

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, November 13, 2012
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, Richard Smith, Jerold Wanosky

COMMISIONER NOT PRESENT: Melvin Eisenhandler

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Mooney; Ald. Vetro; D. Candido, Secty.

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

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS - none

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- John Carissimi – took the opportunity to congratulate Chief Mello for the recent and very moving Milford Police Academy graduation ceremony and also appreciation for the invitation extended to he and his wife to attend the event. Mr. Carissimi referred to the recent hurricane damage his property incurred, an attempted intrusion into his home during a time when there was no power or telephone service in his neighborhood. He explained that residents were worried about possible crime and the fact they had no way to communicate with the police if an emergency occurred; however someone in the department made a decision to have police cars patrol the area with red/blue lights flashing which was a good assurance to all. He thanked Chief Mello for that and also for Sgt. Vitti and the mobile unit, specifically Officer Nielsen, Robbins and Bedeker for showing personal care and concern and follow up calls. Mr. Carissimi stated he and his family personally appreciate how much was done.
- Ald. Vetro – also expressed his appreciation and noted how much has been done by the Milford Police Dept. for residents, some of which have suffered serious destruction and devastation from the storms. He also was pleased to have noted how neighbors came together to help each other. He stated he was proud to have a police department such as ours. Ald. Vetro also noted he had the honor to attend the recent Police Academy Graduation and it was a very nice event.

Chief Mello stated he will pass on the comments made to the officers and added their performance, assessments and patience was exemplary and the department embraced the opportunity to help people. He stated he too was proud of the city for working together collaboratively.

Comm. Smith stated he personally endured a great deal of damage/loss at his home and added having the patrol cars in the area was assuring and he felt the officers did the department proud.

Chief Mello added through past storms, they have learned that people are taken advantage of and security should be and was the utmost priority.

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4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 9, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Mello shared the following correspondence:

- Pumpkins on the Pier Committee (Milford Boys and Girls Club) – Chief Mello explained that although the department had not budgeted for this event held in early October, the funds did come out of the department budget and in order to make it possible to have security present, the event was staffed by volunteers from the Citizens Police Academy. Chief Mello took the opportunity to acknowledge the following Citizens Police Academy alumni who worked at the event: Leslie Aldridge, Carol Dunn, Carol Fox-Turpin, Nelson Rivera, Linda Pierpont, Ken McBrien, Barbara & Jon Carissimi, Ken Griffin, Merrienne Vasallo, Barbara Groel and Frank Goodrich.

He added when it was necessary to staff the warming shelter, the department again reached out to the Citizens Police Academy for volunteers.

- Kristin Richmond, Shelton, CT resident – noted on 11/1 I-95 in the Milford area was shut down and she was not sure of how to get to her destination however Officer Tomaselli not only gave her directions but led her to the location in light of the heavy traffic and detours. She took the opportunity to thank him for his patience and respect.
- Robert Gagne, Chief of Police, Orange Police Dept. – thanked our department for assistance provided in the Milford Police Academy graduation and added he always has had great confidence in the fact that the recruits are receiving the best training possible here in Milford.
- Chief Mello stated he had numerous letters regarding the department's response to the impact of Hurricane Sandy and that he would be posting those complimentary letters on the department bulletin board. He specifically referred to a letter from Mr. Terranova of Cooper Avenue who expressed his gratitude for the services provided. He added the officer's presence had made the situation much easier to deal with. He added he was pleased with the officers ability to protect and show compassion to those who were impacted. Chief Mello noted people do not have a problem complaining about incidents but very often forget to share the good work of the officers.
- Walter & Josephine Kirk, Old Point Road – took the opportunity to commend Officer Kiely for his outstanding service and concern involving a hostile situation with a guest in their home.
- Laura Stedelman, 23 Yale Avenue – noted that she recently experienced some damage to her home and vehicle and after conversation with a friend, she decided to call the Milford Police Dept. She noted Officer Moreno was dispatched to her home and she couldn't help but note he was professional and understanding. She stated Officer Moreno provided a number of tips and suggestions for her to implement especially she was not at home for extended periods of time. She added he was professional, polite and exemplified Milford's finest.

