

**REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 13, 2024
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
AND THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY**

**NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND CONFERENCE CALL VIA ZOOM**

PRESENT: Commissioners Darrell Brooks (joined 6:26 p.m.); Michael Lawlor (joined 6:18 p.m.); Tracey Meares; Isais Miranda; Evelise Ribeiro; and Donald Walker

Chief Karl Jacobson: Department of Police Service
Assistant Chief Bertram Ettienne: Department of Police Service
Assistant Chief Manmeet Bhagtana: Department of Police Service
Lieutenant Jesse Agosto: Department of Police Service
Sergeant Paul Finch: Department of Police Service
Asia Johnson-Clark: Administrative Assistant

Michelle Duprey, Esquire: Deputy Corporation Counsel
Bruce Fischer: Traffic and Parking
Regina Rush-Kittle: Chief Administrative Officer

Gerald Antunes: Alder
Daniel Hunt
Migue Pittman, Sr.
Jake Siesel
Tyisha

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

The Traffic Authority meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Commissioner Evelise Ribeiro, Chair.

*Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that Commissioners Brooks and Walker would join the meeting later in the evening.

*Following the Regular Meeting of the Traffic Authority, Mr. Fischer excused himself at 6:11 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

The Regular Session meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners was called to order at 6:11 p.m., Evelise Ribeiro, Chair, presiding.

AGENDA

■ Commissioner Ribiero indicated that the she would like a motion to add Item No. 2 to the agenda under Personnel Matters that would read as follows: Chief Jacobson is requesting

approval for the Board to send one (1) conditional offer for employment for the position of Police Officer Eligibility List 22-68CR 1/11/24.

** Commissioner Walker moved to add Item 2 to the Agenda
** Commissioner Miranda seconded
** Motion passed unanimously

** Commissioner Miranda motioned to approve the Agenda for February 13, 2024
** Commissioner Meares seconded
** Motion passed unanimously

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that Commissioners Meares, Walker, Miranda and herself were present. As she had stated earlier, Commissioners Brooks and Lawlor would join a little later.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Discussion and Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2024

** Commissioner Meares motioned to Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2024
** Commissioner Walker seconded
** Motion passed unanimously

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Karl Jacobson

- Chief Jacobson exchanged pleasantries with everyone.
- He went to say that on this snowy day there were no major issues.
- The Sergeant's Test had been posted. The Department has a new company facilitating the tests. This will be good for the Department moving forward
- Back at the turn of the year, he had downgraded the number of district managers and dealt with some other issues in order to ensure that there was proper supervision on the streets.
- The hope is that upon receiving the results of the Sergeant's Test, 10 to 12 vacancies could be filled to put the Department back on the map again, so to speak, and in addition to filling out the district manager vacancies so that the Department could roll out more community events.
- The Sergeant's Test is being posted for two week. This will give the officers six weeks to prepare for the test. The test will take place the last week of March. In April the Commission would be interviewing the recommended officers and promoting them.
- Chief Jacobson further indicated that with the addition of the one conditional offer to the agenda, the Department would be asking for 41 conditional offers. From this list of 41 people, the hope is to get two people in Hartford in March, 10 or 15 people to POST and Milford in April.
- There will be another test scheduled for entry level police officers within the next two or three months in order to put another full academy through. Currently, there is an academy comprised of 18 people. The Department will continue to move forward and endeavor to fill

these 70-odd vacancies. Three more officers resigned thereby making the total number of vacancies 73.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro had asked him to go over transfers within the Department. Officer Torres was moved to a task force position with the DEA that week. Officer Bruckhart was moved to the Public Information Officer spot because Sergeant Carr who was previously in this position was needed as the Supervisor of the Special Victims Unit within the Investigative Services Division.

■ In addition, Officer Alethia Moore would be moving to a new position as a School Resource Officer. She resides in the city and grew up in the city. She attended Hill House and was a track star at Hill House.

■ Now, she will be back at the school as the School Resource Officer. This is kind of what the Department's vision is. She's been on for about four or five years. She graduated from the University of New Haven. She is a great fit as a School Resource Officer.

■ Chief Jacobson reported that he was excited about the numbers. Last year began poorly when it came to violent crimes. There were five homicides and 10 shootings by this time. This year is better with two homicides and two shootings. He attributed this to a lot of the hard work of the men and women of the Department as well as collaborations with Project Longevity, the Community Resilience Team and the city's Youth Department. Everyone is working together. Everybody is identifying who is at risk to be a shooter and who is at risk to be shot. As a result, the Department is making some good strides related to violent crimes this year.

