



EAST HAVEN DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES

471 NORTH HIGH STREET • EAST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06512

Mayor Joseph A. Carfora

Honorable Board of
Police Commissioners

HONORABLE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2021 AT 7:00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT: Chairman Paul Carbo (presiding), Vice Chairman Dominic Balletto, Commissioner Dawne Flynn, Commissioner Eduardo Torrealba, Commissioner Diane Romans

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Edward Lennon, Deputy Chief Patrick Tracy, Clerk Marsha Maldonado, Town Council Chairman Joseph Deko, Councilwoman Samantha Parlato, Karen Martin, Lorena Venegas, (203) 506-XXXX, (203) 530-XXXX

Chairman Carbo called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Due to Governor Ned Lamont's March 10, 2020 declaration of a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency and subsequently issued Executive Orders, and Mayor Joseph A. Carfora's March 16, 2020 declaration of a state of emergency in the Town of East Haven due to the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 in the State of Connecticut including New Haven County, in-person public access to this meeting will not be permitted.

[The public can access this meeting from a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Tonight's regular meeting is taking place remotely via ZOOM. Videoconference links and dial-ins were provided to the public.]

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Moment of Silence
3. Roll Call - Clerk Maldonado; quorum obtained
4. Announcement(s)

Commissioner Torrealba commented that tonight will be his last meeting as he received notification from the Mayor thanking him for his service on the Police Commission and informing him that he will not be reappointed.

Chairman Carbo noted that both Commissioners Torrealba and Flynn will be finishing up tonight. He thanked them both for their service and said they will be sadly missed. Vice Chairman Balletto also thanked Commissioner Flynn for her helpfulness and appreciates all she has done.

5. Consider and act upon the approval of the Special Meeting minutes of December 3, 2020

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to accept and approve the Special Meeting minutes of December 3, 2020 as received. [Inadvertently moved to item 6]

6. Consider and act upon the approval of the Monthly Reports (December 2020 and January 2021)

Commissioner Flynn made a motion to accept the monthly reports as received; seconded by Vice Chairman Balletto. Voice Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Consider and act upon Committee Reports & Recommendations

a. Traffic and Public Safety Committee

- i. Commissioner Torrealba spoke about the Traffic & Public Safety Subcommittee Special Meeting held on January 25, 2021 to address a request to erect “NO PARKING” signs along the right side of Sorrento Avenue approaching Silver Sands Road to reduce the risk of people parking in the blind spots (pursuant to the BOPC Special Meeting of December 3, 2020, item 9.a.)

Commissioner Torrealba stated that two (2) members of the subcommittee toured the area – he and Commissioner Flynn. He also had requested an accident report from Chief Lennon for this particular 4-way intersection. According to the traffic data, the intersection is no more dangerous than any other intersection in Town and there are already “No Parking from Here to Corner” signs 25 feet from the corners, and in the immediate vicinity of the intersection of Sorrento and Silver Sands, there are “No Parking” signs on the slope going uphill towards Silver Sands. Given these facts, and that there is already sufficient signage, the subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board is that no action should be taken on this request. Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to accept the recommendation of the subcommittee for the Board to take no action on this issue; seconded by Commissioner Flynn. Voice Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

- ii. Commissioner Torrealba wanted to inform the Board that on the issue of ATV/Dirt Bikes/Noise Ordinances that he has brought up in the past, New Haven did pass their ordinance updating the amount of fines on ATVs and updating their Noise Ordinance to combat vehicles that make a lot of noise.

- iii. Commissioner Torrealba noted that on the issue of Residents Only Parking, the Board has been waiting since October 2019 when a legal opinion was requested regarding what are the powers of the Board, and the extent of those powers, if any. There were no public hearings and there were no other meetings of the subcommittee, or any advancement because a legal opinion was not rendered from either of the Town attorneys. The Board can take no action until that legal opinion is received.

Clerk Maldonado reminded the Board that Attorney Luzzi did state that he probably would not get to this until some time after the new year.

8. Public Comment

- a. Lorena Venegas – Extended her thanks to Chairman Carbo, the Board, Chief Lennon, and Deputy Chief Tracy for the opportunity to speak.

First, she would like to thank Captain Murgo and Chief Lennon for the monthly reports that were included in tonight’s meeting materials, *“I believe that that’s definitely a step in the positive direction in terms of community building because by showing monthly statistics we can help educate our community on what’s happening and how these police services are utilized in our neighborhoods, and I’m really happy that positive action was taken this month with that. Just on my short list that I’m looking at for 2021, I am looking for discussions on civilian review boards to be added to East Haven as part of new law and that’s a work in progress. I want to continue discussing the summons on juveniles and what happens with our juveniles, and try to see if we can do some positive programs there. And, I was thinking about our Spanish-*

speaking officers and how we can utilize them with the community to connect so I think that might be something good to explore. In terms of policy, I want to see if we can explore the Connecticut Trust Act and maybe make out a statement. A lot of the towns in Connecticut are having difficulties when they do arrests and stops in terms of whether they violate or do not violate the Trust Act – today the town of Meriden was highlighted all over the media about it so I wanted to see if we could be proactive on that with our community. Thank you so much for your time.”

