



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
AUGUST 31, 2021 AT 7:00 PM
471 NORTH HIGH STREET
EAST HAVEN, CT

COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT: Chairman Paul Carbo (presiding), Vice Chairman Dominic Balletto, Commissioner Dianne Romans, Commissioner Joseph DiSilvestro

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Edward Lennon, Deputy Chief Patrick Tracy, Town Attorney Michael Luzzi, Esq., Citizen(s)

Chairman Carbo called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Moment of Silence
3. Roll Call – Clerk Maldonado; quorum obtained
4. Announcement(s)
5. Consider and act upon the approval of the regular Monthly Meeting minutes of June 29, 2021
Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to accept and approve the regular Monthly Meeting minutes of June 29, 2021 as received; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro. All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Consider and act upon the approval of the Monthly Reports (July and August 2021)
Commissioner DiSilvestro made a motion to accept the monthly reports as received; seconded by Vice Chairman Balletto. All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Consider and act upon Committee Reports & Recommendations
 - a. Traffic & Public Safety
Pursuant to a Subcommittee Special Meeting held on August 24, 2021, the following recommendations are made to the full Board:
 - i. Kim Hinde (23 Talmadge Avenue) – Request for “Children Playing” sign at the beginning of the street and also on Pond Street
Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to recommend approval by the Board; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

- ii. Tania & Robert Butler (88 Edward Street) – Request for handicap sign in front of residence for autistic son who is non-verbal and has special transportation
Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to recommend no action be taken by the Board; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.
- iii. Tara McCarthy (141 Old Foxon Road) – Request of “Hidden Driveway” sign
Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to recommend approval by the Board; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.
- iv. Tonia Macholl and Joanne Ansaldo (90 William Street) – Request for Handicap sign
Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to recommend no action be taken by the Board; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.
- v. Resident (Bennett Road) – request for NO THRU TRUCK sign
Chairman Balletto made a motion to recommend no action be taken by the Board; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro who believes there may be a lack of understanding about what a NO THRU TRUCK sign actually means – the vehicles are using this road for a legitimate purpose - they are not bypassing a route; they are going to a designated destination which is not the purpose of a NO THRU TRUCK sign. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.
- vi. Roberta Perillo (606 Laurel Street) – Request for flashing or stop light at 4-way intersection of Bradley, Laurel and Grannis
Because this is already a 4-way stop sign intersection, Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to recommend no action be taken by the Board; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.
- vii. Joe and Joan Proto (6 Charnes Drive) – Request for Deer Crossing signs
As there have not been any deer-related accidents in this area at all, Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to recommend no action be taken by the Board; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.
- viii. Jacklyn Trickett-Sargent (45 Edgemere Road) – Concerns about golf carts and request for crosswalks with lights, preferably one at the entrance to Proto Drive. At the very minimum, speed bumps would accomplish the same thing
Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to recommend the Board request an evaluation by the state; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro who commented that we do not have jurisdiction over a state road; however, we can make the request to ensure we are doing all we can for the citizens. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.
- ix. Elizabeth Streeto (200 Tyler Street) – Request for speed bumps at the intersection of Bradley, Tyler and French Avenues. Seniors have no signage or caution “seniors walking” and no cross walks marked on the street
Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion that no action be taken by the Board with the explanation that this crosswalk is in the queue to be repainted; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Streeto sought further clarification about signage and speed bumps in front of the building. DC Tracy commented that Traffic Maintenance is actively evaluating the area for appropriate crosswalks. Ms. Streeto is requesting a *separate* crosswalk directly in front of the senior housing.

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to defer this back to the Traffic and Public Safety Committee for the Chief to conduct an evaluation; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Wendy Bellmore referenced holographic crosswalks in Hamden on Ridge Road near Bassett Park (cross street is Waite Street) that slow motorists down. She requested that we look into this for its effectiveness and potential for mitigating the many requests for traffic enforcement and speed bumps.

x. Eastern/Laurel Street – NO THRU TRAFFIC – DOT Update

Discussion only. No response from the state to date so no action to take at this time.

Clerk Maldonado sent a follow up email to the DOT asking for a status update on our request and received another auto-generated response that the email had been received and would be forwarded to the appropriate party for review. She will continue to follow up periodically.

xi. Karen Martin (15 Oak Grove Road) – Golf Carts (juveniles, beach community/municipal approval, etc.)

State law prevails and the Local Traffic Authority (BOPC) has to approve or disapprove allowing of golf carts in compliance with state statute.

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to recommend that the Board adopt the state statute; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro who clarified that by adopting the state statute, officers can fully enforce the provisions of the state statute (i.e., driver's license, flag/illumination in back, horn, operation during daylight hours on roads with speed limits of 25 MPH, etc.).

Karen Martin commented that this is really a good step forward and she hopes there will be some enforcement especially for kids driving around. She thanked the Board.

John Wobensmith (93 Cosey Beach Avenue) also stated that he sees under-aged kids in the golf carts - hanging off the backend, nobody is strapped in, blowing through stop signs at the intersection. He also sees adults carrying infants on their lap, unrestrained. It is dangerous and needs to stop.

