

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
33 LAUREL STREET
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06405-3644
MINUTES OF MEETING: January 8, 2024

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Patty Austin
Commissioner Janice Heggie-Margolis
Commissioner Christine Ciociola
Commissioner Robert Nash
Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins.

Also present was Chief Mulhern and Deputy Chief Alves. Commissioner John Sousoulas was absent.

The meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Sousoulas.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Commissioner Ciociola to approve the minutes from November 13, 2023.
Seconded by Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins. Vote unanimous.

Report of the Chief:

Chief Mulhern provided copies of the Monthly Statistical and Training Reports from November and December 2023. He reported motor vehicle thefts are trending up that are up 89% this year. In the matter of three hours officers made 10 juvenile arrests tied to stolen vehicles and assault age range of 12-15 years old many of them also had ankle monitors on due to previous arrests. Each one of them had an order to detain. The increase in numbers is fueled by juveniles and repeat offenders. Purse snatchings have gone up again and tied to stolen vehicles, targeting shopping areas and gas stations. We deployed a lot of resources throughout the holiday season. DUI did go up throughout the holiday season. Another trend that is concerning is the increase in Domestic calls and Mental Health calls, these calls require a lot of resources. Overdoses are down. Starbucks was vandalized, related to issues in the middle east and Israel, a suspect has been identified and an application for an arrest warrant has been submitted. A 15 year old from Rhode Island was reported missing, detectives were able to locate her. There was a mental health call involving minor children before Christmas. The department helped provide last minute gifts and a tree for the children.

The Chief asked the board to consider an expenditure from the Asset Forfeiture account in the amount of \$16,000 for the purchase of three Ballistic Shields.

Motion made by Commissioner Nash to add the approval of an expenditure of \$16,000 from the Asset Forfeiture account for the purchase of three Ballistic Shields to the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Heggie Margolis. Motion made by Commissioner Heggie Margolis to approve

the expenditure of \$16,000 from the Asset Forfeiture Account for the purchase of three Ballistic Shields. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Vote unanimous.

Letters:

Letters of Recognition and appreciation were received recognizing the following: Officer McCone, Officer Suraci and the Department for their participation and support at former Police Chief Holohan's funeral services.

Police Department Renovation Project – no report

Chief Mulhern provided Analysis and *Overview of the Growing Demands on Police Services Proposal for Hiring of Two (2) Additional Full Time Officers* prepared by Lt. Corrienne Carangelo to the commissioners for review.

Report of the Chair – no report

Citizens Comments – none.

Motion made by Commissioner Heggie Margolis to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trista Milici, Clerk