

**City of West Haven, CT**  
**Board of Police Commissioners**  
Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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The regular meeting of the West Haven Board of Police Commissioners was called to order at 7:01 PM by Chairman Raymond Collins III at West Haven Police Headquarters, 200 Sawmill Road. All those present, rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Attendance**

Raymond Collins III, <i>Chairman</i>	Present
Paul E. Butler, <i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Present
John M. Carrano, <i>Commissioner</i>	Present
Christopher Suggs, <i>Commissioner</i>	Present
Deborah B. Wright, <i>Pension Board Chair and Commissioner</i>	Present
Joseph Perno, <i>Chief of Police</i>	Present
Carl Flemmig, <i>Deputy Chief</i>	Present

**Agenda**

Commissioner Butler MOVED to add Item 9.1 under Pension Board regarding the request for disability service retirement for David Tammaro; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to add Item 11.2 under Executive Session regarding an exit interview for Officer Standish; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to add Item 11.3 under Executive Session regarding personnel; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the agenda as amended; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

**1. Minutes**

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the previous minutes from the meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Public Input**

Lee Tiernan, 355 Main Street, West Haven, approached the board to state that the analysis of crime in small cities across the country, totaling to around 630 cities in total, has been analyzed by MoneyGeek. The results showed that West Haven ranked at about 363, which was ahead of surrounding cities in Connecticut, such as Hamden, Middletown, New Britain, and East

Hartford. Considering that the ranking was out of the whole country, Mr. Tiernan expressed that the police department should be proud of what they do.

Sean Faughnan, President of the Local 895, 200 Sawmill Road, West Haven, congratulated Sergeant Simone on her retirement and echoed what Mr. Tiernan had voiced earlier regarding the hard work that the men and women in the department have done to lower the city's crime rate. He also explained that the retirement of Officer Standish is a large loss to the department, as he had a lot of experience and moved up through the ranks. He brought up the point of whether many officers would still be with the department if issues with the pension plan were to be resolved.

Joseph D'Amato, Secretary of the Local 895, 200 Sawmill Road, West Haven, congratulated Sergeant Simone on her retirement and wished the best of luck to Officer Standish. He emphasized the respect that Officer Standish had for other officers and individuals around the department and expressed that he will be missed.

Richard Standish, 78 Atwater Street, West Haven, expressed how proud he was of Officer Standish and explained that the fire department he is going to in West Haven will be gaining a great person. He congratulated Officer Standish and wished him the best in his new position.

Chairman Collins asked three times if any person from the public wished to speak. There being none, he declared the public portion closed.

### **3. Communication**

- 3.1 Animal Control Report – December 2022.
- 3.2 Animal Control Report – January 2023.
- 3.3 Training Report – November & December 2022.

### **4. Report of the Chief**

Chief Perno explained that the department received a preliminary request to close a portion of the Third Avenue Extension. He stated that there will be a formal request in the future that will contain more information about how it will be blocked off with more details about the closure.

Commissioner Carrano asked if it is a temporary or permanent closure. Chief Perno responded that the closure will be temporary, and that it will stretch from Beach Street to the property of the former Old Captain's Gallery.

### **5. Report of the Deputy Chief**

Deputy Chief Flemmig offered the following report:

“With tonight's two departures we will be staffed at 111 Officers. We are minus 6 Officers at POSTC, 7 Officers on FTO, 2 Sergeants and 4 Officers out Injured/Light Duty, which leaves us a total of 92 available Officers.

We have 8 candidates from SCCJA recent test coming in for interviews next week, and we have 2 seats at POSTC for their class starting on April 4, 2023.”

**6. Report of the Committees – No Report**

**7. Old Business – None**

**8. New Business**

**8.1 Disability retirement of Sergeant Kimberly Simone – Effective 2/08/2023.**

Deputy Chief Flemmig offered the following remarks:

“Sergeant Kimberly Simone has been a member of the West Haven Police Department for approximately 16 years and throughout her career she has always been a hard worker who took pride in her job and excelled as a School Resource Officer, working with the youth of our community and making a positive impact on their lives.

Sergeant Simone was well respected by the rank and file and her positive attitude and sense of humor will be missed by all of us.

I want to thank Kim for her 16 years of service and commitment to the people of West Haven and to wish her and her family happiness and success in this next phase of her life.”

Commissioner Butler MOVED to approve the disability retirement of Sergeant Kimberly Simone, effective 2/8/2023; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

**8.2 Resignation – Officer Justin Standish – Effective 2/14/2023.**

Deputy Chief Flemmig offered the following remarks:

“Officer Justin Standish has been a member of the West Haven Police Department for approximately 11 years during which time he was a highly decorated officer who served in Patrol as a K9 Handler with his partner Cody and was a member of our Special Response Team.

Officer Standish was a hard worker who took pride in his work and was an integral member of our agency often providing assistance or guidance to his co-workers. He was well respected by the rank and file and his positive attitude and sense of dedication to our agency will be missed.

I want to thank Justin for his service and commitment to the citizens of West Haven and I wish him and his family happiness and success as he starts this new chapter in his life.”

Commissioner Wright explained that Officer Standish was one of the first officers she hired in her position as a Commissioner. She expressed the appreciation that herself and the board have

for all the hard work he has done and will continue to do for the department, especially in his new position as a firefighter.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to approve the resignation of Officer Justin Standish, effective 2/14/2023; SECONDED by Commissioner Suggs. Motion carried unanimously.

## **9. Pension Board**

### **9.1 Request for Disability Service Retirement of David Tamaro**

Attorney Tiernan addressed the board and explained that this type of specific request has not been done before as the disability retirement in this case was not granted at the time of actual retirement, and the situation is further complicated as there is no benefit coordinator position. He explained that granting the disability service retirement will not be at any additional cost to the city, and there may be a pending court case should the board decide to not grant the request.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to approve the request of disability retirement for David Tamaro; SECONDED by Commissioner Suggs. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Wright explained that the rest of the pension report will be tabled to next meeting.

## **10. Commissioners Reports – No Report**

## **11. Executive Session**

Commissioner Suggs MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss the following:

- 11.1 Street Crime Unit Report – December 2022.
- 11.2 Exit Interview - Officer Justin Standish
- 11.3 Personnel

The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners entered Executive Session at 7:19 PM.

## **12. Return to Regular Session/Adjournment**

At 8:00 PM, the Commissioners returned to regular session and adjourned by a motion from Commissioner Suggs; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Briana Hojo  
*Recording Clerk*