

NEW HAVEN DEPARTMENT OF POLICE : NEW HAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
SERVICE :

v. : AT NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

OFFICER JOCELYN LAVANDIER : APRIL 27, 2023

**BEFORE: BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

**A P P E A R A N C E S:**

**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS:**

EVELISE RIBEIRO, CHAIR  
DONALD WALKER, VICE CHAIR  
TRACEY MEARES  
ISAIAS MIRANDA  
MICHAEL LAWLOR

**DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICE:**

CHIEF KARL JACOBSON	SERGEANT CHERELLE CARR
ASSISTANT CHIEF MANMEET COLON	SERGEANT C. FENNEESSY
ASSISTANT CHIEF DAVID ZANNELLI	SERGEANT JASON KOENIG
LIEUTENANT DANA SMITH	SERGEANT ROSA MELENDEZ
SERGEANT YOLENA BORISOVA	

**REPRESENTING THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN:**

FLOYD DUGAS, ESQUIRE  
BERCHEM MOSES PC  
75 BROAD STREET  
MILFORD, CONNECTICUT 06460

**REPRESENTING THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS:**

MICHELLE DUPREY, ESQUIRE  
DEPUTY CORPORATION COUNSEL  
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL  
165 CHURCH STREET  
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06510

**REPRESENTING THE ELM CITY LOCAL:**

STEVEN MCELENEY, ESQUIRE  
MCELENEY & MCGRAIL, LLC  
20 CHURCH STREET, #1730  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06103

**ELM CITY LOCAL**

OFFICER FLORENCIO COTTO, PRESIDENT  
SERGEANT JONATHAN LAMBE, VICE PRESIDENT

**CITY OF NEW HAVEN:**

REGINA RUSH-KITTLE, CAO

SOTONYE OTUNBA-PAYNE  
COURT REPORTERS' OFFICE  
235 CHURCH STREET  
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06510

1                   COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: This is a special  
2                   meeting. It's taking place on Thursday, April 27,  
3                   2023. And the purpose of the meeting is to consider  
4                   Personnel Matters. Consideration and vote on the  
5                   recommendation for Chief Karl Jacobson to terminate  
6                   Officer Jocelyn Lavandier, Internal Affairs  
7                   Investigation 22I-046.

8                   So for the record, the commissioners that are in  
9                   attendance, myself, Commissioner Evelise Ribeiro. We  
10                  have Commissioner Tracey Meares, Commissioner Michael  
11                  Lawlor, Commissioner Isaias Miranda, Commissioner  
12                  Donald Walker. And Commissioner Brooks will not be  
13                  joining us this evening.

14                  So before -- before we start, I just want to  
15                  say, welcome, everyone. I just want to, just for the  
16                  record, note who is representing the New Haven Police  
17                  Department.

18                  ATTY. DUGAS: Yes. Good evening. Attorney Floyd  
19                  Dugas representing the Department.

20                  COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay, thank you. And who  
21                  do we have representing Officer Lavandier?

22                  ATTY. MCELENEY: Attorney Stephen McEleney,  
23                  M-c-capital E-l-e-n-e-y, representing Elm City Local  
24                  who in turn, of course, is representing Jocelyn  
25                  Lavandier

1                   COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. Thank you very  
2 much. So before we start, I just wanted to just ask  
3 Mr. -- I'm sorry, Attorney McEleney, would you  
4 like -- would your clients like for this to be in  
5 open or closed session.

6                   ATTY. MCELENEY: Closed session. Thank you.

7                   COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Closed session. Okay.  
8 So before we go into closed session, I just want to  
9 know from each side, just to be clear, who we are  
10 inviting in closed session, and then I will entertain  
11 a motion.

12                   I'm going to invite for the police department,  
13 of course, Attorney Dugas, Chief Jacobson, Assistant  
14 Chief Colon, Assistant Chief Zannelli. I don't  
15 believe Assistant Chief Ettienne is here. The  
16 background investigators, Sergeant Rosa Melendez,  
17 Sergeant Carr, I believe Sergeant Koenig, and  
18 Sergeant Fennessy, Lieutenant Dana Smith. I'm also  
19 going to invite CAO Regina Rush-Kittle, Attorney  
20 Michelle Duprey for the Department. Am I missing  
21 anyone for the Department that needs to be invited  
22 in?

23                   CHIEF JACOBSON: No, ma'am.

24                   COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. For --

25                   CHIEF JACOBSON: Did you mention the Chief by

1 the way?

2 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: I did.

3 ATTY. DUGAS: Oh, yeah.

4 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Yes.

5 CHIEF JACOBSON: Okay, thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Thank you.

7 ASSISTANT CHIEF COLON: Madam -- Madam Chair,  
8 Internal Affairs investigators. I believe you said  
9 backgrounds. I just wanted the record to reflect  
10 that.

