

Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting
July 27, 2021
Police Headquarters
8 Linsley Street
6:00 p.m.

Chairman Larry Lazaroff called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Larry Lazaroff, Vice Chairman Robin Wilson, Commissioners Marc Calafiore and Robert Hannon

Absent: Commissioner Alden Mead

Others present: Police Chief Kevin Glenn and Deputy Chief Stanley Lofquist

Chairman Lazaroff asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2021 meeting both Regular and Executive Session. Commissioner Calafiore made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Correspondence:

A thank you letter was received from High School Principal Russ Dallai, thanking Sergeant Depascale and the whole department for their assistance with security and traffic control at the graduation ceremony held in June.

Chief Glenn received a letter from Charles Sherwood of the South Central Criminal Justice Association thanking Captain Andrew Stavrides for serving as a panelist in a recent oral board testing held in the Town of Clinton.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Lazaroff asked for a motion to amend the agenda tonight to move the Chiefs traffic report and public comment directly after the Chairman's report. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Hannon. All were in favor,

Chairman Lazaroff spoke of a recent interview he attended with assessors from CALEA regarding the department's re-accreditation process. Chairman thanked Lieutenant Thorpe for his assistance in providing a video to the CALEA assessors for the reaccreditation process which had to be conducted virtually this year due to COVID restrictions.

Chairman Lazaroff spoke of a recent meeting that he and Chief Glenn attended with members of the Whitney Ridge neighborhood. The meeting covered areas of concern regarding public safety, motor vehicle incidents and juvenile offenders.

Chairman Lazaroff invited any residential neighborhood group to reach out to him if they would like to meet with Chief Glenn and members of the Board.

Chairman Lazaroff again this month advised residents to lock their vehicles and homes at all times. Chairman Lazaroff also stated with the start of warmer weather and schools being on summer recess to please drive careful and be aware of added pedestrians, children at play, bicycle and motorcycle traffic.

Chairman Lazaroff reminded residents of the Tuesday night concerts on the green which continue through August 17th.

Chiefs Report/Traffic

Chief Glenn spoke of a signage request received in May from a business owner on Old Broadway East which was tabled at the last two meetings. Chief Glenn explained the signage request was for “No Parking” signs to be installed on one side of Old Broadway East stating that patrons of the Hard Hat Café routinely park on both sides of Old Broadway East making the road almost impassable. The North Haven Police Department Traffic Division reviewed the location and identified it to be problematic such as it is difficult for large trucks to access businesses for deliveries, and limited road width to accommodate large fire apparatus responding to emergencies. It was the recommendation of the North Haven Traffic Division to install “No Parking” signs on the North side of Old Broadway East restricting the parking for all patrons of the businesses to parking only on the South Side of Old Broadway East.

Public Comment

Attorney Timothy Lee of The Law Firm of Ippolito, Lee and Florentine, 388 Orange St., New Haven

Mr. Lee spoke on behalf of John Acanfora, owner of the Hard Hat Café, 65 Old Broadway East.

Mr. Lee spoke of Mr. Acanfora's opposition to the installation of any “No Parking” signs and stated the reasons for his opposition. Mr. Lee stated he did not see or hear of any correspondence or communication in the Traffic report from the Fire Department and he requested the Fire Chief review the area before the Board make any decision.

Brian Vanacore owner of Preferred Mfg., 57 & 68 Old Broadway East

Mr. Vanacore stated he is in favor of the “No Parking” signage request and provided examples of traffic flow complications he and his employees have had due to vehicles parking on both sides of Old Broadway East.

Vincent Massaro owner of 59 Old Broadway East (Representing 15- 21 tenants)

Mr. Massaro stated he is in favor of the “No Parking” signage request and provided examples of traffic flow complications he and his tenants have had due to vehicles parking on both sides of Old Broadway East. Mr. Massaro provided the Board with color photos exhibiting vehicles parked on both sides of Old Broadway East.

Ed McDougal tenant of 59 Old Broadway East

Mr. McDougal stated he is in favor of the “No Parking” signage request and provided examples of traffic flow complications he has had due to vehicles parking on both sides of Old Broadway East.

