

**REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
DECEMBER 13, 2022
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND CONFERENCE CALL VIA ZOOM**

PRESENT: Commissioners Darrell Brooks (6:13 p.m.); Michael Lawlor; Tracey Meares; Isais Miranda; and Evelise Ribeiro

Chief Karl Jacobson: Department of Police Service
Assistant Chief Bertram Ettienne: Department of Police Service
Lieutenant Manmeet Colon: Department of Police Service
Sergeant Paul Finch: Department of Police Service
Officer Reginald McGlotten: Department of Police Service
Eva Perry-Lambert: Administrative Assistant

Chief Anthony Campbell: Yale Police Department
Michelle Duprey, Esquire: Deputy Corporation Counsel
Regina Rush-Kittle: Chief Administrative Officer

Christopher Halstead, YPD
Daniel Hunt
Al Paolillo, State Representative
Lars Vallin

OPEN SESSION

Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that Commissioner Walker would not be joining the meeting this evening and that Commissioner Brooks would be late.

The Regular Session meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners was called to order at 6:04 p.m., Evelise Ribeiro, Chair, presiding.

AGENDA

- ** Commissioner Miranda motioned to approve the Agenda for December 13, 2022
- ** Commissioner Lawlor seconded
- ** Motion passed unanimously

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Discussion and Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2022

Discussion and Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2022

- ** Commissioner Miranda moved the motion to Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2022
- ** Commissioner Lawlor seconded
- ** Motion passed unanimously

- ** Commissioner Miranda moved the motion to Approve the Special Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2022
- ** Commissioner Lawlor seconded
- ** Motion passed unanimously

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Karl Jacobson

- Chief Jacobson indicated that he was in his car at the parking lot of the University of New Haven's basketball arena. He was invited to the women's basketball game, More importantly, athletes from University of New Haven raised money to get gifts for families out of New Haven. The family was presented with the gifts. The athletes showed up and handed out gifts to the kids and families from Quinnipiac Avenue in the city. He appreciated Yale Child Study and the University of New Haven planning this event. He apologized for being in his vehicle.
- Chief Jacobson began with technological update. The Department has received its NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network) machine. This will give the Department the capacity to, onsite, test shell casings and link shootings. This will be functional shortly. In addition, the Department has received its DNA machine. This will help to fast-track DNA testing. These would be sent to the lab after. These machines were purchased by using grant funds.
- Chief Jacobson stated that the camera project is up and running.
- The Department has some training coming up shortly.
- ALPR, license plate readers, are in place that are collecting data. Pretty soon they will be able to see the collected data. There are license plate readers on the dash cam of the police cars which has been instrumental in solving incidents.
- December started well until the city had a double shooting. Unfortunately, one of the victims passed away on Friday, December 9, 2022. The Department have a lot of leads. Detectives are following up on a lot of leads. A lot of progress has been on this.
- Overall for the year, the Department is down 60 percent in homicides. Non-fatal shooting are up by 3.9 percent. Confirmed shots fired are down by 13 percent.
- Chief Jacobson added that he was just finishing up on the Commission on Community on Gun Violence. There was a commission set up by the governor to look at different ways to spend funds and grant money related to gun violence. He was one of the only police chiefs on the commission. He was on the Partnership, Programs, State Programs and Community Engagement subcommittee. They looked at healthcare and mental health solutions as well as street outreach and violence interruption solutions. The commission started at the end August. They will wrapping up with a final report in January of 2023. He will send the final report to the commissioners.
- It was a great experience to be part of the commission and to have a New Haven voice in this. They talked about group violence intervention and other ways of getting this community involved in helping law enforcement reduce gun violence. The really good aspect of this was that a lot of the people on the commission were healthcare workers, people who work on the frontline with shooting victims. He is very excited about the report. Hopefully, some solutions can come up through this commission to help reduce gun violence.

- Two candidates will graduate from Milford on December 15, 2022. Two candidates will also graduate from POST in March of 2023. Seven will graduate from Waterbury in April of 2023. The nineteen candidates they just put in in November will graduate somewhere in May of 2023.
- Since he became Chief on July 1st of 2022, the Department has hired 29 candidates that are all in some way, shape or form of training. Of those 29 candidates, 55 percent are minorities and women, 25 percent are New Haven residents. So, the Commission and background/recruitment now led by Assistance Ettiienne are moving in the right direction. He appreciated the work the commission in getting these candidates in. He would like to have a six-month goal with another diverse group of 40 so the Department can move forward even more. The Department is still about 73 officers short from its budgeted strength.
- Chief Jacobson indicated that one of the Department's K9 for seven and a half years, K9 Ax, with Sergeant Feliciano as his handler for those years, passed on December 11th, 2022. Condolences were sent to Sergeant Feliciano. K9 Ax had done a lot of wonderful work, community work, got a lot of guns off the street. They honor the passing of K9 Ax. He passed away from complications of aging, not in the line of duty. They are grateful for his service.
- Commissioner Ribeiro expressed her condolences regarding K9 Ax. She had heard about him over the years. He is a loss to the Department.
- Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that Commissioner Brooks had joined the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT

