

SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES
JANUARY 18, 2022
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND CONFERENCE CALL VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Commissioners Michael Lawlor, Tracey Meares; Isaiah Miranda; Evelise Ribeiro; and Donald Walker

Interim Chief Renee Dominguez: Department of Police Service
Assistant Chief Karl Jacobson: Department of Police Service
Captain David Zannelli: Department of Police Service
Lieutenant Manmeet Colon: Department of Police Service
Lieutenant Dana Smith: Department of Police Service
Sergeant Paul Finch: Department of Police Service
Sergeant R. Melendez: Department of Police Service
Sergeant Jasmine Sanders: Department of Police Service
Officer Cherelle Carr: Department of Police Service
Detective Joshua Kyle: Department of Police Service
Detective Bryan Phillips: Department of Police Service
Detective Francisco Sanchez: Department of Police Service
Officer D. Cohen: Department of Police Service
Officer Justin Cole: Department of Police Service
Officer Jonathan Lambe: Department of Police Service
Officer Jarrell Lowery: Department of Police Service
Officer Paul Pereira: Department of Police Service

Florencio Cotto: President, Elm City Local
Michelle Duprey, Esquire: Deputy Corporation Counsel
Regina Rush-Kittle: CAO, City of New Haven

Thomas Breen: New Haven Independent

OPEN SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Evelise Ribeiro, Chair, presiding. Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that Commissioner Brooks was excused.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

1. Discussion and action on the recommendation to promote the following candidates from Eligibility List #21-08E:

#15 - Cole, Justin
#16 - Sanchez, Francisco
#17 - Phillips, Bryan

- #18 - Kyle, Joshua
- #19 - Lowery, Jarrell
- #20 - Lambe, Jonathan
- #21 - Carr, Cherelle

- Chief Dominguez introduced the officers to be promoted.
- Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that the subcommittee comprising of Commissioners Lawlor and Walker had interviewed the above-named officers for promotion. However, she implored each officer to give brief statements about themselves for the benefit of the other commissioners who had not sat in on the interviews.
- The officers spoke briefly about themselves and some were asked questions.
- Commissioner Walker indicated that when he and Commissioner Lawlor interviewed the candidates they came to similar conclusions about each of the candidates.
- Commissioner Lawlor concurred with Commissioner Walker. He further indicated that this is a diverse group. Most of them had this really interesting motivations for wanting to move to the Rank of Sergeant for all the right reasons. It was a joy to talk to them. He was very impressed. Obviously, in their new roles, they are going to have to do a lot of learning in light of the different policies that had recently been amended and/or implemented and have to be rolled out. The frontline of that training and that supervision is going to be sergeants who deal with the Patrol officers. In conclusion, he thought this group as a whole is a good mix. It's a good group. He was very confident. He recommended supporting the motion to promote these candidates.
- Commissioner Walker further indicated that the candidates that were interviewed the previous week had extensive experiences and a variety of experiences as police officers. One thing is that they were all highly motivated to become sergeants, to supervises and to help their fellow officers become better officers. They realize the important role supervisors play in the day-day-day operations of their fellow officers. When one becomes a supervisor, the number one job is to train people to take over your job. They seem to have that instinct to do that.
- Commissioner Lawlor added that, Officer Cole raised it in his remarks earlier, there is a lot to be learned here like these important distinctions between justified uses of force and necessary uses of force. A lot of this is new. And it's going to require, not just training, but thoughtfulness. He thought that each of these new candidates was very thoughtful and openminded when it came to these topics. He does not envy the path ahead of them, but he had a lot of confidence that they would be able to execute them in the way they all hope.
- Commissioner Ribeiro thanked Commissioners Lawlor and Walker for their time.
- ** Commissioner Walker motioned to follow the Chief's recommendation to promote Officer Justin Cole to the Rank of Sergeant
- ** Commissioner Miranda seconded
- ** For: Commissioners Lawlor, Miranda, Ribeiro and Walker
- ** Abstain: Commissioner Meares
- Motion carried.

