

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
September 11, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
Southington Police Department
69 Lazy Lane
Southington, CT 06489

Chairman Richard Montague, PhD called the meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Southington Police Department, 69 Lazy Lane, Southington, CT with the following in attendance:

Commissioner James Verderame, Sr., Commissioner Steve Pestillo, Commissioner Phil Landino, and John F. Daly, Chief of Police.

Administrative staff in attendance:

William Palmieri, Administrative Captain
Lowell DePalma, Operations Captain

Richard Montague, PhD, Chair, presiding:

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone in attendance.

There was a moment of silence to honor the tragedy of 9/11.

2. **Approval of Minutes** from the previous regular meeting, July 2014.

Commissioner Verderame made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 2014 meeting. Commissioner Landino seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

3. **Communications.**

- a. **Communications from the Public**

Art Cyr of 103 Berlin Ave., Southington, CT spoke about the following:

Mr. Cyr gives the Police Department a "well done" for the TD Bank robbery and subsequent chase. Lt. Baribault is an excellent choice to do PR for the Department. The entire Department looked professional as did the PR image that Lt. Baribault gave. The Department does an excellent job.

Mr. Cyr also briefly discussed a concern about someone driving past a stopped school bus while on their cell phone. Mr. Cyr inquires whether or not there can be additional PR in this respect. He will also be discussing this with the Board of Ed.

Lastly Mr. Cyr stated that he appreciates the traffic count that was done on Merrill Ave. He has also monitored this area. He believes that all it takes is one car coming out of Merrill Ave. to jam up the traffic. It is not so much the volume as it is the

vehicle(s) trying to get out of Merrill Ave. He looks forward to seeing the Police Department report(s) on this area. He understands this is an ongoing process.

b. Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Verderame congratulates the Department on a tremendous job done on the wake and funeral for Lt. Mike Shanley. Everything ran smoothly. The Chief did a fantastic job on the eulogy, hitting all the high points. He relays that someone stated that the Chief "hit it out of the park" and he believes that's a perfect way to say it. Everyone involved did a great job. Chairman Montague said he had attended the wake service for Lieutenant Shanley and the Department did an excellent job.

4. Chief Jack Daly's Report to Commission.

Chief Daly states that the CPCA Fall Quarterly meeting is being held on Wednesday, September 24th at Aria in Prospect. Two Supernumeraries will be graduating from their respective academies. One 9/17 and one 9/19 respectively and they will begin their 400 hours of field training.

Chief Daly also states that today, on 9/11, they laid to rest Lt. Mike Shanley who did a great job for the Southington Police Department during his employment. It was truly a sad day and he appreciates all of the Officers that stepped up to the plate. Lt. Baribault did a great job with the majority of the planning. Lt. Elliott also helped out. It was a total team effort.

5. Bills Submitted for payment

Commissioner Pestillo made a motion to approve the bills from July 2014 and August 2014 as submitted. Commissioner Verderame seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

6. Administrative Report by Captain Palmieri

a) General Order Review.

1. Family Violence

Commissioner Landino made a motion to approve the Family Violence General Order as submitted. Commissioner Pestillo seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

2. Missing Person

Commissioner Landino made a motion to approve the Missing Person General Order. Commissioner Pestillo seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

3. Vehicle Pursuit

Commissioner Landino made a motion to approve the Vehicle Pursuit General Order as modified by the Board. Commissioner Pestillo seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

b) Annual Report Fiscal year 2013-2014.

Commissioner Landino made a motion to approve the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 with additions presented by Captain Palmieri. Commissioner Pestillo seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Commissioner Pestillo commends them for doing a great job.

c) Animal Control Roof Replacement Update.

The Animal Control roof replacement project went out to bid and Millennium Builders in Rocky Hill was awarded the construction project bid. It will be a pitched roof with attic space within the pitch. They have not given a project date yet, but it is moving forward.

7. Operations Report by Captain DePalma.

Lt. DePalma shared a little history to explain the first two items on his list. In 2012 officers were spending an inordinate amount of time on Friday and Saturday nights in the center of Southington when the bars were closing. They had fights, acts of vandalism, and quality of life issues. They had one establishment that was investigated for fire code violations, liquor violations in criminal violations. In March 2014 the Department had to investigate a shooting that occurred in the area of Center St. In May they held a meeting with Town officials and restaurant owners on how to run a responsible establishment and they subsequently assigned an officer to work downtown Friday and Saturday nights to help keep the peace.

a) Liquor Control Forum

On Wednesday July 23, 2014, the Southington Police Department in conjunction with the STEPS Coalition, the State of Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection Liquor Control Division, and the Town of Southington, hosted a two hour informational session at Hawk's Landing Country Club.