Lieutenant Manmeet Colon

- Lieutenant Colon stated that they had 75 Internal Affairs complaints to date. Last year at the same time, they had 100 complaints.
- There are two case closures for the month of December.
- The first complaint is regarding Mr. Jackson who claimed on October 13, 2022 that he was assaulted and that officers used excessive force during an arrest. That occurred at North Frontage and York. A review of the body-worn camera footage and the police report showed that the officers made contact with New Haven firefighters who reported to the officers that while they were seated in their vehicles at the intersection of Howard and York, Mr. Jackson approached them, and unprovoked he punched the window of the passenger side of the vehicle and cracked it. At that point officers were involved. They made contact with Mr. Jackson and tried to stop him. Mr. Jackson resisted. He was eventually placed into handcuffs. A review of the body-worn camera footage and the report showed that there was necessary force used. Mr. Jackson complained about some belongings that were missing. Body-worn camera footage of that incident of the intake process also showed that his belongings were secured. Eventually, Mr. Jackson was called in to give a statement. Mr. Jackson withdrew his complaint. However, they still looked at the entire incident. And it was determined that the officers did not violate any policy or procedures.

IA Case No.: 21I-102: On December 14th, 2021 retired Interim Chief Dominguez ordered an internal investigation into action taken by New Haven police officers during an arrest that occurred on December 13, 2021. Officer Cobb was dispatched to 42 Howe Street to investigate an accident. He made contact with the owner of the vehicle involved in the incident. He

eventually tracked the offending party. The subject at fault for the accident became uncooperative.

Officer Cobb used the necessary force to gain control of the subject. He then called for additional units to assist him. The responding officer assisted Officer Cobb to get the subject off the ground. Officer Cain asked the subject if he was injured. The subject told him, "fuck you" -- excuse my language -- to which Officer Cain responded, "well, fuck you too." Officer Cain in his compelled statement stated that he did not mean anything by speaking to the subject in such manner, and that it was it was a "knee-jerk reaction." Based on the police report and officers' body-worn cameras, the arrest was lawful, the force used was within policy. However, Officer Cain was found in violation of the Rules of Conduct for the comments that he made to the arrestee. There was a summary action issued for Officer Cain.

■ Lieutenant Colon went on to speak about the use-of-force statistics. So, far this year, they are seeing a decline in the Taser use which to date is at 14. They are down from 2019 where they had 36. In 2020 there were 33. In 2021 there were 24. She just wanted to highlight the steady decline for Tasers.

■ The Department is up in hands as she had previously stated because of its reporting procedures.

■ Commissioner Lawlor indicated that the use of force had spiked up a little bit this year in some of those categories. He asked if this was related to the new statewide guidelines about how these uses of forces are reported or whether this was an apples-to-apples comparison to previous years.

■ Lieutenant Colon responded by saying that the Department has its own system of monitoring and responding. The supervisor responding to the scene make sure that the officer has applied necessary use of force. This has definitely improved in the last year and a half. The training being provided to the officers and requirement to use a form for each individual has helped. Multiple folks involved in an incident would require more forms being filled by officers. The Department's reporting procedure has also improved including the new state-mandated use -of-force policy.

■ Commissioner Lawlor asked whether the new training policy is more comprehensive than the past. The right comparison would be to compare 2023 to 2022 rather than 2022 to 2021.

■ Chief Jacobson commented that he was going to say that. The Department has to see what the figure is for this year and next year. This will be comparing apples to apples like Commissioner Lawlor had commented.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

1. Discussion and action on the recommendation from Chief Anthony Campbell, Yale Police Department, to hire the following candidate to the Yale Police Department:

A. Lars Vallin

■ Chief Campbell stated that they would like to hire Lars Vallin. He is very familiar with Mr. Vallin who is a veteran, a retiree from the New Haven Police Department. He had worked many shifts with Mr. Vallin downtown. He retired in good standing. He is extremely well respected. He was one of the K9 handlers for the New Haven Police Department for many,

many years. He would fit in very well in this environment in continuing to serve members of this community as well the larger New Haven community. They hope to welcome him to their department. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience. As a veteran officer, he will bring that knowledge to their department. He will be able to mentor many of the younger officers who are coming onto the job about what true community policing is about. He would be a great addition.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that a few of the commissioners had an opportunity to interview Mr. Vallin last week.

