

REGULAR SESSION
MAY 9, 2023
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND CONFERENCE CALL VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Commissioners Darrell Brooks; Michael Lawlor; Isaias Miranda; Evelise Ribeiro; and Donald Walker

Chief Karl Jacobson: Department of Police Service
Assistant Chief Manmeet Colon: Department of Police Service
Assistant Chief Bertram Ettienne: Department of Police Service
Assistant Chief David Zannelli: Department of Police Service
Lieutenant Dana Smith: Department of Police Service
Sergeant Yelena Borisova: Department of Police Service
Sergeant Paul Finch: Department of Police Service
Sergeant Rose Melendez: Department of Police Service
Officer D. Cohen: Department of Police Service
Officer Jocelyn Lavandier: Department of Police Service
Officer McGlotten: Department of Police Service
Asia Johnson-Clark: Administrative Assistant
Eva Perry-Lambert: Administrative Assistant

Chief Anthony Campbell: Yale Police Department
Floyd Dugas, Esquire: Counsel for the Department
Michelle Duprey, Esquire: Deputy Corporation Counsel
Steven McEleney, Esquire: Counsel for the Elm City Local
Regina Rush-Kittle: Chief Administrative Officer
Florencio Cotto: President of Elm City Local
Jonathan Lambe: Vice-President of Elm City Local

Gerald Antunes: Alder
John Doe
Nora Grace-Flood
Sergeant Christopher Halstead: Yale Police Department
Miosonti Hueca
Daniel Hunt
Investigative Services
Michael Morales
Aron Ntokaiti
Miguel Pittman, Sr.
Jamil Saffa
Franco Valcareel
Betsy's
Dad's iPhone
JL

Sotonye Otunba-Payne
Court Reporters' Office
235 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510

1 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. Good evening,
2 everyone. It is 6:01 p.m. And I will call to order
3 the Board of Police Commissioners' Regular meetings.
4 Just to note, there will be no traffic meeting this
5 evening. So we will go straight into the
6 commissioners' meeting.

7 So do note, this is a regular meeting. So we do
8 have items on the agenda, but we will try to move
9 through them expeditiously to get to the matter of
10 the hearing.

11 So, Commissioners, first thing I'd like to do is
12 entertain a motion for approval of the agenda for
13 tonight's meeting, May 9th, 2023.

14 COMMISSIOINER MIRANDA: So moved. Commissioner
15 Miranda.

16 COMMISSSIONER WALKER: Second.

17 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. It looks like it
18 was moved Commissioner Miranda and seconded by
19 Commissioner Walker. All those in favor, signify by
20 saying, aye.

21 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

22 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Aye.

23 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Aye.

24 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye.

25 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Any abstentions? Motion

1 carry.

2 Let me just go back. My apologies. For the
3 record, in attendance: Myself, Commissioner Ribeiro,
4 Commissioner Miranda, Commissioner Walker,
5 Commissioner Lawlor and Commissioner Brooks. And
6 Commissioner Meares would not be joining us this
7 evening.

8 Okay. Moving on. Commissioners, I entertain a
9 motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of
10 April 11, 2023.

11 COMMISSIONER WALKER: So moved.

12 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Second.

13 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. It sounds like
14 Commissioner Walker moved. I'm not sure who
15 seconded.

16 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Commissioner Miranda.

17 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Thank you, sir. Okay.
18 It's been moved and properly second. Any discussion?
19 Okay. Seeing none, all those in favor of accepting
20 the minutes, please signify by saying, aye.

21 COMMISSINER WALKER: Aye.

22 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Aye.

23 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye.

24 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Aye.

25 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Opposed? Abstention?

1 Motion carry. I then entertain a Motion to Approve
2 the Special Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2023.

3 COMMISSIONER WALKER: So moved.

4 **(There was feedback.)**

5 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: I'm sorry, I didn't catch
6 that.

7 COMMISSIONER WALKER: So moved. Commissioner
8 Walker.

9 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Second. Commissioner
10 Brooks.

11 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. Thank you. Any
12 discussion? All right. Seeing none, all those in
13 favor, please signify by saying, aye.

14 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Aye.

15 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

16 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye.

17 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Aye.

18 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Opposed? Abstentions?
19 Motion carry. And, Sotonye, I trust you got all of
20 that?

21 MS. OTUNBA-PAYNE: Yes, ma'am. Thank you. Oh,
22 yes, Chair, Madam Commissioner. Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: All right. Thank you.
24 Okay. So we'll move into the Chief's Report.

