

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
33 LAUREL STREET
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06405-3644
MINUTES OF MEETING: April 11, 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 Chief Mulhern; Deputy Chief Alves and Lisa Pasco.

The meeting called to order at 5:31 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Commissioner Goodwin to approve the minutes from March 14, 2022.
Seconded by Commissioner Sousoulas.

Report of the Deputy Chief:

Chief Mulhern provided the Compstat Monthly Statistical Report. He reported that motor vehicle thefts are down 50% year to date. He also reminded residents to lock up their cars, key fobs and houses. Shoplifting from Feb to March is down considerably but year to date its trending 100% higher. Theft of catalytic converters continues to be an ongoing problem statewide. He reported that there is an increase in Domestic Violence cases and Mental Health calls. These types of calls require a lot of time and can be very volatile. They are watching these numbers/cases carefully. This is a trend throughout the town, state and country. The Chief shared a brief success story of a homeless man that officers and the social worker were able to provide assistance and now the gentleman is working and doing well. Discussion took place concerning fraud and the increase fraudulent calls, emails and text messages. He provided an update on a case of significance concerning a self defense shooting at the Branford Motel. The investigation is on going. There was a dip in motor vehicle accidents.

Letters of Recognition – Chief read a Facebook message thanking the department; He mentioned a letter received from a local attorney commending Officers Crowley, MacIsaac and Sgt. Morgan and a letter of appreciation concerning Officer Vitale. He also recognized the department and Detective Herten and Officer Harrington for their contributions to the Special Olympics. The department was recognized as #1 for the amount of money raised for the Special Olympics.

Deputy Chief Alves provided the training report. He reported that officers participated in Crime Scene Photography training; Dispatcher Sepulveda successfully completed her Field training in Communications; Lt. Roach taught several sessions of Use of Force Legal Update to fellow officers; Captain Watrous attended a Command Training School; Officers attended a Crime Scene Investigations course; Several members attended Emotional Survival for Law Enforcement Training; Several members attended the Cooper Physical Agility Instructor Training to be able to administer Physical Agility tests for new candidates; Several Officers completed Firearms recertification training and several officers participated in Read Across America at local schools to read to the students.

Deputy Chief Alves also provided a report on the department's recruitment efforts. He reported 149 Schools have accepted the job posting. As of April 6, the job posting reached 1,051, 331 students. The posting has been posted on Instagram and Facebook and a banner has been hung in the center of town. A Coffee with a Cop was held at the Parthenon Diner with emphasis on recruitment. They attended CHIP physical agility tests and several virtual career fairs to promote the job posting. Applications close on May 2 and they have received 60 applications so far.

Chief Mulhern provided a brief update on CALEA accreditation.

Motion made by Commissioner Goodwin to accept the report of the Chief. Seconded by Commissioner Sousoulas. Vote unanimous.

Traffic Committee -

Request for resident parking behind the apartments on Main St. – The Traffic Committee recommended no action.

Request for a review for a non-interstate sign at exit 56 off both I-95 north and south in the town of Branford. The Traffic Committee recommended no action.

Follow-up status of the approved voice assist at the corner of Main St and Montowese St.

Lisa Pasco, a resident from the Pawson Park area attended the traffic committee meeting to bring up concerns with excessive speeding on Old Pawson Road, Fenway and Pawson Road. The department will increase enforcement in the area and place the speed trailer in the area.

Motion made by Commissioner Goodwin to approve the recommendations from the Traffic Committee. Seconded by Commissioner Marcus.

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Report of the Chair – No report

Motion made by Commissioner Goodwin to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Sousoulas. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trista Milici, Clerk