■ One homicide is too many but they needed to get this under control to get to a place where people feel safe in the city.

■ Commissioner Walker inquired about contract negotiations.

■ Chief Jacobson responded by saying that he felt that they were in better place than they were two months ago. He could divulge much about the negotiations, understandably. He had seen signs that they may be at the end.

■ He was of the belief that there would be a pause in retirements until officers find out what is going on with the contract.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro asked how many officers would be promoted upon receipt of the test results .

■ Chief Jacobson indicated that there were 12 vacancies. However, they would have to look at how the divisions would be affected. If half of those come from the Detective Bureau and half come from Patrol, they could possibly promote up to 12. If the list shows that most of the officers are from Patrol, that would be too much of a strain on Patrol and vice versa. If the list shows most are from the Detective Bureau, to promote 12 would create too much strain on the Detective Bureau.

■ The good news is that they have a new testing company that would move from the Sergeant's Test to the Captain's Test. In the fall, they will have the Lieutenant's Test. In November/December they will schedule the Detective's Test. The goal is to have an active list going all the times.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro thanked Chief Jacobson for the updates. It's important for the Commission to know about the movements within the Department. They would be expecting regular updates regarding movements.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro asked when the change became effective for the Public Information Officer.

- Chief Jacobson responded by saying that this began on Monday, 2/12.2024. Officer Bruckhart would work with Sergeant Carr for two weeks. He would be on his own the first week of March.
- Commissioner Ribeiro asked if Sergeant Carr was doing double work. Chief Jacobson indicated that Sergeant Carr was getting her feet wet. She is the type of person that cannot be kept in one position. She is a great boss.
- Commissioner Miranda asked that the movements within the Department be e-mailed to commissioners as well.
- Chief Jacobson indicated he would do so. He further indicated that he was glad that Commissioner Ribeiro brought that to his attention because Officer Moore's story about growing up in the city, becoming of a police officer, attending University of New Haven and becoming an SRO at her alma mater is the type of story the Department needs to put out there. This is what was discussed with his team from the onset when he became chief. He was happy to report about one of their vision's coming to fruition.
- Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that it was important for the Board to know when movements occur within the Department. She also felt it was important to know about positive movements. The Board should also know about movements that are not so positives so they could discuss them.
- Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that Commissioner Lawlor had joined the meeting as of 6:18 p.m.
- Commissioner Miranda indicated that the story about Officer Moore should be published in the New Haven Independent soon.
- Chief Jacobson responded by saying it was a good point and concurred.
- Commissioner Lawlor apologized for being late. He indicated that he was teaching.
- Commissioner Lawlor indicated that he noticed that the CompStat numbers indicate a significant uptick related to auto thefts. He asked if it was the sense of his folks was that there is a specific thing driving this. He asked if was still Kias and Hyundais for the most part that were being stolen. Apparently, the steps have moved from the suburbs back to cities. He asked if there was anything about that that might explain why it's so high.
- Chief Jacobson replied by saying that the recent CompStat package shows it is up five percent from last year. Last year was high. So there are 122 motor vehicle thefts at this point in the year. There were 116 motor vehicle thefts at this same time last year. So there's not a huge increase but still an increase. It is still Kias and Hyundais. These cars are being recovered quicker due to the Department's technology.
- Juveniles that have multiple car thefts are being detained for a couple of weeks. More importantly, they are giving more attention to the offenders through Juvenile Probation. He just had a meeting with Juvenile Probation about attacking this problem with more outreach on the other side of court. They are giving auto thefts more attention. Juvenile Probation reached out the city's Youth Department to talk about ways they can help as well.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT

Lieutenant Jessie Agosto

- Lieutenant Agosti began by saying that there had been 19 complaints as of February 13, 2024 that had been assigned. At the same time last year there were eight complaints. There has been

a bit of an increase. The majority of the complaints were miscellaneous that didn't quite fit into any of the categories.

- There were also five neglective duties. Those would be the two top contenders for the complaints that have come in.
- In addition, there have been six closures since the last Board meeting.