11 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Oh, thank you. Thank you  
12 for that correction. Yes, Internal Affairs  
13 investigators.

14 And for the union I invite Attorney Mc --  
15 McEleney. I'm also going to invite President Cotto  
16 that I see here.

17 PRESIDENT COTTO: Madam Chair, Vice-President  
18 Lambe as well, Jonathan Lambe.

19 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. Anyone else from  
20 the union?

21 ATTY MCELENEY: Yes. Officer Jocelyn Lavandier  
22 is here in my office with me.

23 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. Certainly, we'll  
24 invite her in. Is there anyone else on the union  
25 side that needs to be invited in?

1                   ATTY. MCELENEY: No.

2                   UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: No.

3                   COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. Thank you very  
4 much.

5                   CHIEF JACOBSON: President Cotto, was Lambe  
6 under his name on this? I didn't see him.

7                   PRESIDENT COTTO: Yes, he is. Thank you, sir.

8                   COMMISSIONER RIBIERO: Okay. All right. So, I  
9 enter -- with that being said, I will then entertain  
10 a motion to go into Executive Session on a  
11 consideration and vote on the recommendation from  
12 Chief Karl Jacobson to terminate Officer Jocelyn  
13 Lavandier, Internal Affairs Investigation 22I-046.  
14 Is there a motion?

15                   COMMISSIONER WALKER: I make a motion that we go  
16 into Executive Session to act on Chief -- the Chief's  
17 recommendation for the termination of Officer Jocelyn  
18 Lavandier.

19                   COMMISSIONER MEARES: Second.

20                   COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. We have a motion  
21 made by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner  
22 Meares. Any discussion? Okay. Seeing none, all  
23 those in favor signify by saying, aye.

24                   COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

25                   COMMISSIONER MIRNADA: Aye.

1 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Opposed? Abstentions?  
2 Motion carries. Sotonye, did you get the list of  
3 people that are invited in? Or do we need to -- for  
4 me to repeat it? And also the --

5 MS. OTUNBA-PAYNE: I -- I got the list. Thank  
6 you so much, Madam --

7 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Eva, did you get the list  
8 or do you need me to --

9 MS. PERRY-LAMBERT: I -- I got everybody.

10 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay.

11 MS. PERRY-LAMBERT: Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: So you can start letting  
13 us into the room. Thank you.

14 **(Whereupon, the Board went into executive session at**  
15 **6:08 p.m.)**

16 COMMISSIONER MEARES: I move we come out of  
17 executive session.

18 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I'll second that.

19 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. We have a motion  
20 and a second to come out of executive session. Any  
21 discussion? All of those in favor of the motion,  
22 signify by saying, aye.

23 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Aye.

24 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

25 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye..

1 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Aye.

2 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Opposed? Abstentions?

3 Motion carry.

4 **(Whereupon, the Board exited executive session at 9:16 p.m.)**

5 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Commissioners, what is  
6 your pleasure?

7 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Madam Chair, I'll make a  
8 recommendation that we table the Chief's  
9 recommendation to terminate Jocelyn Lavandier.

10 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Is that a --

11 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Second.

12 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Is that a motion or  
13 recommendation, sir?

14 COMMISSIONER WALKER: It's a motion.

15 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay.

16 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Second.

17 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: There's a motion to  
18 table and a second. Any discussion? All those in  
19 favor, signify by saying, aye.

20 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Aye.

21 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye.

22 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Aye.

23 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

24 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Opposed? Abstentions?

25 Motion carry to table. Commissioners, what is your

1 pleasure?

2 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Madam Chair, I move we --  
3 we recess this meeting subject to the call of the  
4 chair.

5 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I'll second that.

6 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. We have a motion  
7 to recess this meeting until a later time based on  
8 the call of the chair. And we have proper second.  
9 Is there any discussion? Seeing none, all those in  
10 favor, signify by saying aye.

11 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Aye.

12 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

13 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye.

14 COMMISSIONER MEARES: Aye.

15 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Opposed. Abstentions?  
16 The motion carry for recess. I thank everyone for  
17 coming this evening. We are in recess until a later  
18 date to be determined and everyone will be advised of  
19 that date. Thank you for coming and have a great  
20 evening.

21 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Thank you. Good night.

22 ATTY. DUGAS: Thank you.

23 **(Whereupon, the Board adjourned at 9:20 p.m.)**

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I hereby certify the foregoing pages are a true and correct transcription of the audio recording of the above-referenced case, heard at the New Haven Police Department, in New Haven, before the New Haven Board of Police Commissioners, on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023 via Zoom videoconference and conference call.

Dated this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023 in New Haven, Connecticut.


  
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Sotonye Otunba-Payne

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