

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
33 LAUREL STREET
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06405-3644
MINUTES OF MEETING: January 10, 2022

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Jill Marcus
Commissioner Richard Goodwin
Commissioner Valerie Wiel-Wilkins
Commissioner Janice Heggie-Margolis

Absent were: Commissioners Sousoulas and Austin

Also present were: Chief Mulhern; Deputy Chief Alves; Lieutenant Philip Ramey and Town Clerk Lisa Arpin.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Commissioner Goodwin to approve the minutes from November 8, 2021.
Seconded by Commissioner Wilkins. Vote unanimous.

Report of the Chief:

Chief Mulhern welcomed new Commissioner Janice Heggie-Margolis and thanked former Commissioner Lasala for his service.

Chief Mulhern provided the compstat report. He reported that Part I crime numbers are down roughly 30%. There is a 30% increase in Mental Health calls and there has been an increase in overdoses. Detectives made an arrest of a juvenile and a number of suspects involved in the nighttime burglaries.

COVID infections have created staffing shortages within the department.

Capt. Watrous and Lt. Ramey and several additional members from the department assisted with a town wide distribution of test kits to the residents.

COVID Relief funds – The department was granted a CRF grant in the amount \$30,000 for crime deterrents and other police activity due to COVID related spikes in crime. The was used for deterrent patrols in shopping districts and residential areas at night targeting high car theft areas as well as focusing on the apprehension of domestic violence offenders with pending warrants.

Forfeiture report – no report

Letters – Property owner Leetes Island Road submitted a letter acknowledging the actions of Officers Burghart, Iovanna, Konesky and Massey. A letter of appreciation was received from the Branford Food Pantry for the department's support of Thanksgiving Food Drive, officers collected 30 turkeys and 55 pound of food for the Food Pantry. A letter of thanks was received from an Indian Neck resident.

Deputy Chief Alves provided training and mental health call reports. He reported that the Social Worker became very involved in several of domestic violence cases, providing support for victims, safety plans, follow up with the victims and made some notification concerning offender releases. She provided mental health assessments on some arrestees and on victims that led to emergency evaluations and committals. She collaborated with BH Care on several cases including proper residential placements for two individuals that had repeated calls for service. She completed a mental health assessment for a student that had made threats was able to secure counseling through the Branford Counseling Center.

Building project – Deputy Chief Alves reported that they are working with the architect to address existing conditions and future improvements for the building. The architect completed a draft Space Needs Assessment. He has also provided draft proposals for renovations to the lower and mail levels and a schematic for proposed changes to the exterior of the building. Past problems that have existing include: moisture content, water infiltration on the lower level, the current cell block is outdated and not to current standards, there are leaks in the roof during heavy rain, HVAC issues and additional outside security is needed. They will be setting up date for the architectural team and team of engineers to review the site and review the various building systems.

Training Update – Department staff participated is the following training: Taser Recertification for the entire department; Use of Force Training; several officers trained in Crisis Intervention training; one officer participated in DUI and DRE testimony training; one officer completed Crime Scene Investigation training. Annual Blood Borne Pathogen; Incident Command Systems training and Mental Health Refresher was also completed.

A brief discussion took place concerning the upcoming budget. The Chief will set up a meeting.

Traffic Committee:

Request for officer enforcement and speed trailer on Flax Mill Road – No action.

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Request for speed trailer on Pine Orchard Road near Knollwood between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.
– A speed trailer was set up in that area and traffic enforcement was accomplished there.

Follow-up on line of sight issue at the corner of Isabel Land and South Montowese Street. – This is an on-going issue. A letter has been sent to the homeowner.

Follow-up on Limewood Avenue Traffic patterns. – No action.

Report of the Chair – No report.

Motion made by Commissioner Goodwin to adjourn the meeting at 5:53. Seconded by Commissioner Wilkins. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trista Milici, Clerk