25 CHIEF JACOBSON: Yeah, there won't be a Chief's

1 Report -- Report this evening, ma'am.

2 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. Thank you, sir.
3 So we'll move forward into Internal Affairs Report.

4 LIEUTENANT SMITH: Good evening, Madam Chair, we
5 are going to forego the IA Report as well.

6 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Just for the record, the
7 Commission did receive the report. And we have
8 reviewed it. So, but -- but thank you for that,
9 Lieutenant.

10 LIEUTENANT SMITH: You are welcome, ma'am.
11 Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: All right. So we'll move
13 forward to Personnel Matters. We have three issues
14 to discuss for Personnel Matters. The first will be the
15 discussion and action for the recommendation from
16 Chief Anthony Campbell, Yale Police Department, to
17 hire Candidate Officer Benny Hines, to the Yale
18 Police Department. I thought I saw Chief Campbell.

19 CHIEF CAMPBELL: Good evening, Commissioners.
20 Can you hear me?

21 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Yes, we can.

22 CHIEF CAMPBELL: First and foremost, I just want
23 to thank you as the Chair of the Board of Police
24 Commissioners for having me once again. It has been
25 our goal to hire the -- the best we can from the

1 community. And Bennett Hines is definitely one of
2 the best members of not just the community, but the
3 law enforcement community.

4 I've known him for well over 25 years. He is a
5 phenomenal police officer. He's gone through our
6 entire process. I believe the commissioners or at
7 least a few of you have had the honor and privilege
8 of interviewing him and talking with him. And I
9 think he will be a great asset to the Yale University
10 Police Department. He brings with him a wealth of
11 knowledge. And I think he'll be greatly received to
12 the department and will help the mission of our
13 department and this city to keep moving forward in
14 public safety.

15 COMMISSINER RIBEIRO: Okay. Thank you, sir.
16 And, yes, the committee did have an opportunity to --
17 to speak with Officer Hines. It was a very good and
18 informative interview. I don't know if Commissioner
19 Lawlor wanted to add anything.

20 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: See if I was muted. Yeah.
21 I was just very impressed with the officer. And as I
22 mentioned during our -- our interview, the NHPD loss
23 is the YPD gain. And they are lucky to get him. He
24 had a distinguished career with NHPD and -- but the
25 good news is he'll still be in our city. And,

1 hopefully, he'll continue to work together with his
2 former colleagues and NHPD. And I'm very confident
3 he will.

4 And, Chief Campbell, I think you made a good
5 choice here. I think this is going to really work
6 out for Yale as well.

7 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. Yes, I agree. At
8 some point we are going to have to tell Chief
9 Campbell to stop taking all -- all of our good
10 people.

11 CHIEF CAMPBELL: You are going to put a cap on
12 it. Yep.

13 COMMISSINER RIBEIRO: Yeah, I have to put a cap
14 on how many you can -- you can have per -- per year.

15 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Unless it's compensatory
16 draft picks or something, you know.

17 CHIEF CAMPBELL: Exactly. Right.

18 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: All right, thank you.
19 So, Commissioners, what is your pleasure on the
20 recommendation?

21 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: I move we approve Chief's
22 Campbell's request to hire Officer Hines.

23 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I'll second that.

24 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. We have a motion
25 by Commissioner Lawlor, and a second by Commissioner

1 Walker. Any discussion? Seeing none, all those in
2 favor, please signify by saying, aye.

3 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Aye.

4 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye.

5 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Aye.

6 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

7 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Opposed? Motion carry.

8 Congratulations, Officer Hines. And Chief Campbell
9 and your entire department, congratulations.

10 CHIEF CAMPBELL: Thank you, Commissioners. I
11 appreciate you always. Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Moving on to Personnel
13 Matter No. 2. Discussion and action on the
14 recommendation of Chief Karl -- Karl Jacobson to hire
15 the following candidates from Eligibility List #22-
16 68. Chief?

17 CHIEF JACOBSON: Yes. So we have eight fine
18 candidates here who, if you approve, will be going to
19 the New Britain Academy. This is a very diverse
20 group. I believe they speak nine different languages
21 between them all. I'm very proud of this group.

22 This is what diversity and New Haven residents --
23 there are some New Haven residents in here. And I'm
24 just very excited to present them. If you'd like, I
25 will read their names off or you guys can do it,

1 however you want to do it.

2 COMMISSIONR RIBEIRO: We are going to prefer --
3 Commissioners, I know that they -- they interview
4 them or we interview them. So are there any
5 comments? And then we can -- we can read the names
6 when we take the votes. Commissioners, any comments?

7 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Not this time.