IA Case No. 22C-004: This was received on January 10, 2022. The complainant is Latisha Council. The complaint was against Sgt. Criscuolo. The complainant stated that she was pushed and assaulted by Sgt. Criscuolo while he was effecting an arrest on her sister. This was reviewed by the use-of-force instructor who determined that the force was reasonable. In addition, the body-worn camera footage and police reports were reviewed. It was determined that the incident was within the New Haven Police Department's policies and procedures. The investigation was determined to be unfounded.

IA Case No. 23C-002: The complaint was received on January 2nd, 2024. The complainant, Anna Noray, alleged that Sgt. Canning was uneducated about the complaint process because he was not helpful to her as she filed her civilian complaint. It was a 17- page packet. At the time the complainant showed up to submit her papers at the Internal Affairs office, the office was close. Sgt Canning did not want the complainant to slide the paperwork under the door fearing that there would be some missing pages. So he just advised her to come back at a time when the Internal Affairs office would be open. The complainant was contacted and she stated she did not want the officer to get in trouble. She withdrew her complaint.

- Commissioner Meares asked if Lieutenant Agosto thought it was appropriate that it was incumbent on the complainant filing a big package to return when the Internal Affairs office is open under the circumstances.
- Chief Jacobson replied by saying that they would look into that. They would need some kind of repository. There used to be a mail box opening in the Internal Affairs office door. He thought of that as Lieutenant Agosto was reading the complaint. They will get back to that. It would either be a repository or a lock box.
- Commissioner Meares responded by saying absolutely. That's not just okay.
- Chief Jacobson concurred.

IA Case No. 23C-003: This was received on January 3, 2023. The complaint alleged that Officers Kunz and Reynolds arrested him against his will while in the care of American Medical Response. This occurred after officers were dispatched to a breach of peace complaint. Upon reviewing the body-worn camera and the officers' reports, it was determined the officers followed policies and procedures and that there was probable cause for his arrest. The investigation closed as unfounded.

IA Case No. 23C-025: This was received on April 18, 2023. The complainant, Lorianne Hernandez, was displeased that the person that crashed into vehicle was not arrest. She further claimed that Officers Nguyen and Tudor did not do their jobs and that Officer Tudor was rude to her. Sgt. Melendez spoke with Ms. Hernandez. That was how she was able to determine which officer allegedly was rude to her and also threatened to arrest her. Upon review of the body-worn camera footage, it was determined that did not happen. It was also determined to be unfounded.

IA Case No. 23C-054: This was received on September 26, 2023. The complainant, Morris Harris, filed his complaint after his arrest for an assault that occurred at the public library downtown. He stated that the officers did not properly investigate the incident and that he was unlawfully arrested and that his constitutional rights were violated. Officers' body-worn cameras as well as police reports were reviewed. It was determined that the New Haven Police Department's policies and procedures were followed. And the investigation was determined to be find Officer Brandy exonerated.

IA Case No. 24C-009: This was received on January 9, 2024. The complainant indicated that he was involved in a motor vehicle accident. He alleged that Officer Canace did not watch video footage from a Tesla that he was driving and found him at fault for the accident. Officer Canace reviewed of the camera footage two times and it clearly showed that he was at fault for the accident. So the incident deemed unfounded.

■ Commissioner Meares stated she had a number of questions. With respect to the first case involving the situation with the sister being pushed, this is less of a question about the investigation and more about how training is done. She was unsure if Lt. Agosto was the right person to respond to her inquiry. It's one thing to say that a use of force is consistent with policy. It's a different issue to say that even though something is consistent with policy, it's avoidable. Usually, when trying to do the avoidable thing, it's not so much policy but it's a training issue. And we've just been going through this in Baltimore. This was why it was at the top of her mind. She wondered in a context like this, where you find that the person acted within policy but potentially could have done things so the incident just didn't happen, whether the Department does that kind of counseling in any of kind of use-of-force situation especially in a context in which the person is not actually the target.

■ Lieutenant Agosto indicated that in this particular case she was in effect interfering. The officers were trying to effect an arrest on her sister for domestic. Her sister was being combative at the time. She was pushed out of the way so that they could execute the arrest after being told numerous times to back away so they could do their job. Actually, Assistant Chief Bhagtana was the investigator in this case so she had a lot of details for the Commission.

■ Commissioner Meares indicated she was less interested about this particular case. She was more interested in the training. She thought there was a constant issue in terms of teaching people exactly what is permissible. There is also a different issue of, you know, regardless of what's permissible, there should be a general encouragement to avoid intrusions if you are talking about searches or avoid use of force overall or whatever. It seemed to her the context in which someone has actually engaged in a use of force that's proper is also a training opportunity to say and also these are the things you potentially could have done just to not be in this situation. Just how do you do that as a general matter is what she was asking.

