

**AMENDED MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2016– 7:00 P.M.  
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM, POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL**

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

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT: Carol Faruolo

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Rahn; Capt. Alexopoulos, Ald. Vetro, D. Candido, Secty.

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

**2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS – none**

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

- T. Nichols – member of P & Z Board – attending meeting to see how the Commission handles and acts on P & Z requests
- Bill Harrison – 38 Governors Avenue – spoke in support of proposal of highly visible traffic crosswalk in Governor's Avenue/North Street area.

Chief Mello explained this matter will come on the Police Commission agenda when the Traffic Div. has completed their study. He added he recalled addressing this issue in the past and the matter will be looked into again at this time.

- J. Simoncek – 61 Governor's Ave. – shared similar concerns regarding the dangerous crosswalk at Governor's Ave/North Street and the fact that students walking to school cross at the intersection.
- Ald. Brian Anderson – representing residents of Governor's Ave. – thanked Chief Mello for undertaking the traffic study for both Governor's Ave. and Darina Place.
- T. Simoncek – 61 Governor's Ave. – noted the situation with traffic in the Governor's Avenue area has gotten worse since the last time this matter was brought forward.
- Sue Jerue – thanked the Department for their support at the recent Pumpkins on the Pier event, specifically Officer O'Keefe and Dempsey for their assistance that day.

Chief Mello thanked the members of the Citizens Police Academy who worked at that event adding their presence and help is greatly appreciated at such city events.

- J. Carissimi – 64 Kirkside Ave. – thanked the Chief for allowing the members of the Citizens Police Academy to once again work and provide assistance at a city event (Pumpkins on the Pier).

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- Ald. Vetro – complimented the department's K-9 team who assisted in the apprehending of an individual involved in a bank robbery in Woodbridge.
- Angelo Lisi – property owner 26 Gulf St. – present regarding agenda matter; P & Z request for 26 Gulf Street.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2016 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE**

Chief Mello shared the following correspondence:

- Various thank you cards from residents thanking the Department for their hard work.
- Joseph DellaMonica, Sr. Family – thank you for Department assistance at funeral of family member.
- Chief Mello shared pictures of the Department's car with pink wrap & graphics which is being used for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. He noted other area departments are using similar technique on part of their fleet as part of the awareness campaign.
- Sue Jerue – thank you note acknowledging the honor for the Citizens Police Academy members to be able to assist with the recent Pumpkin on the Pier event.
- Phil Gonzalez – member of the Braking Aids Ride – thanked Chief Mello and the Department for participating in the ride which traveled through Milford.

**6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION**

a. Donation of \$1,000 from Blue Mass at Holy Infant Church in Orange – Chief Mello explained our officers participated in the Blue Mass held at Holy Infant Church and in appreciation for that a donation of \$1,000 was made. Chief Mello recommended this donation be placed in the Officer Wellness Program which has no funding source for expenses involved in related programs or events. Chief Mello explained he would like the Commission to establish a new donation account and would request approval of that account.

It was moved by Comm. Rubinstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to add to the agenda consideration of new donation account, Officer Wellness Program, as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to accept the \$1,000 donation from Blue Mass at Holy Infant Church and place those funds in the Officer Wellness Program as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Donation in the amount of \$50 from Lizabeth Khachadorian – Chief Mello requested the \$50 donation to the department be placed in the DARE account.

It was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to place the \$50 donation from Lizabeth Khachadorian in the DARE account as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

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- c. Chief's General comments – Chief Mello reported the Department has started its 25th session of the Police Academy with 32 recruits working on their training. He also reminded members that the proposed budget will include the cost for body worn cameras (\$107,000 reoccurring cost each year). As well the budget will include the support costs for police and fire radio.

Chief Mello explained the reoccurring cost for the storage of the body camera data and added it is hopeful that by December 2016 this department will be one of the first in the state to be using full deployment of this equipment.

Chairman Smith updated the members on the progress of the Police Dept. Building Committee who recently met and reviewed the architect's schematics of this facility as the proposed site for a new headquarters. He stated he felt the architect has done the best he could with what he has to work with and the committee is still looking at alternative sites primarily because of cost.

