

**SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES
MARCH 24, 2020
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT**

PRESENT: Commissioners Anthony Dawson; Isaias Miranda; Evelise Ribeiro; Gregory Smith; and Ronald Walker

Chief Otoniel Reyes: Department of Police Service
Assistant Chief Renee Dominguez: Department of Police Service
Assistant Chief Karl Jacobson: Department of Police Service
Assistant Chief Herb Sharp: Department of Police Service
Lieutenant Rose Dell: Department of Police Service
Lieutenant David Zannelli: Department of Police Service
Sergeant Dana Smith: Department of Police Service
Ramon Davis: Administrative Assistant II

Officer Florencio Cotto (6:16 p.m.): President of the Elm City Local
Cathleen Simpson: Director of Labor Relations
Former Officer Omar Thomas
Michael Wolak, Esquire: Senior Deputy Corporation Counsel

Emily Hays: New Haven Independent

OPEN SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m., Anthony Dawson, Chair, presiding.

■ Commissioner Dawson read into the record part of the Notification/Agenda: A Special Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners will take place on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 6: p.m., and will be conducted, due to the current public health crisis, as a virtual meeting utilizing “Zoom” technology, etcetera.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Consideration, discussion and action on the application of former Officer Omar Thomas to be reinstated as a New Haven Police Officer.

- Commissioner Dawson asked former Officer Omar Thomas if he wanted an open or closed session.
- Former Officer Omar Thomas stated he would like to be heard in open session.
- Commissioner Walker explained what the ramifications were if his application was heard in an open session.
- Former Officer Omar Thomas opted for a closed session.
- Commissioner Ribeiro asked how executive session could be achieved.
- Assistant Chief Dominguez said she had breakout rooms that she could control.

■ The Executive Session participants consisted of the following: Commissioner Dawson, Commissioner Miranda, Commissioner Ribeiro, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Walker, Chief Reyes, Assistant Chief Dominquez, Assistant Chief Jacobson and Assistant Chief Sharp, Lieutenant Dell, Lieutenant Zannelli, Sergeant Smith, Officer Cotto and former Officer Omar Thomas.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

** **Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Enter Executive Session to Discuss Personnel Matters Regarding Reinstatement to the New Haven Police Department**
** **Commissioner Smith seconded**
** **Unanimously passed**

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:12 p.m.

** **Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Exit Executive Session**
** **Commissioner Walker seconded**
** **Unanimously passed**

The Board exited Executive Session at 6:55 p.m.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro stated that Chief Reyes did not recommend the reinstatement of former Officer Omar Thomas to the New Haven Police Department.

** Commissioner Ribeiro moved on Chief Reyes' Recommendation Not to Reinstatement of Officer Omar Thomas to the New Haven Police Department
** Commissioner Miranda seconded
** Unanimously passed

Consideration, discussion and action on the proposed General Order 2.14 entitled "Reinstatement of Officer Separated from Service."

■ Commissioner Ribeiro stated that everyone should have a copy of the proposed General Order 2.14. The proposed General Order had been vetted with Corporation Counsel. It also has been vetted through the Recruitment/Selection Committee.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro stated she added some verbiage. The verbiage was sent to Corporation Counsel for their input. She thought it was important to add that whether the Chief wanted to recommend or not recommend for reinstatement that it should be brought to the Board. The original document only addressed coming to the Board if there was a positive recommendation. She felt it was important to include this verbiage. The change is on the second to the last bullet.

■ Commissioner Dawson asked if the union saw this.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro responded that it was her understanding that the union did not need to respond to this.

■ Chief Reyes responded that that was correct.

■ Attorney Wolak stated it is not a union issue because the person coming back is not in the union.

■ Chief Reyes added that with regard to the one year, the policy is consistent with the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

■ Commissioner Dawson commended Commissioner Ribeiro for her work on this General Order particularly the last addition to the General Order in terms of giving the Board an opportunity to be involved in the process whether the Chief makes a recommendation or not. He thought this would be a fair process.

** Unanimously approved

** **Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting**

** **Commissioner Walker seconded**

** **Unanimously passed**

■ Commissioner Dawson thanked all those who have been doing the technical work and those who joined the meeting for the first time. He also thanked everyone in attendance.

The Board adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sotonye Otunba-Payne