

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
33 LAUREL STREET  
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06405-3644  
MINUTES OF MEETING: February 15, 2022

**Commissioners Present:**

Commissioner Jill Marcus  
Commissioner Richard Goodwin  
Commissioner Valerie Wiel-Wilkins  
Commissioner Janice Heggie-Margolis  
Commissioner John Sousoulas  
Commissioner Patty Austin

Also present was Deputy Chief Alves.

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion made by Commissioner Austin to approve the minutes from January 10, 2022. Seconded by Commissioner Sousoulas. Vote unanimous.

**Report of the Deputy Chief:**

Deputy Chief Alves provided the compstat report. He reported that 49 Arrests in the month of January, this was up from 27 in December. Case of significance include: An arrest warrant was served on an individual who was a suspect in a 2020 burglary that occurred at night in the Pine Orchard. The homeowners were woken by police, they realize someone had entered their home, through an unlocked garage door and stole keys which allowed them to steal two of the victim's vehicles. An extensive investigation followed and detectives were able to obtain both DNA and video surveillance of the suspects and make an arrest almost two years later. Midnight shift officers responded to a suspicious person's complaint on Foxbridge Village Rd. The suspect appeared to be under the influence of narcotics. As officers spoke to him, he would not obey their directions and was uncooperative. He did disclosed he was in possession of a handgun. He was detained and a loaded Ruger .357 revolver was found on his person along with crack, heroin and marijuana. It was later learned this was a convicted felon in possession of a firearm; he faced multiple charges as a result of this arrest. (Criminal Possession of a Firearm, Carrying a Pistol without a Permit and Possession of Narcotics.) Deputy Chief Alves commended all of the officers involved in these cases.

There were three stolen vehicles during the month of January – same as December – all three of these vehicles were located in New Haven, no damage to any of the vehicles.

The trend of catalytic converter theft is increasing. The parts are quickly removed from vehicles, and sold for scrap being that they contain precious metals. We remind the public to call the police if they observe suspicious behavior around their vehicles.

Staffing – COVID infections have leveled off for us; end of December through the entire month of January left many vacancies on shifts – all staff is healthy as in regards to COVID infections at this point. Audra Clyburn, our new recruit, began the police academy in mid January, due to COVID classes began remotely for the 1<sup>st</sup> two weeks, she is now attending in person and is doing very well.

The department participated in the annual Shoreline Law Enforcement Diaper Drive – collecting well over a 1000 diapers. A group of Branford Women also participated and donated over 1000 diapers as well as a monetary donation. Diapers and donations were donated to the Branford Community Dining room.

Forfeiture Report – no report

Budget Review – Budget was reviewed by Janice and Rick – Chief will be presenting a flat budget for 2022-2023 – with the exception of any contractually negotiated changes for wage increases. The police and dispatch contracts are currently in negotiations.

Letters of Recognition - Officer Cope received a Thank You letter from a family after he responded to a welfare check and located a deceased individual. Officer Crowley also assisted a family with an untimely death investigation; he was recognized in the deceased's obituary, and was thanked by the family for his care and concern.

Police Social Worker - In the month of January we had an increase in elderly cases. One request for a welfare check for an individual discharged after almost a year in the hospital with no food, no medication, no working phone/tv and into a situation where he was unable to properly care for himself. Danielle was able to get the veteran re-admitted to the hospital and then collaborate with the Counseling Center for a proper release and resources needed to return home. He now has a case manager from the Counseling Center and a visiting nurse.

Motion made by Commissioner Goodwin to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Sousoulas. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trista Milici, Clerk