

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
33 LAUREL STREET
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06405-3644
VIDEO/TELECONFERENCE MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING: September 13, 2021

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Jill Marcus
Commissioner Richard Goodwin
Commissioner John Sousoulas
Commissioner Anthony Lasala
Commissioner Patty Austin
Commissioner Valerie Wiel-Wilkins

Also present were: Chief Mulhern; Deputy Chief Alves; Lt. Ramey; Danielle Suraci, ; Lisa Arpin, Town Clerk and Peter Strauss, resident.

The meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Commissioner Goodwin to approve the minutes from June 14, 2021. Seconded by Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins. Vote unanimous.

Report of the Chief:

Chief Mulhern requested Deputy Chief Alves provide a report concerning the Mental Health cases and the hiring of the Police, Fire & EMS Social Worker. He stated that the counselor has been very busy and is already making a difference. Danielle Suraci, Police, Fire & EMS Social Worker was introduced and provided information to the commission about her background and her progress with the department so far.

Chief Jon Mulhern provided the compstat report. He reported that theft from vehicles is up 47% YTD and continues to be a problem. Stolen vehicles are down 42% YTD. Violent crimes are way down and Part I crimes are down. He again pleaded with the public. He stated that residents need to make it part of their normal routine to lock their cars and their homes. Overdoses are up 19% and mental health cases are up 18%. He reminded the public that school is back in session and drivers should be more mindful especially in the school zones. In addition, he reminded drivers that passing a bus comes with a hefty fine and can be very dangerous. He mentioned that we were fortunate to be missed by hurricane Henri and expressed his appreciation to Thomas Mahoney, EMD for his preparedness and assistance. He acknowledged complaints that have been received concerning jet skis, boats and noise on the water. He stated that the presence of the marine unit has doubled since last year. The department is getting the marine unit out as much as possible. He reported that they have

received a \$35,000 grant from OPM. The funds will be used for crime deterrents in targeted areas, domestic violence prevention and to assist with finding patterns concerning overdoses.

The Chief reported that they are still in the early stages and conducting a needs assessment for the building to address short term and long term issues including the moisture problem.

Forfeiture report – none

Injury report – none

Correspondence

Traffic Committee

Request a Dead End sign on McKinnel Court. No action on this item at this time.

Request for speed limit signs on Taylor Pl., Westwood Rd. and section of Clark. No action.

Request for scalloped section beneath the double yellow line on Shore Drive between the Orchard House at 421 Shore Drive to the East Haven bridge to alert drivers/speeders when they cross the double yellow line that they are driving dangerously/illegally. No action at this time.

Request to have hedges cut back on the corner of Isabel Lane and South Montowese St. Creates a severe line of sight issue. Lt. Ramey is reaching out to the property owner to have the hedges cut back. If he is unsuccessful he will refer the matter to the State.

Request movable radar signs on the straightaway section of 146 after the Guilford town line and increased traffic enforcement. The speed trailer will be placed in the area and increased police presence.

Request for speed trailer and calming devices for Kirkham St. This item will be deferred until fog lines are installed and the area is reevaluated.

Commissioner Austin also mentioned the meetings and correspondence that has been received concerning traffic, parking, pedestrian safety and lighting along RT 146 in Sybil Creek business area. Resolving these issues will involve several departments including the Engineering and State DOT.

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Motion made by Commissioner Sousoulas to accept the report of the Traffic Committee.
Seconded by Wiel-Wilkins. Vote unanimous.

Report of the Chair – no report.

Motion made by Commissioner Goodwin to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 p.m. Seconded by
Commissioner Austin. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trista Milici, Clerk