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- Chief James Heavy, Town of Greenwich – thankful for assistance from our department (Officer Lima and Canine Judge) at a canine Adopt-A-Dog-Show.
- Diane Ferguson, Director of Personnel, City of Bristol – thanked Chief Mello for serving on the oral panel committee for the selection of Bristol Police Chief.
- Retired officer who spoke to an Orange resident who could not say enough about how great our officers and department was. As well, he personally thanked Officer Lugo, Nash and another officer whose name he did not know for their professionalism.
- South Central Criminal Justice Administration – expressed their appreciation to Capt. Connor for his participation in recent assessment process.
- Resident – recently was a witness to an accident which occurred on Cherry Street and explained the officer at the scene flagged down a passing off-duty fire fighter for assistance, both tended to the matter in a calm and respectful way providing dignity and privacy to the individual seriously injured. Both the officer and fire fighter and the Milford Police Department should be commended for their competency and their courteous assistance.

Chairman Jagoe noted Chief Mello certainly has so many reason to be proud of this Department not only during a hurricane that impacts so many areas of town but routinely.

Chief Mello stated he is proud of the Department and added so should this commission be proud.

Comm. Smith stated he appreciated the opportunity to attend the recent graduation ceremony and was impressed with the comments shared by one of the new officers (Officer White).

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

- a. Recommended Police Commission Meeting Dates for 2013 – It was moved by Comm. Smith and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to approve the Recommended Police Commission Meeting Dates for 2013. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Sick and Relief Fund CD Maturity Notice – Chief Mello recommended rolling this CD into another 18 month certificate.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to roll the Sick and Relief Fund CD into another 18 month certificate as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried 5 yes and 1 abstention (Vice Chrmn. Bergami abstained due to his role as board member with Milford Bank where the CD was drawn).

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS

- a. 1201 Boston Post Road – Buy Buy Baby Expansion – It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to approve Traffic Div. recommendations and

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stipulations as stated with regard to the expansion of Buy Buy Baby, 1201 Boston Post Road. Motion carried unanimously.

8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

Chrmn. Jagoe noted the reports of items a, b, c, d and e were included in the Commissioners packets.

It was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the following reports for October 2012.

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

Comm. Wanosky questioned what a referral to diversion program was as noted in the Juvenile Report.

Chief Mello explained this is a program for minors who are arrested for a crime but if the offense is considered minor, authorities look to divert them from juvenile court and refer to a diversion program where the youth is counseled and provided guidance. He added if the diversion program efforts prove successful, the original charges are dropped.

Motion carried unanimously

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Golf Cart Ordinance – Chief Mello explained information is still being compiled on this matter and with the winter season approaching, this will remain on the table until after the 1st of the year.

10. NEW BUSINESS - none

11. COMMENDATIONS

Deputy Chief Mooney explained on 5/7/12 resident, James Armstrong, saw a male enter the rear of a home which Mr. Armstrong knew there was no one at home at the time. He contacted the Police Department and Det. Young was the first officer on the scene and he saw the male intruder exiting the home. A foot pursuit ensued and Det. Young continued to broadcast the location of the intruder which was a great help in getting other arriving officers to converge on the area. She further explained when the additional officers arrived, the subject continued to run and again Det. Young did an excellent job broadcasting location and the subject was shortly apprehended by our officers. Deputy Chief Mooney recommended the following officers receive a Unit Citation: Officers Moreno, Covelli, Demirjian, Gallagher, Hoff, Huggins, Mahoney, Noss, Sgt Carney, Dispatcher Guilfoyle and State Trooper Horjatschun. She further recommended a Certificate of Commendation be awarded to Det. Young and a Civilian Certificate of Commendation to James Armstrong.

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Chief Mello added the Unit Citation is extended to the officers for their efforts in acting like a team and assisting in the apprehension of the subject.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Marrone to support the recommendation of Deputy Chief Mooney as stated. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Mello explained the function of the commission is to endorse recommendations such as this and made by committee overseeing the process.

Chrmn. Jagoe stated she is pleased to endorse this type of recognition.

12. Executive Session

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

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Marrone to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. for the following matters:

- a. Consideration of the performance of one employee
- b. Final probationary review for Officer Noel Luth

Motion carried unanimously.

All Commissioners present, Chief Mello and Deputy Chief Mooney remained in Executive Session.

(Ald. Vetro and other citizens present left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.)

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to reconvene in public session at 7:48 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

- a. It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to uphold Chief Mello's disciplinary recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. No action necessary.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Marrone to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Candido, Secretary