

**REGULAR SESSION MINUTES  
MARCH 9, 2010  
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Richard Epstein, Chairman; Richard Buckholz; Cathy Graves; Evelise Ribeiro; and Sandra Trevino

Assistant Chief Stephanie Redding: Department of Police Services  
Captain Denise Blanchard: Department of Police Services

Bruce Fischer: Department of Transportation, Traffic and Parking  
Michael Wolak: Corporation Counsel

**OPEN SESSION**

The meeting was 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. Fischer excused himself at 6:29 p.m.

**CHIEF'S REPORT**

**Assistant Chief Stephanie Redding**

Assistant Chief Redding said since the January meeting there has been two homicides, four homicides to date, 21 shootings of which two were self-inflicted. Crimes in Fair Haven are down in every category.

The new Chief Frank Limon is coming on board. He has experience in narcotics and street violence.

The Department is gearing up for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. This is the first year the Department will crack down. Word has been sent to all the higher institutions of learning in the area. The Department has made great efforts to publicize this.

There is an upcoming meeting with CVHR about kicking off another recruitment period, selection, class and testing in an attempt to get it into place before July 1, and hopefully by July 1 kick off the testing so as to move the class along. This is a year-long process. Things are going well with the current class. Graduation is scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup>. The new class is eager to hit the streets. Commissioner Epstein requested that the commissioners be scheduled to meet with the current class.

In-service started last week. More intensive work is being done with the detectives and the State's Attorney's Office regarding report writing, investigations, etc.

The bar details is going smoothly. It's been only a week, however.

The men's locker room will be renovated.

### **DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Discussion and Approval of Regular Session Minutes of January 12, 2010

- \*\* **Commissioner Graves moved approval of the minutes of January 12, 2010**
- \*\* **Commissioner Buckholz seconded**
- Voting for: Commissioners Buckholz, Espstein, Graves, Ribeiro and Trevino**
- \*\* **Motion passed (5-0-0)**

### **OVERVIEW OF EAP PROGRAM**

**James Rascati, Behavioral Health Consultants**

Commissioner Espstein stated that the commissioners had questions about how the Employee Assistance Program works.

Mr. Rascati stated that the EAP is a confidential counseling program. They work with about 140 different organizations and 40 different police departments. They provide absolute, confidential services for employees and their immediate family members. The city will receive statistical aggregate reports; Assistant Chief Redding will receive a quarterly statistical report, never anyone's name.

EAP is comprised of licensed mental health practitioners, as well as the private practitioners used in the network.

There are three areas that are not necessarily confidential: Danger to self; danger to others; child or elder care abuse. Mr. Rascati stated that they are all licensed mandated reporters.

Mr. Rascati further stated that confidentiality is of the utmost importance. If people do not have confidence in the Department's EAP, in his company, then they are not going to use the program.

The company has offices in Hamden, Orange, Guilford and Bridgeport. For those employees who reside in Stamford or Hartford, for example, the company has private practitioners throughout the state who are a part of the company's network.

Mr. Rascati stated that he has been training with the new recruits as part of their training. On Family Night Mr. Rascati and his partner met with the recruits' families to inform them about what they may see with their soon-to-be police officer family member. This was also intended to inform the family members that they can utilize the services as well.

Peer support is important so a brother, sister officer can reach out to a brother, sister officer to use the services.

Mr. Rascati stated that the company also responds to critical incidents throughout the city of New Haven.

It is also important to let officers know that the use of the EAP will not jeopardize their careers. Transparency is important.

Participation in the EAP, however, will not deter any disciplinary action by the Department if the employee is not performing on the job.

### **INTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT**

(Pending matters in Executive session)

### **RETIREMENTS**

Lieutenant Jonathan Smith, age annuity, eff. 1/20/10  
Sergeant Theodore Fitzgerald, age annuity, eff. 1/30/10  
Assistant Chief Peter Reichard, age annuity, eff. 2/6/10  
Officer Cleveland Roach, disability, eff. 2/26/10

### **RESIGNATIONS**

Assistant Chief Roy Brown, eff. 1/30/10  
Assistant Chief Kenneth Gillespie, eff. 2/27/10  
Chief James Lewis, eff. 2/27/10

### **EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE REPORT**

There was no Efficiency Committee Report.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commissioner Ribeiro stated that she met with Assistant Chief Redding who furnished her with package to review. Assistant Chief Redding stated that the budget has been submitted. There has been no change to that yet.

### **CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARD LIAISON REPORT**

There was no Civilian Review Board Liaison Report.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- \* Police officer Selection Process
- \* Anthony Santagata
- \* Yale University Police Department: Request to appoint Recruit Eric Bailey was addressed on a prior occasion.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- \*\* Commissioner Ribeiro moved to enter Executive Session to discuss police officer selection process, to discuss with Anthony Santagata, and other matters**
- \*\* Commissioner Buckholz seconded**
- Voting for: Commissioners Buckholz, Espstein, Graves, Ribeiro and Trevino**
- \*\* Motion passed (5-0-0)**

**The Board entered Executive Session at 7:16 p.m.**

- \*\* Commissioner Ribeiro moved to exit Executive session.**
- \*\* Commissioner Buckholz seconded**
- Voting for: Commissioners Buckholz, Espstein, Graves, Ribeiro and Trevino**
- \*\* Motion passed (5-0-0)**

**The Board exited Executive Session at 8:22 p.m.**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

The Board adjourned the Regular Session Meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sotonye Otunba-Payne