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**City of West Haven, CT**

**Board of Police Commissioners**

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 **2022 OCT -6 AM 9: 29**

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.

*Peter C. Horvath*  
TOWN AND CITY CLERK

**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>	Absent
Deborah B. Wright, <i>Pension Board Chair and Commissioner</i>	Present
Joseph Perno, <i>Chief of Police</i>	Absent
Carl Flemmig, <i>Deputy Chief</i>	Present

**Agenda**

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

**1. Minutes**

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the minutes from the previous meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Public Input**

Walter Casey congratulated Officer Simone on her promotion, and also thanked and congratulated Michael Towles on his upcoming retirement. He commented on Towles's outstanding work ethic and explained that he will be missed by the department and the city.

Sean Faughnan, 200 sawmill road, President of local 895, congratulated Michael Towles on his retirement and reminisced about their time working together. He explained that it will be a loss with him leaving. He also noted the loss to the department with the departure of Officer Aballo. He explained that one reason Officer Aballo was leaving was due to the pension. He emphasized the importance of the pension and how it is affecting recruitment. He also congratulated Kimberly Simone on her promotion on behalf of the union and wished her the best.

John Jarvie extended his congratulations toward Kimberly Simone and Michael Towles. He emphasized Towles's hard work and commitment to the department and wished him the best in retirement.

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 - None**

**4. Report of the Chief – Personnel not present**

**5. Report of the Deputy Chief**

Deputy Chief Flemmig offered the following report:

“With tonight’s retirement and resignation, we will be staffed at 111 Officers. We are minus 9 Officers in Police Academy, 1 Officer on FTO, 2 Sergeants and 7 Officers out Injured/Light Duty, which leaves us a total of 92 available Officers. Seven academy recruits will graduate in December and two will graduate in March/April.”

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

**7. Old Business - None**

**8. New Business**

**8.1 Palace Street Closing Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> (Raindate Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>) Police & Fire Expo.**

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the plan for the closing of Palace Street on October 15<sup>th</sup> (with a raindate of October 16<sup>th</sup>); SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

**8.2 Promotion of Kimberly Simone to the Rank of Sergeant, Effective, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

Deputy Chief Flemmig offered the following remarks:

“Officer Kimberly Simone has been a member of the West Haven Police Department for approximately 16 years. She has been a School Resource Officer for the last several years where she has made a positive impact on the youth of West Haven. The experiences she obtained in this assignment will serve her well in this next phase of her career, as a Patrol Sergeant.

Kim is a hard worker who takes pride in her job and is well liked and respected by both the rank and file. Her clam demeanor paired with her experience and job knowledge will make her an excellent supervisor, who will get the best out of her subordinates. She will have a positive influence on those she supervises and her hard work and dedication will be appreciated by the Command Staff.

Kim congratulations on your new promotion.”

Commissioner Wright MOVED to accept the promotion of Kimberly Simone to the rank of sergeant; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

### **8.3 Retirement – Michael Towles, Effective, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

Deputy Chief Flemmig offered the following remarks:

“Patrol Officer Michael Towles is a 28 year old veteran of the West Haven Police Department who spent the majority of his career in the Patrol Division on the Midnight Shift. He was the recipient of numerous commendations, including an award for apprehending a suspect in a stolen vehicle which had struck and injured a Milford Officer.

Officer Towles was well respected by the rank and file and his positive attitude and hard work always reflected positively upon our department’s mission and goals. His experience and knowledge were great assets to our agency and he will be missed.

I want to thank Mike for his 28 years of dedicated service to the West Haven Police Department and the citizens of our community and wish him and his family well with future endeavors.”

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept Michael Towles’s retirement, effective October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

### **8.4 Resignation of Alfonso Aballo, Effective, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.**

Deputy Chief Flemmig thanked Officer Aballo for his service to the West Haven Police Department and wished him well with the Plainfield Police Department.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the resignation of Alfonso Aballo, effective October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

## **9. Pension Board**

### **9.1 David Moran – Raymond James**

Mr. Moran gave a brief update about the status of the police pension fund. He explained that current events such as inflation issues, unemployment, and wars abroad are factors that are affecting the market currently. He advised that the city continues to follow a defensive strategy.

Walter Casey asked about the integrity of the pension fund. Mr. Moran responded that the city takes out about \$8.5 million to pay pensioners and the city puts in around \$2.4 million, depending on the budget. He explained that the goal is to have those numbers correlate when it comes to what the city is putting in. He explained that the methodology for the funding of the pension is complicated, depending on what the city will put in and the expected return of the portfolio.

Commissioner Wright commented that her and Mr. Moran have been trying to plan round table style events, where people can sit in a more informal setting and explain how the mechanisms of

the pension fund work to help more people understand. She explained that these events can help provide information in a one-on-one setting and explain all the numbers to make it easier for people to understand.

Commissioner Carrano asked about the significant cash that was being held that was brought up at a previous meeting. Mr. Moran explained that there is a cash account that takes in money from the city and from the police officers on a weekly basis, and it's used to pay benefits. He explained that there are also other things in the portfolio that can be considered as cash, which are of a very short duration that fall into the bond category when the asset allocation is looked at.

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

#### **11. Executive Session**

Chairman Collins explained that the exit interview scheduled for executive session was cancelled.

#### **12. Adjournment**

At 7:28 PM, the Commissioners adjourned by a motion from Commissioner Butler; **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Briana Hojo  
*Recording Clerk*