■ Mr. Vallin spoke briefly.

■ Commissioner Lawlor had the pleasure of participating in interviewing Officer Vallin. He was quite impressed. He would like to point out that as someone who works and spends a lot of time on the campus of University of New Haven during his time as an officer on the UNHPD, he, at least one and he was sure more, had heroic interventions and received a fair amount of acclaim for that. He thought Yale was lucky to get him.

■ Commissioner Lawlor asked Chief Campbell, because he wanted to confirm, that since Mr. Vallin's certification had lapsed at the moment, whether Chief Campbell and the Yale Police Department would try to get him recertified through POST as soon as possible. Chief Campbell replied, yes, and that their training officer had already started that process to get what he needs to get his recertification.

■ Commissioner Lawlor said, just to be clear, the only reason Mr. Vallin was not certified at the moment, as he understood it, is Mr. Vallin has just been out of the position beyond the time where his existing certification had expired. So, it would be relatively easy to reinstate. Technically, at the moment, Mr. Vallin is not certified. He was confident that Chief Campbell's officers would be able to make that a reality very quickly.

■ Assistant Chief Etienne commented that he had the opportunity to work with Mr. Vallin on the midnight shift for a few years. He just wanted to say he was always professional. He has always supported his officers. He always backed his officers up. He is always a class act. It is certainly a gain for the Yale Police Department.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro asked if Mr. Vallin handled K9 Ax. Mr. Vallin replied that he did not. He worked with Sergeant Feliciano on calls. He is familiar with K9 Ax. He was an awesome dog. It is sad to hear of his passing. He served the city well. He is proud the unit was able to get reinstated. He is proud to have been the first handler to be selected. Since that time the unit has been doing great. Hopefully, the unit will continue. It is a great asset to the city when it's used well.

** Commissioner Miranda motioned to follow the recommendation from Chief Campbell to hire Officer Lars Vallin by the Yale Police Department

** Commissioner Brooks seconded

** Motion passed unanimously

2. Chief Jacobson is requesting approval by the Board of Police Commissioners to send 104 conditional Offers of employment for the position of Police Officer from Eligibility List #22-68:

- ** Commissioner Lawlor motioned to Approve Conditional Offers for 104 candidates to become Police Officers from Eligibility List 22-68
- ** Commissioner Miranda seconded
- ** Motion passed unanimously

- Commissioner Ribeiro congratulated Mr. Vallin.
- Chief Campbell thanked the commissioners and everyone.

RETIREMENTS (For Board information only)

There were none.

RESIGNATION (For Board information only)

There were none.

RECRUITMENT/SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Sergeant Paul Finch

- Sergeant Finch thanked the commissioners for the approval of the 104 conditional offers.
- With the training session going on, they have seen attendance rise with the anticipation of the conditional offers. There are folks working out and prepared to pass the physical agility test. They are excited for that.
- There will be recruitment with the basketball season ahead. They will be out at a lot at different basketball games throughout the city. He just wants to see what other folks have an interest in being police officers. They are also reaching out to the Army, National Guard just to try to see who else out there may be coming home and may be interested in becoming a police officer. They are trying to stay actively recruiting with the holidays going on.

EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE REPORT

- Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that the subcommittee would be meeting per the request of Assistant Chief Ettienne just so that they can review their guidelines and other things for the new process. The time to do it now before they actually start the process. They will keep the commissioners informed on available dates to meet.
- Commissioner Meares stated that there should be two policies that the committee reviewed that are ready for the board's approval. They need a little bit more time for a couple of policies they were working on. She was not in a position to present them. She knew Assistant Chief Ettienne and Captain Dell were working on this. Since she is on her phone, she did not know who was actually present who could discuss these policies.
- Commissioner Ribeiro responded by saying that those policies had removed from the agenda. There was a revised agenda that Commissioner Meares might not have seen. Commissioner Meares indicated that she had not seen the revised agenda. Commissioner Ribeiro indicated there were four policies which would be addressed at a later date.
- Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that she and Assistant Chief Ettienne would be reaching out. A schedule needs to be put together. The Department is working really hard on revising General Orders. So, there are a lot in the queue for 2023.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

There was none.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was none.

- Commissioner Brooks extended holiday wishes to the Chief Jacobson and the entire staff of the New Haven Police Department as well as to his colleagues on the Commission.
- Commissioner Ribeiro also echoed what Commissioner Brooks said. She wished all a safe holiday.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** Commissioner Miranda moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting
- ** Commissioner Brooks seconded
- ** Motion passed unanimously

The next regular meeting will be on January 10, 2023.
The Board adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sotonye Otunba-Payne