

City of West Haven, CT
Board of Police Commissioners
Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, November 16, 2021

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 Flemmig, <i>Deputy Chief</i>	Present

Agenda

Chief Perno introduced Item 8.2 to the agenda regarding the street closures of Main Street and Church Street between Savin Avenue and Campbell Avenue on Saturday, November 27, 2021, from 3 PM to 10 PM for the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to add Item 8.2 to the agenda; SECONDED by Commissioner Suggs. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Perno introduced Item 10.2 under Executive Session to discuss Personnel.

Commissioner Carrano MOVED to add Item 10.2 to the agenda; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. 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 November 2nd, 2021 as presented; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion passed with one recusal from Commissioner Carrano since he was not present at the previous meeting.

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

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the agenda. He stated that any other comments could wait for the next meeting, or the commissioners could be contacted via email or in writing.

Sean Faughnan, president of the local 895, addressed the board to thank Commissioner Carrano for working with the other commissioners and the city council to find ways to improve the retention and recruitment of officers. He also thanked the Chiefs and the commissioners of the city council for recognizing the need for the restructuring of the command structure and the creation of a third Captain position. He explained that Lieutenant Romano has been an instrumental part of the department and has done a great job with the assignments he has taken on, including the implementation of cameras for compliance with the Police Accountability Act. He congratulated Lieutenant Romano on behalf of the executive board and the union body on his promotion.

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

- 3.1 Attendance Report – October 2021
- 3.2 Animal Control Report – October 2021
- 3.3 Traffic Report – October 2021
- 3.4 Training Division Report – October 2021
- 3.5 Training Division Armorer – October 2021
- 3.6 Record Room Report – October 2021
- 3.7 Investigative Services Division – October 2021
- 3.8 K9 Report – Ofc. Marchitto/K9 Ado – September 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 Promotion – Lt. Joseph Romano to the Rank of Captain.**

Chief Perno thanked Lieutenant Romano and acknowledged the important work he has put into the body camera project. He also went on to thank all the prior Captains who have served when there were only two Captain positions for the entire department. He explained that it was necessary to restructure the department and they will continue working to fulfill the needs of the department, even if it means creating a position for a possible fourth Captain in the future.

Deputy Chief Flemmig offered the following remarks:

“Lieutenant Joseph Romano has been a member of the West Haven Police Department for approximately 19 years and he has received numerous awards and commendations throughout his career. Lieutenant Romano has served in several special assignments including the Investigator Services Unit and Recruitment. For the last eighteen months he has excelled serving as the Professional Standards Lieutenant. During that time he updated all of our Department’s General Orders and Policies and undertook the task of accomplishing the Police Accountability Bill requirements within the time frame set by the State, such as achieving Tier 1 Accreditation and we anticipate achieving Tier 2 Accreditation by January 2022. He also successfully spearheaded the research and purchase of our Body Cameras and Dash Cameras, which will be implemented and operational by the spring of 2022, several months before the State set deadline.

Lieutenant Romano is highly respected by the rank and file and his job knowledge and experience has made him an excellent Shift Commander and Professional Standards Lieutenant. As a member of the Command Staff his input is highly valued and he has been an integral part in fulfilling our Department’s missions and goals. I am confident as Captain of the newly created Professional Standards Division he will continue to have a positive influence on those under his command and his leadership, hard work, and dedication will be an asset to our agency going forward.

Joe congratulations on your new promotion.”

Chairman Collins commented on the closeness of the department and how it is evident through all the individuals in attendance at the meeting who came to show their support for Lieutenant Romano.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to promote Lieutenant Romano to the rank of Captain; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

8.2 Street Closures of Main Street and Church Street between Savin Avenue and Campbell Avenue on Saturday, November 27, 2021 from 3 PM to 10 PM for the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Commissioner Suggs MOVED to accept the plans for the street closures; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Pension Board – No Report

10. Executive Session

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

10.1 Special Victim & Firearms Report – October 2021

10.2 Personnel

Motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners entered Executive Session at 7:14 PM

11. Return to Regular Session/Adjournment

At 7:45 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