■ Chief Jacobson stated that every single use of force is reviewed by IA and Training. So even if there were no complaints, every single use of force is reviewed. The review is conducted by the use-of-force trainer at the academy and someone from IA. They are reviewed separately. Suggestions, trainings, etc., are all taken into account when the review occurs.

■ The only case off the top of his head was the Santiago case where he kicked the person handcuffed. Before that complaint came in, that was picked up. Also, those opportunities that Commissioner Meares spoke about are used to sit down with the officer to say, hey, I know you

are able to use force here, but let's use de-escalation methods here. The quick answer is, yes, they do that but Department also double do it. They do it with IA and they do it with training regarding every single use of force, not just complaints.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that she had a question before Commissioner Meares moved on to her second question. She asked if the review is done only when a case is sustained or all case that involve use of force.

■ Chief Jacobson indicated the review occurs for every single use-of-force incident regardless of whether it is a case or not.

■ Commissioner Meares indicated that her second question had to do with the complaints about rudeness. She recalled doing an analysis of NHPD complaints. She could not how long ago she did the analysis. A whole bunch of the complaints were rudeness complaints. She would love to see like a three-year retrospective on just the percentage of rudeness and just what is happening with these complaints. She was struck by that because it's useful to talk about how many complaints you have year to year. As the chief knows, she is not a huge fan of year-to-year comparisons. It tells you something. In particular, rudeness complaints could be an interesting barometer not only about what the Department is doing but people's willingness to actually engage. So it's not necessarily a bad thing when those kinds of complaints go up because they can actually be an indicator of trust. So, she would like to see it.

■ Chief Jacobson reiterated what Commissioner Meares's request was, three years of statistics related to rudeness complaints.

■ Commissioner Meares indicated that she just did not want numbers but also the percentage of rudeness and in terms of the Department's overall complaints.

■ Lt. Agosto added that it would be easy to do as the Department does keep statistics on the individual types of complaints. She could go back and get those numbers easily for Commissioner Meares.

■ Commissioner Meares thanked Lt. Agosto.

■ Lt. Agosto indicated that there had been five use-of-force incidents two of which were display of a firearm and three were hands-on. So as those statistics continue to come, they will update. This concluded her report.

■ Commissioner Meares indicated that she would like to get an update on the reports related to the open cases particularly the ones that go back like 2021. She felt the commissioners would like to know what those cases are and the status of those cases.

■ Lt. Agosto indicated that she had just finished up case reviews. So she would put a summary together and sent it to the commissioners.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro noted for the record that Commissioner Brooks had joined the meeting.

■ Commissioner Brooks apologized for his tardiness. He asked if the commissioners could no longer get those open IA cases.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that she had spoken to the chiefs about that. She also had conversations with Attorney Duprey concerning this. She asked Attorney Duprey if this was the appropriate time to address this matter.

■ Attorney Duprey asked which aspect she should address.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that open IA cases were not given to the commissioners because they were something that could not be discussed in open session.

- Commissioner Brooks indicated that Commissioner Ribeiro. It just seemed to him that it should be in the purview of this Commission to review those open items and/or to at least see them so there is an element of transparency. If they have to be discussed in executive session, that's another conversation. He just wanted to understand the reason the Commission no longer receives the complete IA Reports.
- Chief Jacobson responded by saying that they used to be discussed in executive sessions but the attorney's opinion was that that could be open to FOI. He could not remember the reason why it was stopped.
- Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that that was her recollection.
- Commissioner Meares indicated that any of the commissioners could view these reports at the Department.
- Attorney Duprey indicated that she would have to look back to refresh her memory. However, she believed the chief was right that it was around FOI concerns. She would review her notes and discuss it later.
- Commissioner Meares also implored Attorney Duprey to confirm it is not that the commissioners cannot see them, it's just about giving them here at the meetings. Commissioners could still go to the Department to review the IA open cases.
- Commissioner Ribeiro added that part of this was that the Commission does not have a list nor does it know what is still pending.
- Commissioner Meares asked why the Commission could not have the list.
- Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that in the past they got all reports. Since the commissioners do not know what is still pending, they do not know what to ask.
- Chief Jacobson added that open cases were discussed in executive session. Attorney Duprey told the Department not to do it. He was willing to send a brief correspondence regarding the open cases but they would be subject to FOI.
- Commissioner Brooks indicated that it would be helpful for him to understand at least the reasoning especially if it is a matter that is going to be litigated or information that is requested.
- Attorney Duprey stated that she would have to look back at her notes and follow-up at the next meeting.
- Commissioner Brooks thanked Attorney Duprey.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

