Traffic's resources and suggested drawing the line. Comm. Fellenbaum stated that the Chief lets the public know that they are heard. The Chief stated that some issues have been revisited if there is no change and that this case has had several inquiries and the resident has also corresponded with the Mayor and the resident has stated that he feels the Chief is not responsive to public safety. Therefore, a full study had been performed and been brought before the Commission for their decision. The Chief stated that Mr. Van Pala will be notified of the report and will receive the commissions' response by letter and

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copies of the report will be mailed to him. The Mayor is to meet with Mr. Van Pala and will review the process of complaint and response with him. This is the third study done on this site and Mr. Van Pala has been told that there is not a need for a stop sign. A discussion followed – noting that a lot of work went into the study and it is the Commissions' decision. The motion to adopt Traffic's recommendation carried unanimously.

e. Sperry/Merwin and Sperry/Seabreeze – Site Line Restrictions and Parking problems – Fred Van Pala

A motion was made by Comm. Eisenhandler, seconded by Comm. Candido to adopt Traffic's recommendations. Sgt. Sharoh reported that this is a request from Mr. Van Pala and is a site line issue at the intersection of Merwin Avenue. The report was reviewed. The investigation of this area goes back to 1975 and there have been multiple changes since then. There are some parking restrictions at Sperry Street, a 4 way stop at Merwin Avenue at Seabreeze and substantial change to the roadway. There is a natural site line problem and it is recommended that it be revisited and have the State DOT re-examine this to restrict additional parking which results in a parking deprived beach community. The street is reasonable road width and 3 no parking signs on parts of the intersection are requested and makes passage acceptable. This also makes it so there can be no parking 25' from the corner. An in road crosswalk sign is requested by the resident and Traffic recommends this be denied and the State be petitioned to review this. The Chief stated that parking is an issue in the area as it is limited. It was concluded that a very thorough report was prepared for this area. The motion to adopt Traffic's recommendations carried unanimously.

11. COMMENDATIONS

None.

At 7:50 p.m. Comm. Giles moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following items. The motion was seconded by Comm. Faruolo and carried unanimously by roll call vote. Chief Mello and Deputy Chief Fournier were asked to remain.

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

- a. Probationary Reviews: Officer Jennifer Long – 1st Quarter Review.**
- b. Consideration of the performance of 7 employees.**

At 8:15 p.m. the Commission left Executive Session.

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The Chief reported that there will be a 9/11 ceremony at City Hall tomorrow at 6:00 p.m.

Comm. Giles moved to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. The motion carried unanimously after a second by Comm. Candido.

ATTEST:

LISA STREIT, SECRETARY