8 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. All right. So if
9 we have comments or questions, what is your pleasure?
10 I'll entertain --

11 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: I --

12 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Go ahead, sorry.
13 Commissioner --

14 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: I'll just move that we
15 appoint the -- the individuals on the list provided
16 by the Chief as members of New Haven Police
17 Department on -- you know, subject to their
18 completion of the academy.

19 COMMISSINR RIBEIRO: Just, just I'm trying to
20 state your motion correctly. You're looking to
21 approve No. 20 Kaya Czwalinska, 22 Miosonti Hueca,
22 No. 29 Jamil Saffa, No.34 Joshua Zurita, No. 38
23 Michael Morales, No. 39 Aron Ntokaiti, No. 55 Rosa
24 Garcia, No. 61 Franco Valcareel. And if I didn't
25 pronounce anyone's name correctly, my apologies.

1 So we have a motion. Is there a second?

2 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: I'll second that, --

3 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Second --

4 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: -- Madam Chair.

5 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. We have a motion
6 and a second to move on the recommendation of Chief
7 Karl Jacobson to hire, excuse me, the candidates from
8 Eligibility List 22-68 as listed. All those in
9 favor, please signify by saying, aye.

10 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Aye.

11 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

12 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Aye.

13 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye.

14 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Opposed? Abstentions?
15 Motion carry. Congratulations to the new hires and
16 to the Chief and the Department.

17 Sergeant Finch, I know you and your staff did a
18 tremendous job in backgrounds to get these candidates
19 to where they are. So we thank all of you for -- for
20 your hard work.

21 Moving on to Personnel Matter No. 3.

22 Consideration on the recommendation from Chief Karl
23 Jacobson to terminate Officer Luis Rivera,, Internal
24 Affairs Investigation 22I-046.

25 So just so we know for the record, who will be

1 presenting for the Department?

2 ATTY. DUGAS: Commissioner, Attorney Floyd
3 Dugas.

4 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. And who do we have
5 representing Officer Rivera and the union?

6 ATTY. MCELENEY: Steven McEleney, special
7 counsel for the union on behalf of Luis Rivera.

8 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. Attorney McEleney
9 and Officer Rivera, would you like to have this in
10 open or closed session?

11 ATTY. MCELENEY: Closed session. By the way,
12 Officer Rivera is sitting to my right.

13 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. Okay. We have a
14 request to go into closed session. I just want to
15 be -- I just want to ask, who -- which side is
16 providing testimony? Attorney Dugas?

17 ATTY. DUGAS: Yeah, for -- on our side of course
18 we are going to have the Chief. We are going to have
19 Assistant Chief Colon. We are going to have Sergeant
20 Melendez. We are going to have Lieutenant Smith. Am
21 I missing anyone from IA?

22 ATTY. MCELENEY: Floyd, are those all testifying
23 or those are just present?

24 ATTY. DUGAS: They're -- they are present. And
25 in one form or another I believe most, if not all,

1 will testify albeit briefly.

2 COMMISSINER RIBEIRO: Okay. And, Attorney
3 McEleney, I'm assuming that you of course want
4 Officer Rivera in and the union. I see President
5 Cotto.

6 PRESIDENT COTTO: Vice-President Lambe.

7 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. Anyone else on the
8 union side?

9 ATTY. MCELENEY: I'm unaware of any. Florencio,
10 do you have anybody else?

11 PRESIDENT COTTO: No, that's -- that is it on
12 our side.

13 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay.

14 PRESIDENT COTTO: Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. So, I'll entertain
16 a motion to go into Executive Session to hear the
17 matter of -- the recommendation from Chief Karl
18 Jacobson to terminate Officer Luis Rivera. Is there
19 a --

20 COMMISSIOLNER WALKER: I motion --

21 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: -- motion?

22 COMMISSIONER WALKER: -- that we go into
23 Executive Session to act on Chief Jacobson's
24 recommendation to terminate Officer Luis Rivera.

25 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay.

1 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Second.

2 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. So we have a
3 motion and a second. And any discussion? Okay. All
4 those in favor, please signify by saying, aye.

5 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

6 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Aye.

7 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Aye.

8 COMMISSOINER MIRANDA: Aye.

9 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Opposed? Abstention?
10 Motion carry.

11 Okay. For the record, Eva, Sotonye, we are
12 going to let into -- invite into Executive Session
13 myself, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Walker,
14 Commissioner Lawlor, Commissioner Miranda, Chief
15 Jacobson, the assistant chiefs. I see Assistant
16 Chief Colon is here, Assistant Chief Zannelli and
17 Assistant Chief Ettienne.