1. Chief Karl Jacobson is requesting approval by the Board of Police Commissioners to send 40 Conditional Offers of employment for the position of Police Officer Eligibility List 22-68CR 02/12/24

Chief Jacobson indicated that there would be in total 41 conditional offers so that background checks could begin.

- ** Commissioner Walker motioned to approve the Chief's request to send 40 conditional offers of employment from the Eligibility List 22-68CR 02/12/24
- ** Commissioner Miranda seconded

Commissioner Ribeiro stated that for everyone's edification, the date regarding the eligibility list is the date Civil Service Board approved the list.

** Motion passed unanimously

2. Chief Karl Jacobson is requesting approval by the Board of Police Commissioners to send 1 (one) Conditional Offers of employment for the position of Police Officer Eligibility List 22-68CR 01/11/24

** Commissioner Walker motioned to approve the Chief 's request to send 1 (one) conditional offer of employment from the Eligibility List 22-68CR 01/11/24

** Commissioner Brooks seconded

Commissioner Ribeiro explained that the Civil Service Board met yesterday to certify a list of 40 which was probably sent to the commissioners today by Sgt. Finch. It was already on the agenda last week. However, it was brought to her attention that there was a list that was certified in January, 2024 that had one person who was inadvertently not afforded a conditional offer. It is a running list but there are two separate lists. This is the reason there are two items under Personnel Matters. They just need to be exact as to which lists the offers are being made.

** Motion passed unanimously

RETIREMENTS (For Board information only)

RESIGNATIONS (For Board information only)

Officer Jonathan Escobar, eff., January 26, 2024

Officer Nicholas Sevetz, eff., January 29, 2024

Officer Jean Naubert, eff., January 31, 2024

- Commissioner Walker asked how many years of seniority these officers had.
- Assistant Chief Bhagtana responded by saying less than three years and some of them less than a year.
- Chief Jacobson added that two of them just got off FTO two months ago and four months ago, and Officer Escobar had just less than three years. Officer Escobar went to the Connecticut State Police. One of the other two officers went to the North Haven Police Department and the other went to the East Hartford Police Department. They all cited salaries, better benefit packages, etc., etc.
- Commissioner Walker asked if the city would be reimbursed. He knew it was by state statutes.
- Chief Jacobson replied by saying, yes. Assistant Chief Bhagtana is very good at handing the billable before they leave the Department. It's \$4,000 per officer. He does not need to tell the Commission that this is way less than the time and money expended to train these officers. This is a problem. He has been discussing this issue with Mayor Elicker and the Elm City Local President about getting salaries up and the contract done.
- Commissioner Walker asked if the city's legislative liaison was pushing New Haven legislators to revisit that so the Department could get reimbursed more when these officers leave.
- Commissioner Meares asked where the number, \$4,000, come from.

- Chief Jacobson indicated that a study was done which reported that it costs \$23,000 or something like that. It's on the list of things to push. He would look into this.
- Commissioner Walker added that when this came to a vote in the past before the legislators, it had always been the smaller towns against the largest cities in the state. So as part of that the city should be trying convince the other cities to buy into this too in an attempt to make this more equitable and to afford the cities opportunities to recoup some of the investments in these officers.
- Chief Jacobson agreed.

RECRUITMENT/SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Assistant Chief Bhagtana