During the course of this Informational session, representatives from area restaurants/bars received information regarding the permitting processes, different Liquor regulations, and the penalties for violating the regulations. This information was presented by Agent Kevin Mercado from the State of Liquor Control Division. Lt. Stephen Elliott, and Lt. Jay Suski and I also spoke at this forum.

14 Restaurant/bars attended the event.

Also in attendance was our Town Manager, Garry Brumback, and Councilwoman, Rev. Victoria Triano.

b) Liquor Compliance Operation

On Friday, August 22 2014 between the hours of 9:00pm and 2:00am, the Southington Police Department's Detective Division, working in conjunction with the State of Connecticut – Liquor Control Division, conducted a joint inspection of local establishments that serve alcoholic beverages. The focus of this joint inspection was to determine whether any of these establishments were serving alcoholic beverages to any persons under the age of 21 and ensure compliance with state liquor control regulations.

Numerous local establishments throughout town, including Downtown Southington and Plantsville, were monitored by undercover liquor control agents. The vast majority of these establishments had no underage individuals inside where alcoholic beverages were being served and were in compliance with state regulations. Two (2) of the 13 monitored establishments were found to be in violation of liquor control regulations. The first establishment (The Fire Place) was found to have an individual under age 21 in an area of the bar where it was prohibited. The second establishment (TD Homers) was found to have served alcoholic beverages to two (2) individuals under age 21 and who were in an area of the bar where it was prohibited. Both locations were referred to the Liquor Control Commission for administrative sanctions.

Because of the efforts made by patrol officers and detectives, he is happy to report that things are a lot different in downtown Southington on Friday and Saturday nights. They have minimized and in some cases eliminated the major problems that they were having with quality-of-life issues, vandalism, and assaults. They will continue to monitor both downtown Southington and Plantsville for these issues.

c) Distractive Driving Program

The Southington Police Department is currently participating in the "U Drive. U Text. U Pay" campaign. Capt. Palmieri was able to secure grant for this operation. This effort is running from September 3-24, 2014. This mobilization began with media events and interviews, then notifying the public of the increased law enforcement presence during this time frame, and then now identifying and citing motorists who choose to ignore Connecticut's hand held mobile phone ban.

The campaign puts distracted driving on par with their efforts to fight drunk driving or to encourage seatbelt use.

To prevent distracted driving, motorists are urged to:

Turn off electronic devices and put them out of reach before starting to drive.

Be good role models for young drivers and set a good example.

Speak up when you are a passenger and your driver uses an electronic device while driving. Offer to make the call for the driver, so his or her full attention stays on the driving task.

Always wear your seat belt.

Last year the Department cited 669 drivers for cell phone/distracted driving violations. Since July 1st of this year, they have already cited 123 drivers for these violations, 42 of which are directly related to this ongoing campaign. Again, this operation will continue until September 24, 2014. They will continue our effort throughout the year regarding this issue.

Motion to enter into executive session was made by Commissioner Verderame excluding the public and press for the purposes of personnel and contractual issues. Included in executive session were Chief Daly, Captain Palmieri, and Captain DePalma. Commissioner Pestillo seconded. Motion passes unanimously on a voice vote.

Whereupon, The Commission went into executive session at 6:28 p.m.

9. Executive Session

The Southington Board of Police Commissioners entered executive session immediately following their regular meeting with the following in attendance in order to discuss personnel and contractual issues:

Chairman Richard Montague, PhD, Commissioner James Verderame, Sr., Commissioner Steve Pestillo, Commissioner Phil Landino, Chief Jack Daly, Captain William Palmieri and Captain Lowell DePalma.

No motions were made or votes taken during executive session.

Commissioner Landino made a motion to return to public session. Commissioner Pestillo seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

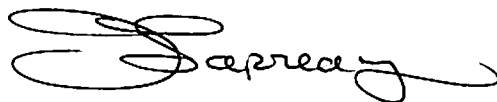
Executive session was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

10. Regular session

Commissioner Landino made a motion to adjourn the Board of Police Commissioners Meeting. Commissioner Pestillo seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jodi Lapreay
Recording Secretary