

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2007
COMMISSIONERS ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chairman Fellenbaum called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Kenneth Fellenbaum, Melvin Eisenhandler, Alberta Jagoe, Tony Candido, Carol Faruolo and Thomas Zawislinski.

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Keith Mello; Deputy Chief Steve Fournier; Aldermen Paul Beckwith and Phil Vetro; Brian Garfield; L. Streit, Secretary

A motion was made by Comm. Zawislinski, seconded by Comm. Faruolo to add item 6. b. to the agenda (Brian Garfield would like to make a presentation to the Commission). The motion carried unanimously.

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS

None.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Phil Vetro, Alderman for the 4th District, stated that he has been out campaigning and has received a lot of complaints and comments - Point Beach Playground had mafia blocks and they have since been removed and the field is being ruined with car activity. It was determined that this is a Public Works issue. Mr. Vetro stated that he is on the Public Works Committee and will address it with them. Chief Mello stated that when mafia blocks are placed they also prevent Police access for patrol but they prefer the blocks returned. When weighing the pros and cons of having them, the blocks should be returned. Mr. Vetro has also received complaints of drug dealing behind a supermarket as well as drug traffic behind abandoned buildings on Merwin Avenue. The Chief asked if this has been reported. Mr. Vetro suggested the residents report it but they had not; it has been hearsay from kids to their parents. The Chief stated that it is important for residents to call so an Officer can be sent out to speak to the complainant in order to obtain cooperation; possibly get license plates, etc. The Chief asked that Mr. Vetro encourage residents to call and ask if their name could be given to the Police and the Police could call the resident. Chief Mello stated that the Department is very responsive in working with the public and he appreciates Mr. Vetro's input. Mr. Vetro stated that he had a past incident that was very well received.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

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5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Mello noted the following:

- A thank you card was received from Nicole Nylen. Six second grade classes had a tour of the Police Department.
- A letter was received from Peggy Ragato, Governor's Avenue, thanking the Police Department for their personal attention. A complaint was received regarding traffic; they went out to review and did aggressive enforcement.
- Babys 'R' Us sent a letter of thanks to Officer Nielson for his participation in the Car Seat Safety Check on 9/19/07.
- Diane Wallberg sent a letter of thanks to the Department for the Oyster Festival Canoe Race.
- Frances Macko from AAA sent a letter of thanks to Officer Neilson for his participation in the Car Seat Safety Program at Burlington Coat Factory. 57 car seats were installed.
- A letter was received from the State Police Department of Public Safety thanking the Milford Police Department for their letter commending State Troopers.
- A letter was received from a resident at 41 Spring Street complaining about mopeds on Ellis Street; stating that they had to call to police 2 times.
- Comm. Fellenbaum asked about collaboration of towns and how this is implemented. Chief Mello stated that towns are involved in Mutual Aid Compacts with New Haven and Fairfield Counties. Stratford, Orange and West Haven were needed at the Mall incident. The Chief will implement aid when needed. A contract is signed by all Mayors and the municipality where an incident occurs will bear the liability. This is a great benefit.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

- a. **Informational – Officer Christopher Kakalow has resigned effective 10/08/07**
 - The Chief reported that Officer Kakalow has been an Officer for 6 years and is taking a job in the Hamden Police Department. He has been a good officer and he stated his reason for leaving was for \$10,000.00 more per year. It was reviewed that the Hamden budget has \$1.2 million more in wages and overtime has doubled.
- b. **Brian Garfield, son of Bill Garfield, retired Captain,** is representing his family. Brian is the third child and youngest son and the Chief has known him for many years. Three years ago he approached the Chief that the family wanted to make a donation in their fathers' name. The donation was discussed; Bill was very well respected and instrumental in starting the SWAT Team and believed that greater fire power was needed and was instrumental in obtaining this which is now standard. There is a recognized need for assault rifles in patrol cars. After

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discussing this with the Department Brian feels this is something his father would be proud of and he was asked to speak to his mother regarding this. Brian Garfield stated that his mom is very much in favor of this and submitted his proposal. The family runs a scholarship dinner every year in their fathers honor. Monies raised are awarded to two area students, one entering the field of Criminal Justice. They would like to donate \$5,000.00 towards the purchase of Patrol Rifles, Ammunition and Accessories. A motion was made by Comm. Zawislinski, seconded by Comm. Eisenhandler to accept the donation. The motion carried unanimously. This donation is greatly appreciated by the Commission.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS

None.

Comm. Zawislinski stated that he was offended by the Planning and Zoning Board member that stated in the newspaper that the Police and Traffic didn't want the project (on the corner of the Boston Post Road and West Main Street) and that they were wrong in their study and this person voted for the project. Chief Mello stated that this area will be a safety issue.

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

None.

11. COMMENDATIONS – 13 (Unit Citation)

Deputy Chief Fournier reported that Lt. Walewski is recommending this commendation for 13 Officers and 1 Civillian based on an armed robbery at 1052 Boston Post Road

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(Howard Johnson's) on 8/16/07. The shift acted in concert to contain 2 armed suspects. They attempted to flee and hide and the Officers worked with dispatch and was a team effort for quick apprehension. Commendation for: Sgt. Burton; Officers Thornberg, Dunn, Todice, Bethke, Beauvais, Rojee, Catino J. Anderson, Mazzara, Doyle and Lima and Dispatcher Hylwa. Comm. Jagoe stated that the commendation was well deserved. A motion was made by Comm. Candido, seconded by Comm. Faruolo to endorse this recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

At 8:00 p.m. Comm. Zawislinski moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following items. The motion was seconded by Comm. Candido and carried unanimously by roll call vote. Chief Mello and Deputy Chief Fournier were asked to remain. Comm. Eisenhandler was not in attendance.

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 Christopher Doyle – 3rd Quarter Review.**
- b. Consideration of the performance of 2 employees.**

At 8:25 p.m. the Commission left Executive Session.

The Deputy Chief reported that in the Chief's absence he attended the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities last week. Office Nielson received an award. the Police Department had two tables at the event and Comm. Candido is the Chairman of the Committee and Comm. Fellenbaum MC'd the event; it was great. Comm. Candido reported that Melissa Ortiz, a youth of the group stated that the group as a whole were overwhelmed with Officer Neilsons' participation and he made such an impression with the youth.

Comm. Fellenbaum reported that he attended the Columbus Dinner and Comm. Giles received an award.

Comm. Zawislinski moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. The motion carried unanimously after a second by Comm. Candido.

ATTEST:

LISA STREIT, SECRETARY

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