- Assistant Chief Bhagtana indicated that Sgt. Finch had to step off.
- She stated that Sgt. Finch would just like to thank the Civil Service Board for having the special meeting yesterday to certify the list of the 40 people. He also thanked the Board of Police Commissioners for approving the list to send out the conditional offers.
- Conditional offers would be sent out this week by Human Resources. The applicants will have a deadline to accept the conditional offers. And once the deadline closes, the background process would begin. The background process start at the packets come in. They hire through Civil Service rules so anyone that is hired will be hired in accordance with the rules.
- Recruitment is ongoing. The plan is to begin another round of testing at the end of April or early May through South Central. The recruitment team will attend career fairs at local high schools and colleges that are coming up this spring.
- If those present know of anyone interested in recruitment, Sgt. Finch is always available. If you have any other questions regarding recruitments or backgrounds, she would be happy to answer.
- Commissioner Ribeiro stated that she had mentioned to Sgt. Finch maybe about a week or so ago about looking into advertising with the Department of Labor. She gets those e-mails regularly about jobs. She was surprised to get an e-mail advertising Bridgeport Police Department was recruiting. She suggested to Sgt. Finch that this something they should look into. New Haven needs to get on board with that. The team is doing a great job, not to take away from anything else the team is doing. It just another avenue to reach more people with these mass e-mails.
- Assistant Chief Bhagtana indicated she would follow-up. She recalled seeing the e-mail from Commissioner Ribeiro.
- Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that Assistant Chief Bhagtana should keep the Board informed about this.
- Chief Jacobson said that they would take any suggestions.

EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE REPORT

- Commissioner Meares indicated there was nothing to report.
- Commissioner Ribiero asked for updates on the General Orders.
- Assistant Chief Bhagtana indicated that they were in the process of amending some General Orders. They would like to get them to the Commission in the next week or so. They have

search and seizure, use of force and potentially they need to amend something for the warrant one. And the chief is still signing directives and special orders as well. Those should have been e-mailed to the Board.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated she remembered getting an e-mail. She thanked Assistant Chief Bhagtana and Lieutenant Agosto regarding a couple of the General Orders and Special Orders and memos that were sent for accreditation related to Tier 1. What she is waiting for is a comprehensive list.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro explained that the Commission received a comprehensive list last year with all the General Orders and the status of each of them in terms of what was revised, the date it was revised, what needed to be done, what was turned into Special Order a memo.

Commissioner Ribeiro also added that if there needs to be a meeting to go over this, they could.

■ Commissioner Meares is also looking for this comprehensive list so that, as a member of the committee, she could know what the next step is for her.

■ Chief Jacobson updated the Commission regarding the Teir I accreditation. They would be meeting with POST on February 21, 2024. The hope is to get the Tier 1 accreditation around that time, if not that day, shortly thereafter. Then they would be working on Teir II which is another two-year process.

■ Commissioner Meares indicated there was a separate issue that the chair was speaking to which is apart from the Tiers for POST, they wanted to make sure that the Commission is just basically taking a look at really the whole book of orders, some of them haven't been reviewed in a long time. And so if we have ones that are really, really old, the Commission just wants to look at them and not have things signed from four chiefs ago.

■ Chief Jacobson agreed. In addition, four chiefs ago is only three years.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that they are getting the Finance Committee up and running. She met with Assistant Chief Bhagtana, Chief Jacobson and Lisa Mezzanotte. She asked what Ms. Mezzanotte's position was.

■ Assistant Chief Bhagtana indicated she is the Supervisor of Management Services. She manages accounts payable, payroll, bills, etc.

■ Chief Jacobson said she pays the bills.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that she met with them a couple of weeks ago to talk about the Finance Committee. She gave them an idea of what the Commission would be looking for. Essentially, she shared with them a report that used be done by the previous chairs of the Finance Committee. They got information that mirrored that report which was sent to the Commission today.

■ The Finance Committee should be looking at overtime.

■ If everyone looks at the report there is mention of the property room at the warehouse that was worked on and completed, and overtime. It looks like the Department was about one million dollars under budget. She asked if she was reading it correctly. She also wanted to update the Commission regarding the roof project that's being completed at the PD. They are looking at the other structures, the substations. One structure needs new roofing. The Animal Shelter needs renovations.

OTHER BUSINESS

Election of Chair

Election of Vice Chair

Appointment of the Clerk/Secretary

Appointment of the following committees:

1. Efficiency
2. Finance
3. Recruitment and Selection
4. Bylaws and Rules of order

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that per the bylaw the Commission has to elect its chair and Vice Chair. The other positions are appointed. She opened the floor for nominations and election of Chair and Vice Chair.

Nominations and Election of the Chair

■ Commissioner Brooks nominated Commissioner Evelise Ribeiro to be the Chair of the Police Commission.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro thanked Commissioner Brooks. She asked if there were any other nominations three times. Nomination was closed. She accepted Commissioner Brook's nomination.