Comm. Rubenstein asked if the committee does find an alternative site, would the parcel of land where the current headquarters is be sold and if so, would those proceeds go toward the new facility. It was explained that would be the case and then this property would once again go back on the tax rolls.

Chief Mello added that in conversation at the recent committee meeting it was noted that when this new facility is built, it would be the last Police Department facility this city would need to build.

**7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS**

- a. Proposed Site Plans for Dunkin Donuts – 364 Bridgeport Ave – It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding Proposed Site Plans for Dunkin Donuts – 364 Bridgeport Ave. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Proposed rear lot subdivision – 1191 New Haven Ave. - It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to approve Traffic Div. recommendation for conditional approval of proposed rear lot subdivision – 1191 New Haven Ave. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. 7 Unit Housing Development – 26 Gulf St. – it was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding 7 Unit Housing Development – 26 Gulf Street.

Comm. Jagoe asked if this was a continuation of the buildings that were recently built on Gulf Street noting those buildings are very close to the street. She also questioned if P & Z ever has reconsidered rewriting the regulations for such proposals.

Mr. Nichols (P & Z Member) explained those regs will not be rewritten until the city reaches its capacity for affordable housing.

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Mr. Lisi, owner of 26 Gulf Street, noted that out of all of the 830-G developments in this town, this particular one is in the best location as it is close to bus lines, businesses, downtown, schools and it is cleaning that street up.

Comm. Rubenstein agreed it is cleaning up blighted houses.

Ald. Anderson noted at the time the original units were proposed, it was recommended there be more of a widened intersection at Cherry Street and there was some discussion about changes to the sidewalk area. He questioned if there was a formal recommendation that be done.

Mr. Lisi stated the street has already been widened.

Motion carried unanimously to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding this property.

**8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**

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

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none**

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Darina Place – Request for single direction street - Capt. Alexopoulos explained the Traffic Division request from Ald. Anderson made on behalf of the residents on Darina Place was to make Darina Place a single direction street. He went on to say the report shows there were approximately 9,135 vehicles traveling on the street for a one week period in September; majority of those vehicles were traveling westbound toward High Street. He stated the speed limit on the street is 25 mph and the maximum speed noted was 41 mph which could have been an emergency vehicle. Further he explained history shows 4 accidents over a 5 year period of time and the accidents were not found to be caused by the restriction or the size of the street. Further Capt. Alexopoulos stated the basis for the request was the width of the street. Also, other considerations found in the research note that if the vehicles traveling on that street are displaced, those vehicles will be shifted somewhere else and by displacing Darina Place traffic to W. Main and High, would be moving the traffic flow to a higher incident area. He added another issue with making it a one way street is which way would be the best option for the traffic to flow. It was further noted another significant consideration is the

oversized truck traffic that often get stuck under the railroad bridge (River St) or approach the area and find they cannot pass under the bridge and look to back up and make a turn onto Darina. Capt. also stated that studies show if a street is made a one direction street, the

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decision is eventually reversed. He stated he did not feel that making Darina Place a one way street would be a safe or feasible option.

Chief Mello explained a one way street would increase the speed of vehicles traveling on that street. He felt the Public Works Director proposals were not a bad idea but not what the residents might have wanted. Further data and research does not support honoring that request.

Comm. Jagoe felt the Traffic Div. did an excellent job on this report.

Ald. Anderson stated he will set up a follow up meeting with the residents in an attempt to share the recommendation and the study.

It was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding Darina Place – Request for single direction street. Motion carried unanimously.

Comm. Rubenstein also stated the report was an excellent and comprehensive study.

**11. COMMENDATIONS - none**

**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION -**

Chief Mello asked for a motion to add one item to the Executive Session, specifically Citizens Complaint Report.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to add to the agenda item 12 a. Citizens Complaint Report. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Report of Chief of Police on matters concerning the Appointment, Employment, Performance, Evaluation, Health, or Dismissal of Department Employees.**

A. It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to review the Citizens Complaint Report in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously. (7:50 p.m.)

Police Commissioners present, Chief Mello and Deputy Chief Rahn remained for executive session.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to reconvene in public session at 8:04 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business, it was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to adjourn at 8:08 p.m.

Recorded by Diane Candido

Submitted to City Clerk, October 12, 2016