** Commissioner Walker motioned to adhere to the Chief's recommendation to promote Detective Francisco Sanchez to the Rank of Sergeant
** Commissioner Miranda seconded
** Motion passed unanimously

** Commissioner Walker motioned to adhere to the Chief's recommendation to promote Detective Bryan Phillips to the Rank of Sergeant
** Commissioner Miranda seconded
** Motion passed unanimously

** Commissioner Walker motioned to adhere to the Chief's recommendation to promote Detective Joshua Kyle to the Rank of Sergeant
** Commissioner Miranda seconded
** Motion passed unanimously

** Commissioner Walker motioned to adhere to the Chief's recommendation to promote Officer Jarrell Lowery to the Rank of Sergeant
** Commissioner Miranda seconded
** Motion passed unanimously

** Commissioner Walker motioned to adhere to the Chief's recommendation to promote Officer Jonathan Lambe to the Rank of Sergeant
** Commissioner Miranda seconded
** Motion passed unanimously

** Commissioner Walker motioned to promote Officer Cherrille Carr to the Rank of Sergeant in following the Chief's recommendation
** Commissioner Meares seconded

■ Commissioner Lawlor added that each of these candidates have their own strength, but Detective Carr seemed like a force of nature. He was sure once she moved up this notch, she has a bright future ahead of her. He was just impressed with her enthusiasm and her commitment to the community. He was very happy that people like her are going to be leading this Department in the future. She is really impressive.

■ Commissioner Walker concurred 100 percent.

■ Detective Carr thanked the commissioners.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro concurred as well. She did not interview her but knows her separately.

** Motion passed unanimously

■ The newly promoted sergeants were congratulated.

2. Discussion and action on the recommendation to hire the following candidates from Eligibility List #21-01:

#111 - Glos, Igor
#125 - Medina, Samantha
#131 - Bolduc, Everett

■ Chief Dominguez introduced the candidates. She indicated that Candidate #122, Maria Legatos, would be skipped. In addition, she indicated that Candidate #131, Bolduc, Everett had declined for now.

Chief Dominguez asked anyone wanted a reason for the deviation.

■ Commissioner Walker indicated he would like an explanation.

■ Chief Dominguez indicated that the Department was awaiting #122, Lagatos's medical to come back. It would take some days to get this. The candidate cannot start at the academy without the medical documentation. She also indicated that #131, Bolduc, Everett failed two pre-hire agility tests. So, at this time he has declined. This does not mean that he will be removed from the process. It just delays his entry to the academy.

■ Commissioner Ribeiro indicated that #131, Bolduc, would be tabled procedurally in light of his deferral. She indicated that these candidates were interviewed by Commissioners Lawlor and Walker.

■ Commissioner Lawlor indicated #131, Bolduc, Everett, who has been deferred is a former Marine. He was impressive during the interviews. He hoped he passes the agility test as he believes he would be a good addition to the Department.

■ In addition, Commissioner Lawlor commended Sergeant Finch for finding these extraordinary candidates. He has a little bit of Eastern sympathy with Mr. Igor. They spoke a lot of about his own experience as an immigrant to this country and his commitment to this country. He's a real self-starter. He also indicated that Ms. Medina is also very impressive young woman. He went on to congratulate Sergeant Finch.

■ Commissioner Walker agreed with Commissioner Walker. He further indicated that it was unfortunate that these two candidates had to be postponed. All the candidates interviewed would be valuable officers in the Department. Sergeant Finch, is doing an incredible job recruiting. He thanked Sergeant Finch for the work he is doing.

** Commissioner Walker motioned to hire Candidate Igor Glos in following the Chief's recommendation

** Commissioner Lawlor seconded

** Motion passed unanimously

** Commissioner Lawlor motioned to hire Candidate #125, Samantha Medina

** Commissioner Walker seconded

** Motion passed unanimously

** Commissioner Lawlor moved to table the nomination of Candidate 131, Everett Bolduc

** Commissioner Walker seconded

** Motion passed unanimously

■ The newly hired candidates were congratulated.

** Commissioner Meares motioned to adjourn
** Commissioner Walker seconded
** Motion passed unanimously

The next regular meeting will be on February 8, 2022.
The Board recessed at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sotonye Otunba-Payne