

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2017 7:00 P.M.
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM, POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chrmn. Smith 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

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT: Jerold Wanosky

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

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

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS – none

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Ronald Vece – Milford resident – explained that he was present to have questions answered relative to his son's death which was caused by a drunk driver. He related the incident causing his son's death to the Commission members and questioned why the driver of the vehicle that hit his son's car was not arrested. He shared body cam video information and stated he would like an answer to the question regarding the driver of the other vehicle.

Chairman Smith extended his sympathy to Mr. Vece on behalf of the entire Commission.

Chief Mello explained following the incident, an internal investigation was conducted and a copy of that investigation is available upon request. He suggested that Mr. Vece make a written request for this report and whatever can legally be released, he would receive. Chief Mello further explained it is necessary for him (Mr. Vece) to read the internal investigation adding this matter has been investigated 3 times and the court has been consulted.

Chairman Smith encouraged Mr. Vece to read the report. He explained that this is not the appropriate time to have exchange of comments on the matter.

Chief Mello explained to Mr. Vece what is included in the internal investigative report and added conversation regarding the incident should not be held at this time.

- J. Carissimi – 64 Kirkside Ave. – took the opportunity to wish those present and the entire Department happy holidays and expressed gratitude for their service to the city.
- Ald. Vetro – on behalf of the Board of Aldermen, extended a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to the Department and the Commissioners.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2017 meeting as presented. Motion carried with Comm. Faruolo and Vice Chrmn. Bergami abstaining as they were not present at that specific meeting.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Pearl Spodick – Stratford resident – referred to incident that occurred earlier in December when one of our officers came to her rescue while she was driving herself to Milford Hospital. She was having difficulty driving relative to a health condition and officer saw this and assisted by escorting her to the hospital. She wrote to express her thanks to the officer. (Officer Roggie)
- Memo from Officer Dempsey recognizing the following officers who volunteered at the recent Special Olympics Bowling event: Officers Lockwood, Anania, Swift, P. Bodnar, Norowski, Vakos, Roggie, PPC Mahaoney, Sgt. Wardowski.
- Mayor Blake – thanked the Department for their presence as honor guard at his recent inauguration.
- Megan Altomare – Boys & Girls Club of Milford – expressed appreciation to the Department for their assistance with the Pumpkins on the Pier event.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

a. Safe Driving Awards to Sgt. McNemar, Officer E. St. Germain and Officer A. Vakos – Chief Mello recommended the above noted officers be awarded 8 hours compensatory time for 12,000 accident free miles.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve 8 hours compensatory time for accident free mileage for Sgt. McNemar, Officer E. St. Germain and Officer A. Vakos. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Chief's General comments – Chief reported that Kisses for Katie event had been scheduled over the past weekend; as well he was pleased to acknowledge that for the month of November in honor of our veterans, one of the patrol cars was camo-wrapped.

Chief added the Citizens Police Academy begins in January and runs through April and applications are now being accepted for that upcoming session.

With regard to the Police Station Building Committee, the architect has been in contact with him daily as he is beginning to put together plans for the interior work space. Chief Mello added the architect has been very responsive to input and suggestions. He stated the Building Committee will be meeting with the architect in January at which time the design will be presented. The construction manager position is presently out to bid and the city will close on the purchase of the property on December 27, 2017.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING & ZONING REQUESTS - none

8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

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It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein 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. Highview Ave/Summit – No Parking request – It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding Highview Ave/Summit – No Parking request. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Plains Rd/I-95 –Right turn only lane request – It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding Plains Rd/I-95 –Right turn only lane request. Motion carried unanimously.

11. COMMENDATIONS – Deputy Chief Rahn shared the following:

- a. Certificate of Commendation for Det. Kenneth Catino, case #5906-17 – On 11/19/17 Det. Catino was talking to staff at Peoples Bank and he learned of their concern regarding an elderly couple who had recently withdrawn a large sum of money from their savings account at the bank. Two officers subsequently visited the couple but they were uncooperative and did not want to discuss the matter. Det. Catino learned that shortly thereafter the couple returned to Peoples Bank and closed their account at that bank and opened an account in another bank here in Milford. Det. Catino strongly felt the couple was being victimized and he did some further research and through that tracked down a family member who went to speak with the couple. The family member contacted Det. Catino and told him it was evident the couple were involved in a familiar scam whereby they receive a message from an alleged family member who is in a dire situation and needs money wired to them. Fortunately, the couple were receptive to Det. Catino at this time and although they had sent one large sum of money to the alleged relative, through Det. Catino's effort they never followed through with the second request for a large amount of money. Deputy Chief Rahn stated Det. Catino went above and beyond with the case and this is an admirable and common trait of Catino.

Commissioners extended their gratitude to Det. Catino for his efforts.

12. Executive Session

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 one employee.

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It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:22 p.m. for Consideration of the performance of one employee. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners Present, Chief Mello, Deputy Chief Rahn, Capt. Marschner and Lt. Chila remained for Executive Session.

It was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to reconvene in public session at 8:15 p.m.

Being no further business, it was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido
Submitted to City Clerk December 12, 2017