Chairman Lazaroff stated the Board will contact the Fire Chief for his evaluation before making any decisions.

John Acanfora owner of Hard Hat Café, 65 Old Broadway East

Mr. Acanfora stated he has spoken with firefighters regarding the fire apparatus' ability to maneuver through Old Broadway East and there seems to be conflicting stories.

Chairman Lazaroff again stated the Board will confer with the Fire Chief for his recommendation and hopefully have a decision at next months meeting.

Commissioner Calafiore made the motion to table the "No Parking" signage request to allow the Board to meet with the Fire Chief for his recommendation. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

Chief Glenn received a signage request from a resident of Beechwood Drive asking for a "Deaf Child" or "Children at Play" sign to be installed. Chief Glenn stated although he respects the request, the State Traffic Authority does not support these types of signs and he recommended a motion to deny the request. Studies have shown these signs do not decrease speeds, also the study revealed if a road is littered with signs then all the signs become less effective. Commissioner Hannon made the motion to deny the "Deaf Child" or "Children at Play" signage request on Beechwood Drive. Motion seconded by Commissioner Calafiore. There was no further discussion, all were in favor.

Chief Glenn received a request from a resident of Victor Road requesting a guard rail and/or sightline improvements adjacent to his property in the area of Clintonville and Victor Road. Chief Glenn stated the department has requested the State DOT conduct a study of the area for recommendations and potential improvements. The request stemmed from a recent motor vehicle accident on the residents' front lawn and several previous motor vehicle accidents at this intersection in the past. Chief advised the Board that the matter will come before them once the report from the State DOT is received.

Chairman Lazaroff asked for a motion to table the request. Motion to table the request was made by Commissioner Hannon, seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

Chief's Report/ Budget

Chief Glenn reported the budget is currently at 6.1 percent.

Chief Glenn reported that the department closed its 2021 fiscal year at 96.5 percent.

Chief Glenn thanked Lt. Chris Thorpe for an excellent job with the re-accreditation process.

Deputy Chief Lofquist provided the Board with a CALEA update.

Chief Glenn provided the Board a four-year breakdown of crime statistics.

Officers from North Haven will be holding another community program similar to the successful "Mission Impoppable" which was held at the Grover Wyman Park last month. Officers will be holding the first annual "Dog Days of Summer" this Friday, July 30th from 6:00p.m.-7:00p.m. at the Doghouse Grill located at 117 Washington Avenue. Children will be able to interact with officers, check out the police cars and hopefully meet one of North Havens K9's

Chief Glenn stated the department received 105 applications from entry level police officers, and four applications from certified lateral police officers for one open position and an additional three police officer positions which will be available due to funding in January of 2022. Chief Glenn stated he is waiting to hear of confirmation from POST of a seat in the September Police Academy class.

Chief Glenn spoke of recent crime trends specifically DNA being tied to motor vehicle thefts throughout the State.

Chief Glenn spoke of a recent homicide on the Route 40 Connector on June 17th.

Chief Glenn spoke of a recent successful meeting he and Chairman Lazaroff attended with members of the Whitney Ridge neighborhood. The meeting addressed public safety concerns from residents. Chief Glenn encouraged residents of any neighbored groups to reach out to the department if they have any concerns and wish to meet.

Chief Glenn spoke of another recent neighborhood meeting held with residents of Sonne Drive that he attended with First Selectman Freda. The meeting addressed public safety concerns from residents and was also successful.

Walter T. Berniere Scholarship:

Chief Glenn received one request for consideration from Captain Andrew Stavrides for one graduate course. The motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Hannon, seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

With nothing further Chairman Lazaroff asked for a motion to adjourn to move to Executive Session for the purpose of personnel matters. The motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chairman Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Calafiore. All were in favor. The time was 6:17 p.m.

At 6:48 p.m. the Board returned to Regular Session.

Chairman Lazarof thanked Walter Mann and NHTV for their assistance with the creation of a video for the departments CALEA reaccreditation process.

With nothing further, Chairman Lazaroff asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Calafiore, seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. The time was 6:49p.m.

Submitted,

Marc Calafiore, Secretary