

OPEN SESSION
October 14, 2008
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT
(Not Board approved)

PRESENT: Commissioners Richard Epstein, Chairman; Cathy Graves, Vice Chair; Theodore Brooks; Christopher DePino; and Evelise Ribeiro

Chief James Lewis
Assistant Chief Stephanie Redding
Scott Nabel: Human Resources
Captain Joann Peterson: Internal Values & Ethics
Attorney Michael Wolak: Corporation Counsel
Michael Piscitelli: Director of Transportation,
Traffic & Parking

OPEN SESSION

Meeting called to order at 6:07 p.m., Richard Epstein, Chairman presiding.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Following the regular meeting of the traffic authority, Mr. Piscitelli excused himself at 6:26 p.m.

DISCUSSIONS AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of minutes of September 5, 2008

- Commissioner Ribeiro moved approval of the minutes of September 5, 2008
- Commissioner Graves seconded.
- Voting for: Commissioners Brooks, DePino, Epstein, Graves, Ribeiro
- Motion passed (5-0-0)

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Lewis informed that the commissioners should receive copies of PERF Matrix every month and will go on the Website. There are six complete polices from six agencies around the country that are accredited. The six polices have been tested by other agencies. The various groups of will be given copies of the six polices. Each group will put a policy together by taking the

best out of the six and adjust it to fit the Department. Union involvement is necessary in this process. The entire policy manual will be rewritten in an all new format. The process will continue for the next eighteen months.

Captain Kearney has been assigned to the position of Inspections. His job is to do inspections across all divisions in furtherance of quality control of the Department's policies. Sergeant David Sydnor was appointed to run the Traffic Unit.

Ten officers have been chosen to attend a two-week DEA school.

Explorer's Program is expected to be up and running in approximately two months. News of this program has generated excitement in the community and the Department. The program is a long-range part of the recruitment plan.

Assistant Chief Redding informed that the recruitment process is ongoing with 774 applications. The new class is expected to begin on July 1, 2009.

The six candidates recommended for promotion to the rank of sergeant are as follows: Officer Vernon Barham; Detective Samuel Brown; Detective Robert Criscuolo; Detective James Grasso Jr.; Officer Joseph Murphy, III; and Officer Dean Reynolds.

- **Commissioner DePino moved appointment of all six candidates**
- **Commissioner Brooks seconded**
- **Voting for: Commissioners Brooks, DePino, Epstein, Graves
Ribeiro**
- **Motion passed (5-0-0)**

The commissioners commended the Desk Sergeant Report. Commissioner Epstein suggested a more detailed Desk Sergeant Report and that the commissioners be added to the e-mail list for press releases.

CORPORATION COUNSEL REPORT

Attorney Michael Wolak stated that there are five new lawsuits brought involving police officers. Two are Freedom of Information Act claims. One of the lawsuits was filed by an individual whose case was initially dismissed in Federal Court. The individual filed an appeal with the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and the dismissal was affirmed. He has now filed a writ of certiorari to the U.S. Supreme Court. There is one motor vehicle accident involving a rear-end collision on Route 34. We have two police misconduct cases. Of the claims allege an illegal search and seizure by fourteen to fifteen unnamed officers

and the only named officer is no longer employed by the City of New Haven. There is another excessive force case that has been filed naming three officers as a result of an incident that happened outside of the Alchemy Nightclub. One case has been settled involving a three-car collision. Another case was disposed of through a dismissal in September.

RETIREMENTS

Officer Salvatore Viglione, age annuity, eff. 9/3/08
Officer Harold Leach, age annuity, eff. 10/11/08

EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE

There was no Efficiency Committee Report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

There was no Finance Committee Report.

CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARD LIAISON REPORT

There was no Civilian Review Board Liaison Report.

OTHER BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Commissioner Brooks moved to enter executive session
- Commissioner Graves seconded
- Voting for: Commissioners Brooks, DePino, Epstein, Graves, and Ribeiro
- Motion passed (5-0-0)

- The Board entered executive session at 7:04 p.m.
- The Board exited executive session at 7:41 p.m.

- Commissioner Brooks moved the withdrawal of conditional offers for police officer candidates on Eligibility List 07-26
- Commissioner Graves seconded
- Voting for: Commissioners Brooks, DePino, Epstein, Graves, and Ribeiro
- Motion passed (5-0-0)

Following the Motion to Withdraw conditional offers for police officer candidates on Eligibility List 07-26 discussions ensued.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8.02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sotonye Otunba-Payne