

City of West Haven, CT

Board of Police Commissioners

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, September 21, 2021

2021 SEP 23 PM 1:00

*Peter C. Horvath*  
TOWN AND CITY CLERK

The regular meeting of the West Haven Board of Police Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 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 Flemming, <i>Deputy Chief</i>	Present

**Agenda**

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

**1. Minutes for Approval**

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

**2. Public Input**

Prior to beginning the public portion, Chairman Collins explained that based on past practices during awards, promotions, or retirements, the public portion would be limited to items only on the agenda. He stated that any other comments not reflected on the agenda could wait for the next meeting on 10/5, or the Commissioners could be contacted via email at [commissioners@whpd.com](mailto:commissioners@whpd.com) or in writing to 200 Sawmill Road.

Joesph D'Amato, the Union Secretary, expressed that regarding items 8.1 and 8.2 on the agenda, the department was at a great loss. He explained that there was 50 years of experience between both officers that were retiring. He addressed Officer Dias who he worked with for many years and wished him the best in retirement. He also addressed Captain D'Amato and shared personal memories of their time together and memories he had of him as a patrolman. He wished him the best of luck in retirement on behalf of himself, the Union, and the department.

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

### **3. Communications**

The following monthly reports:

- 3.1 Animal Control Report – August 2021
- 3.2 Attendance Report – August 2021
- 3.3 Investigative Report – August 2021
- 3.4 K9 Report Ofc. Marchitto/K9 Ado – June 2021
- 3.5 K9 Report Ofc. Marchitto/K9 Ado – July 2021
- 3.6 Training Report – August 2021
4. **Report of the Chief** – No Report
5. **Report of the Deputy Chief** – No Report
6. **Report of the Committees** – No Report
7. **Old Business** – None Presented
8. **New Business**
  - 8.1 **Request for Retirement – Capt. Salvatore D’Amato**

Deputy Chief Flemming offered the following remarks:

“Captain Salvatore D’Amato began his law enforcement career with the West Haven Police Department on September 20, 1991. He was a highly decorated officer who received numerous commendations throughout his 30-year career, including an award for locating a vehicle taken in a carjacking at gunpoint with a kidnapped victim inside. He observed the suspect vehicle and followed it while coordinating a felony stop, which resulted in the disarming and apprehension of two suspects and the victim rescued unharmed.

Captain D’Amato was a dedicated officer who has served in numerous special assignments including, Bike Patrol and SRT and as he ascended through the ranks up to Captain he supervised or managed several units including Records, Training, Traffic, Animal Control, Patrol B Squad Shift Commander, and the Detective Bureau. While serving as the Captain of the Support Services Division he was able to oversee the daily operations of each division he was responsible for, while also coordinating and directing those under his command to successfully reach departmental goals and accomplish assigned projects.

Captain D'Amato was well respected by the rank and file and throughout his career he consistently demonstrated a high level of competency and a commitment to duty, which always reflected positively upon our agency's mission and goals. His leadership, experience and knowledge were a great asset to our agency and he will be missed.

Sal, I want to thank you for your 30 years of friendship and your dedicated service to the West Haven Police Department and the citizens of our community. I wish you and your family happiness as you begin this new chapter in your life."

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept Capt. Salvatore D'Amato's request for retirement; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

## **8.2 Request for Retirement – Ofc. Antonio Dias**

Deputy Chief Flemming offered the following remarks:

"Officer Antonio Dias began his law enforcement career with the West Haven Police Department on September 21, 2001. Throughout his 20 years of service he was a highly decorated officer who served in Patrol and several special assignments including, Quality of Life Unit, Bike Patrol Unit, Community Resource Officer Unit, and Traffic.

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

Antonio 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."

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept Ofc. Antonio Dias's request for retirement; SECONDED by Commissioner Suggs. Motion carried unanimously.

## **9. Pension Board**

### **9.1 Request for Retirement – Capt. Salvatore D'Amato**

### **9.2 Request for Retirement- Ofc. Antonio Dias**

Commissioner Wright extended her congratulations towards Captain D'Amato and Officer Dias. She explained that she has gone over the paperwork for both officers and that the paperwork is correct and applicable to their retirement.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept both retirements per their paperwork for approval; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

### **9.3 Mr. David Moran – Raymond James**

Mr. Moran stated that there was no report, but that he would be back next month for more commentary.

Chief Perno asked if the department had permission to contact the individual in charge of pension checks to put the two officers on the pension. Mr. Moran responded that they have permission to do so.

### **10. Executive Session**

Commissioner Butler MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss the following monthly report:

#### **10.1 Special Victims & Firearms Report – July 2021**

Motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners entered Executive Session at 7:16 PM.

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

At 7:16 PM the Commissioners returned to regular session and adjourned by a motion from Commissioner Wright; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Briana Hojo  
*Recording Clerk*