Commissioner Torrealba believes that the reports that are included in this meeting – the reports included in every meeting, have been included in every agenda for as long as he has been on the Board. Also, the Town of East Haven is one of the few police departments which actually was fulfilling its obligations of keeping track of the race and ethnicity of the people that were subject to police interactions – way before it was done by many other towns. Regarding the juveniles and Trust Act, he believes those are items that are better taken to the Town Council as this Board has no power over those two things.

9. Correspondence Received/Sent

- a. Patricia Cofrancesco, Esq. (89 Kimberly Avenue), dated December 7, 2020, received December 11, 2020 – Letter to commend the efforts of East Haven Police Officer Jonathan Trinh who assisted her law office greatly in an investigation, pursuit and ultimate arrest of a former errant employee. She has found Officer Trinh to be extremely knowledgeable, thorough in his investigative process, responsive to questions, both verbally as well as via email, and is an outstanding writer. Separate and apart from her own issue, she has observed him from the windows of her office located at 89 Kimberly Avenue responding to the many calls at this busy intersection of Kimberly Avenue and Forbes Place for various incidents including, but not necessarily limited to, the ordinary car accident to the out of the ordinary bank robbery. On all such occasions, she has observed and found Officer Trinh to be a credit to the East Haven Police Department, and an asset to the citizens of the Town of East Haven who he very ably protects. This letter was placed in Officer Trinh’s personnel file.
- b. Steven and Maria Cacace (25 Green Street), dated January 21, 2021, received January 25, 2021 – Request for a stop sign at the intersection of Green Street and Strong Street to slow down traffic.

Clerk Maldonado made a suggestion that this request be deferred to the Traffic & Public Safety Committee for further review. Commissioner Torrealba proposed deferring this to Chief Lennon for enforcement, and perhaps he or his officers can reach out to determine exactly what the residents are looking for as there are already two stop signs at this 3-way intersection. Chief Lennon then could bring this back to the Board if there is any action they should take. Chairman Carbo thinks it would be worthwhile to defer to the subcommittee concurrently. Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to defer this to the Traffic & Public Safety Committee; seconded by Chairman Carbo. Voice Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Lennon stated that we have already put out enforcement in that area and to get a better idea, we will conduct a traffic survey and report back next month.

10. Department Updates (Chief Lennon)

- a. Personnel Matters/Injured Employees
 - i. Four (4) sworn personnel remain on long term injury – no return status at this time
 - ii. Five (5) recruits in the Police Academy
 - iii. Three (3) additional recruits in various phases of field training which they must pass to complete the Academy and go on the road by themselves

iv. One (1) patrol officer vacancy

On paper, we are only one short personnel-wise, but the reality is that we are short due to different phases of injuries and new recruit training. However, we are tracking in the right direction.

b. Overtime

Due to vacancies and required trainings, overtime is up but is starting to stabilize barring any unforeseen issues with COVID-19 and/or other requirements to meet State and accreditation standards.

c. Awards & Commendations

The Awards Committee plans to meet within the next several weeks. There are approximately eleven months' worth of awards which date back to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

d. Noteworthy News

The Annual Report will be completed in the next several weeks and will be distributed for the next meeting.

11. Old Business

12. New Business

a. Request Civil Service initiate the testing process for Sergeant

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to request Civil Service initiate the testing process for Sergeant; seconded by Commissioner Flynn. Voice Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Adjournment

Prior to adjournment, Chairman Carbo would again like to extend his thanks to Commissioners Flynn and Torrealba for their service, and we appreciate working together.

Commissioner Flynn would like to say that, *“Everyone says what an honor it is to be part of a Commission or a Board, I have my reasons why. It’s been a much cherished and respectful position of which I have had the honor to have occupied these past seven years. I have nothing but the greatest respect and admiration for all the talented men and women who have answered the call to dedicate themselves to a career in law enforcement for that is exactly what it is. Under the stewardship of Chief Lennon, Deputy Chief Tracy and all of our newly appointed Captains, Lieutenants and Sergeants, under the supreme clerical management of Miss Maldonado, I see only continued success in the Department’s upward trajectory as a model for the entire country. Bless you all. Keep your heads down and stay safe.”* Everyone thanked Commissioner Flynn for her kind words and service over the years.

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Flynn. Chairman Carbo adjourned the meeting at 7:29 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,

Marsha M. Maldonado
Clerk to the Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

[Audio recording on file – duration 28:39]