** Commissioner Meares moved that the commissioners vote on the nomination made by Commissioner Brooks to vote for Commissioner Evelise Ribeiro to be Chair of the New Haven Board of Police Commissioners

** Commissioner Brooks seconded

** Motion passed unanimously

■ Commissioner Ribeiro thanked everyone for their support through the years and the upcoming year. She was excited to be here.

■ Mr. Miguel Pittman congratulated Commissioner Ribeiro.

Nominations and Election of the Vice Chair

■ Commissioner Lawlor indicated that before announcing his nomination he just wanted to say what an honor and a pleasure it has been working with all of the commissioners at this. I think everybody brings a very unique experience and perspective to our deliberations. And he had been on the Commission for like two and a half years. It has really been a pleasure especially because he could sense the progress that Department had made and working in collaboration with the leaders, the chief and the assistant chiefs. It is very reassuring to him as a citizen as a of New Haven. He wanted to say how much he has enjoyed talking and working with all.

■ Commissioner Lawlor went to say that his purpose was to nominate Commissioner Don Walker to be the Vice Chair of the Commission. He has been in this role for a while. When it first became a possibility for him to be a member of the Commission, Commissioner Walker reached out to him. They went to dinner during which Commissioner Walker filled him in on all of the procedural stuff he should be aware of. And he has been a mentor in many respects as

they go through this. He has known Commissioner Walker and his wife, Toni, his former colleague, for many, many years. It's been a pleasure. He's just a phenomenal leader in our community.

■ He thought they were very lucky to have him as part of the process. In the occasional absence of you, Madam Chair, Commissioner Walker has filled in ably. And he looked forward to his leadership and Commissioner Ribeiro's leadership over the next year or two.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro thanked Commissioner Lawlor.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro called for other nominations three times.

** Commissioner Brooks motioned to close on the nominations.

** Commissioner Meares seconded

** The motion passed unanimously

** Commissioner Lawlor motioned to appointment Commissioner Walker as the Vice Chair

** Commissioner Brooks seconded

** The motion passed unanimously

■ Commissioner Walker stated he wanted to say thanked Commissioner Lawlor for his comments. He thanked the commissioners for the work that they have been doing for the last few years. It has been great working with everyone. The Commission has gotten better and has accomplished a lot of things. However, they had more to do. There is progress and movement in the right direction. Again, everyone on the Commission has worked hard in their respective capacities to make this an outstanding Commission. He thanked everyone for allowing him to work with them.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that she meant no disrespect to the prior commissioners. She has been on the board for like an eternity. She would like to say that this particular Commission has been a pleasure to work with. They had accomplished a lot of things. Like Commissioner Lawlor said, they all bring a different set of expertise to the table which she thoroughly enjoys. She could certainly count on others and call on each commissioner at any time. She appreciates each and every one of the commissioners and everyone at the Department. She was looking forward to working with the team

Clerk/Secretary

■ Commissioner Riveiro appointed Ms. Asia Johson-Clark to continue as the Secretary/Clerk for the Board. She asked if Ms. Johnson-Clark accepted.

■ Ms. Johnson-Clark said she accepted.

Efficiency Committee

■ Commissioner Ribeiro appointed Commissioners Meares, Lawlor and Walker. She asked if they accepted the appointment

■ Commissioners Walker, Meares and Lawlor accepted.

Finance Committee

■ Commissioner Ribeiro appointed Commissioners Miranda and Brooks. She asked if they accepted the appointment. Commissioners Brooks and Miranda accepted.

Recruitment and Selection Committee

■ Commissioner Ribeiro appointed Commissioners Lawlor, Miranda and Walker. She asked if they accepted the appointment.
■ Commissioners Lawlor, Miranda and Walker accepted.

Bylaws and Rules of Order

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated she would not make any appointments at this time. However, she wants the Commission to review the bylaws. It’s been about three years since an update was done. She will be reaching out to different members. If someone has a particular interest and wants to help with revision, that is fine. She asked Commissioner Meares.
■ Commissioner Meares said yes. She was wondering if Commissioner Lawlor would be interested. She understands that the recruitment process takes up a lot of time, however.
■ Commissioner Lawlor indicated that he learned a long time ago not to argue with a law school professor so ...
■ Commissioner Ribeiro appointed Commissioners Meares and Lawlor to this committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

** Commissioner Meares Motion to Adjourn the Regular Meeting
** Commissioner Walker seconded
** Motion passed unanimously

The next regular meeting will be on March 12, 2024.
The Board adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sotonye Otunba-Payne
Sotonye Otunba-Payne