18 We'll also invite CAO Regina Rush-Kittle. We'll
19 invite Lieutenant Smith, Attorney Duprey, Attorney
20 Dugas and Sergeant Melendez. And we'll also invite
21 Attorney McEleney who is in the room with Officer
22 Rivera, vice president -- I'm sorry, President Cotto.
23 I invite President John Lambe. I believe I have
24 everyone.

25 MS. OTUNBA-PAYNE: Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: You're welcome. And if
2 we can just be -- just be patient a minute because
3 it's quite a few that Eva is going to let in. So it
4 will probably take a minute or so.

5 **(Whereupon, the Board went into Executive Session at 6:16**
6 **p.m.)**

7 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. Good evening once
8 again, everyone. Commissioners, I entertain a motion
9 to come out of Executive Session.

10 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: So moved.

11 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Second.

12 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: I think that was
13 Commissioner Miranda and Commissioner Walker. Okay.

14 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Commissioner Brooks.

15 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Commissioner Brooks. My
16 apologies. Okay, any discussion? Okay. All those
17 in favor, signify by saying, aye.

18 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Aye.

20 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

21 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye.

22 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Opposed? Abstentions?

23 Motion carry.

24 **(Whereupon, the Board exited Executive Session at 8:33 p.m.)**

25 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Commissioners, on

1 Personnel Matter No. 3, consideration for the
2 recommendation from Chief Karl Jacobson to terminate
3 Officer Luis Rivera, Internal Affairs Investigation
4 22I-046, what is your pleasure?

5 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Madam Chair, I make a
6 motion that we table this item.

7 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Second.

8 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. We have a motion
9 by Commissioner Brooks and a second by Commissioner
10 Lawlor. Any discussion? Okay. All those in favor,
11 signify by saying, aye.

12 COMMISISONER WALKER: Aye.

13 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Aye.

14 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Aye.

15 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye.

16 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Opposed? Abstentions?
17 So, I -- I -- I did want to note, excuse me, for the
18 record and for the public, the commissioners have
19 essentially reserved the right to -- to table this
20 matter, to come back at a later date to vote on the
21 matter. So the of date that vote will be publicly
22 noticed and announced in advance as to when we will
23 reconvene to take this matter up for a vote. Thank
24 you.

25 And we'll move on the rest of the agenda. We

1 have retirements for Board information only, Officer
2 Benny Hines, effective April 30th, 2023. We have no
3 resignations.

4 Do we have a report from the
5 Recruitment/Selection Committee? Okay, no report.
6 Efficiency Committee? All right, no report.

7 Assistant Chief Ettienne: No report, ma'am.

8 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. Finance Committee?
9 No report. Do we have another business to discuss
10 this evening? Okay.

11 Do we have any public comments? Okay, seeing
12 none, Commissioners, is there a reason -- or,
13 Attorney Duprey, is there a reason to back into
14 executive session for any reason, or the Chief?

15 CHIEF JACOBSON: Not that I know of.

16 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Counsel.

17 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Commissioners, is there a
18 reason to go back into executive session for any
19 reason? Anything that needs to be discussed? Okay.
20 Seeing none, then I entertain a motion for
21 adjournment.

22 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I move the motion we
23 adjourn.

24 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Second.

25 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay. We have a motion

1 and a second for adjournment. Did you get that,
2 Sotonye? Did you get it?

3 MS. OTUNBA-PAYNE: Yes, ma'am. Commissioner
4 Walker moved and Commissioner Lawlor seconded.
5 And --

6 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Okay.

7 MS. OTUNBA-PAYNE: -- that's where we are.

8 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Perfect. Thank you.
9 With that being said, any discussion? Okay. Seeing
10 none, all those in favor of the motion to adjourn,
11 please signify by saying, aye.

12 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Aye.

13 COMMISSIONER LAWLOR: Aye.

14 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Aye.

15 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: Aye.

16 COMMISSIONER RIBEIRO: Opposed. Motion carry.

17 Thank you, everyone for your time. And everyone have
18 a pleasant rest of your evening and rest of the week.
19 Goodnight, everyone.

20 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Goodnight.

21 LIEUTENANT SMITH: Thank you.

22 ASSISTANT CHIEF COLON: Thank you, everyone.

23 **(Whereupon, the Board adjourned at 8:38 p.m.)**

24

25

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NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND CONFERENCE CALL VIA ZOOM

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 9th day of May, 2023 via Zoom videoconference and conference call.

Dated this 1st day of June, 2023 in New Haven,
Connecticut.



Sotonye Otunba-Payne

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