Wendy Belmore (57 Catherine Street) asked if one is operating a motor vehicle [golf cart] on a Town road and not wearing a seatbelt, how does that pertain to state law. Chief Lennon commented that he does not believe a golf cart meets the definition of a motor vehicle. For clarification, Attorney Luzzi will research the definitional portion of the state statute that would outline what constitutes a motor vehicle.

Chairman Carbo asked about an operator who may be intoxicated. Chief Lennon stated that the DUI statute would apply.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Alarms Committee

Chairman Carbo appointed Commissioners Romans and Barbuito to the Alarms Committee.

8. Public Comment

9. Correspondence Received/Sent

All correspondence is distributed to the Board in advance of the meeting for review.

- a. MaryAnn Salemme (132 Burr Street) and Residents, dated July 28, 2021 (neighborhood petition and photos included) – Request for 3-way stop signs to be installed on Burr and Haines and Burr and James, and if at all possible, additionally speed bumps

Defer to Traffic & Public Safety Committee for review/recommendation; so moved by Vice Chairman Balletto; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro. All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried.

10. Department Updates (Chief Lennon)

- a. Personnel Matters/Injured Employees

Pending potential promotion/hirings tonight, we will be at full complement of sworn personnel barring any unforeseen circumstances.

- b. Overtime

On track for this time of year; well below our 2020 figures for the same date range.

- c. Awards & Commendations

Several recommendations are under review.

- d. Noteworthy News

- i. MADD Award (September 15, 2021, Mohegan Sun) – Officer Trinh (4th year nominee) and Detective Adams (2nd year nominee) will receive the award for Enforcement of Alcohol and Drugged Driving, and Sergeant Ryan Gorman will receive an award as a DRE Instructor for the State of Connecticut at the Annual MADD Law Enforcement Recognition Luncheon.
- ii. Police Accountability Act – Expect that several policies will need revision for compliance with changes to the state regulations and will come before the Board likely in October for review and approval for full implementation by January 1, 2022.
- iii. Permit Parking Program – Attorney Luzzi feels that Chief Lennon and DC Tracy are being modest but he believes the early success of the Permit Parking Program must be recognized. Currently, the number of permits is close to 3,000 and is a testament to the hard work being done by all. DC Tracy commented that the new program is still a work in progress and will be reevaluated at the end of the season for next year.

Wendy Bellmore mentioned that if the Police Department is eligible for any community awards in this regard, the application should be considered because this was well worth it and it is appreciated.

II. Old Business

12. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible action on Grievance 21-001 pursuant to Internal Affairs Investigation 21-01 (Finnimore) (Possible Executive Session)

Attorney Luzzi notified the Board that Counsel for Sergeant Finnimore has requested a continuance.

- b. Interview and consideration of candidates for promotion to Detective (Executive Session)

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to conduct the interviews in executive session with the Board, Chief Lennon, Deputy Chief Tracy, and Attorney Luzzi present. All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously. Executive session commenced at 7:57 PM.

Candidate Officer Jonathan Trinh went in to executive session at 7:43 PM and exited at 7:44 PM.

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to conclude executive session; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro. All in favor. Chairman Carbo resumed public session at 7:47 PM.

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to promote Officer Jonathan Trinh to the rank of Detective effective October 1, 2021; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro. Roll Call Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Interview and consideration of candidates for hire to Police Officer – Grade C (Transfer and Recruit) (Executive Session)

Chairman Carbo made a motion to conduct the interviews in executive session with the Board, Chief Lennon and Deputy Chief Tracy present; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro. All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously. Executive session commenced at 7:48 PM.

Transfer Candidate Joseph DiNatale went in to executive session at 7:52 PM and exited at 8:00 PM.

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to conclude executive session; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro. All in favor. Chairman Carbo resumed public session at 8:02 PM.

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to extend a conditional offer of employment to Joseph DiNatale for Police Officer – Grade C effective September 7, 2021 contingent on his passing the CT POST Cooper Physical Fitness Test; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro. Roll Call Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to return to executive session with the Board, Chief Lennon and Deputy Chief Tracy present; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro. All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously. Executive session commenced at 8:04 PM.

Candidate Robert Minter went in to executive session at 8:05 PM and exited at 8:15 PM.

Candidate Robert Proto went in to executive session at 8:16 PM and exited at 8:22 PM.

Candidate Jack Scalesse went in to executive session at 8:23 PM and exited at 8:28 PM.

Candidate Tristan Goodwin went in to executive session at 8:28 PM and exited at 8:34 PM.

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to conclude executive session; seconded by Commissioners Romans and DiSilvestro. All in favor. Chairman Carbo resumed public session at 8:45 PM.

Chairman Carbo commended the candidates and encouraged those not selected tonight not to give up on East Haven; we are always looking for good officers.

Vice Chairman Balletto extended his thanks and further commented that this was a difficult decision as all the candidates were very impressive.

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to extend an offer of employment to Jack Scalesse for Police Officer – Grade C effective September 7, 2021; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro. Roll Call Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Adjournment

Commissioner DiSilvestro made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Chairman Carbo who adjourned the meeting at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

[Audio recording on file – duration 39:27 for public session only; executive session excluded]