

City of West Haven, CT
Board of Police Commissioners
Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, August 2nd, 2022

The regular meeting of the West Haven Board of Police Commissioners was called to order at 7:02 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

Chief Perno MOVED to add item 8.10 to the agenda regarding the determination of street closures for the fireworks on September 3rd; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Minutes

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the previous meeting minutes as presented; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Public Input

Sean Faughnan, president of the Local 895, congratulated Officer Ford for her 20 years of service to the Animal Control Division of the police department. He commented on her reliability and professionalism, while recognizing the hard work that she and the other officers put into the division. He thanked her for everything she has done and wished her the best in retirement.

Russ Kniehl, president of West Haven Police Department Retiree Association, congratulated Officer Ford on her retirement and welcomed her into joining the association.

Sergeant Mark Gado, 200 Sawmill Road, thanked Officer Ford for all the advice and guidance she provided for helping manage the small division effectively and efficiently. He thanked her

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for her dedication to the shelter, her reliability, and all the time she has put into the division. He congratulated her on her retirement and wished her and her family well.

Denise Ford, 200 Sawmill Road, thanked her fellow colleagues and the department for their support. She reminisced on her time in the department and praised the department for all the support they have shown her and her division. She commented on how lucky she felt to have worked with the department for most of her career, and she thanked the Chief, the Commissioners, the officers, and the Union, who have always shown their support.

Denise Ford's mother also addressed the board and remarked how proud she was of her daughter and thanked the department for their care and support throughout the years.

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

3. Communications

- 3.1 Animal Control Report – Month of July, 2022.
- 3.2 Attendance Report – Month of May, 2022.
- 3.3 Attendance Report – Month of June, 2022.
- 3.4 Traffic Management – Month of June, 2022.
- 3.5 Training Division – Months May & June, 2022.
- 3.6 Letter of Appreciation – Ofc. Audrey Jefferson-Zhenxiang Liu, MD.

4. Report of the Chief

Chief Perno congratulated Officer Ford on her retirement and expressed his faith in the new officers in the division.

He added that at the next meeting, interviews of the potential new candidates for the rank of detective sergeant will occur. He explained that notifications will be sent out prior to the meeting.

5. Report of the Deputy Chief – No Report

Chairman Collins asked how many officers are available. Deputy Chief Flemmig explained that there are 102 officers available. There are 6 officers in the Academy and 7 officers out on injured/light duty.

6. Report of the Committees – No Report

7. Old Business - None

8. New Business

- 8.1 **Disrupted municipal parking ticket #09402.**

One of the officers who issued the ticket provided some background information to the commissioners regarding the ticket. He explained that the ticket was regarding an issue with a vendor on the beach who has repeatedly not presented proper permits after repeated warnings.

Since the individual to dispute the ticket was not present at the meeting, Commissioner Wright MOVED to uphold the ticket; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

8.2 Resignation – Ofc. Mark Laoue, effective 7/21/2022.

Commissioner Wright MOVED to accept the resignation of Officer Mark Laoue, effective 7/21/2022; SECONDED by Commissioner Suggs. Motion carried unanimously.

8.3 Resignation – Ofc. Dominic Migliaro, effective 7/21/2022.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the resignation of Officer Dominic Migliaro, effective 7/21/2022; SECONDED by Commissioner Suggs. Motion carried unanimously.

8.4 Disability Retirement – Denice Ford (pending medical document for injury).

Deputy Chief Flemmig offered the following remarks:

“Animal Control Officer Denise Ford began her career with the West Haven Police Department on June 18, 2002. Throughout her 20 years of service she was a dedicated ACO who was a hard worker and took pride in her work. She was an integral member of the Animal Control Unit often sharing her knowledge and experience by providing assistance or guidance to her co-workers in the unit. She was well respected by the rank and file and her positive attitude and sense of dedication to our agency will be missed.

Denise I want to thank you for your 20 years of service and commitment to serving the citizens of West Haven and I wish you and your family happiness as you start this new chapter in your life.”

Chairman Collins also echoed Deputy Chief Flemmig’s sentiments toward Officer Ford and thanked her for her service.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept Officer Ford’s retirement; SECONDED by Commissioner Suggs. Motion carried unanimously.

8.5 Block Party – Hawthorne Street – Saturday, 8/27/2022.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the plans for the Block Party on 8/27/2022; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

8.6 Block Party – Mohawk Drive, Saturday, 8/27/2022.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the plans for the Block Party on 8/27/2022; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

8.7 Westfest – Saturday, 9/3/2022.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the plans for WestFest on 9/3/2022; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

8.8 Apple Festival – 9/23-25/2022.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the plans for the Apple Festival from 9/23-25/2022; SECONDED by Commissioner Suggs. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Wright asked if the coordinators of the Apple Festival have always requested that no other vendors be present. Chief Perno answered that the festival is run by the church and in the past there have been no issues with that request.

8.9 Dominate the Day – 10/9/2022.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the plans for Dominate the Day on 10/9/2022; SECONDED by Commissioner Suggs. Motion carried unanimously.

8.10 Potential street closures to be determined for the fireworks on 9/3/2022.

Chief Perno explained that they do not have a list of the exact streets that will be closed yet, but once it is decided, they will be posted. The time of the street closures will be coordinated with the timing of the end of WestFest.

9. Pension Board

Mr. Moran gave a brief report on the status of the police pension funds.

Commissioner Carrano asked what the 3-year average was. Mr. Moran answered that it was in the nines and that he could provide the exact number at a later time.

Commissioner Carrano also asked what number the actuaries use to project the fundings over time. Mr. Moran explained that they base the numbers on a chart and actuaries take into account many factors ranging from retirees, retiree benefits, to life expectancy. He explained that the lower the number is, the higher percentage of money that needs to go in by the city, which depends on budgets and how much money is willing to be put into the fund. He mentioned that he could provide a report to the Commissioners that is published every 2 years that tells them what percent funded they are.

Mr. Moran offered the Commissioners the opportunity to meet with other trustees offsite for further education as part of trustee training. Commissioner Wright thanked Mr. Moran for

introducing the idea of the training and looked forward to coordinating training dates for September.

10. Executive Session

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

- 10.1 Street Crime Unit – Month of May, 2022.
- 10.2 Street Crime Unit – Month of June, 2022.
- 10.3 Personnel

Motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners entered Executive Session at 7:37 PM.

11. Return to Regular Session/Adjournment

At 8:15 PM, the Commissioners returned to regular session and adjourned by a motion from Commissioner Wright; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Briana Hojo
Recording Clerk