

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING

May 12, 2016 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 Verderame, Commissioner Pestillo, Commissioner Kalkowski and John F. Daly, Chief of Police.

Administrative staff in attendance:

William Palmieri, Administrative Captain

Lowell DePalma, Operations Captain

Richard Montague, PhD, Chair, presides:

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone in attendance.
2. **Approval of Minutes** from the previous regular meeting, March 2016.

Commissioner Kalkowski made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2016 meeting. Commissioner Pestillo seconded. Motion passed.

3. Communications.

a. Communications from the Public

Art Cyr of 103 Berlin Avenue stated that he is very impressed to see the speed reducer signs on Pleasant Street, in each direction, near DePaolo Middle School.

He stated that the Public Works Department is redesigning the intersection of Curtiss Street and Hart Street. He recommends that someone ask the Engineering Department to look at it. The Chief confirms that the Police Department will be reviewing the plans when they receive them.

Mr. Cyr also mentions that the Director of Public works wants to widen the entrance to Academy Lane on Berlin at a 45 degree angle. He is concerned because people already speed there and there are no sidewalks. He is concerned about public safety and that Academy Lane was never designed to handle the amount of traffic that it handles today.

b. Commissioner Communications

None.

4. Chief Jack Daly's Report to Commission.

Chief Daly handed out press a release to the Commissioners from the Connecticut Police Chiefs' Association dealing with a CT racial profiling report. Southington was not mentioned at all. Chief Daly also handed out, to the Commissioners, a document regarding Uniform Crime Reporting Data. This shows the last five years of crime in the Town of Southington. There were no major statistical anomalies.

Chief Daly relays that the bill, related to reimbursement for the cost of the certification of a police officer, failed. So the current law will stay in effect for two more years.

Chief Daly relays several letters and a Facebook post acknowledging excellent police work by several officers.

Lastly, Chief Daly stated that it was with great pride that the Southington Police Department was approved for Tier 1 Accreditation by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC).

This is a great honor for the entire department and it is because of the hard work of all. While the lion share of the work was completed by Master Sergeant Mike Gallo and Captain William Palmieri they could not have completed the task without all that helped review, give feedback, and make the policies our own. The support by the Board of Police Commissioners and the Town were also necessary to accomplish this recognition. They will now continue with the lofty tasks of Tiers 2 and 3, and continue to adhere to the policies in Tier 1.

5. Bills Submitted for payment

Commissioner Verderame made a motion to approve the bills from March 2016 and April 2016 as submitted. Commissioner Kalkowski seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

6. Administrative Report by Captain Palmieri

a) Accreditation Program Update

Chairman Montague mentions that, during the past two years they have bought software regarding accreditation that tracks everyone who reads it, input that people give, changes in legislature, updates, etc. They were the first department to receive accreditation with that software. Captain Palmieri stated that he would like to publicly thank Chief Daly for having the courage to start this process and thanks the Commissioner for having the courage to see it through. Master Sergeant Gallo was the glue that held this process together. But the process that was put together as a team really worked. They worked through a lot of issues and this

really is an organization win for the Department. From the Custodial Engineer up to the Chief and the Commission, everyone had input and a hand in the process.

Captain Palmieri stated that he is in his 31st year and this is probably one of the proudest moments that he has had being associated with this organization. Now they need to have the courage to maintain it. In the future they will start working on Tier 2 and Tier 3 accreditation. The plan was to look at September to kick off the initiative.

There was a brief discussion about having addressed some of the Tier 2 standards now in the Tier 1 process and how the accreditation is audited regularly.

b) Hiring Process Update

i) Public Safety dispatcher:

Captain Palmieri states that Chief Daly, Captain DePalma and himself are scheduled to have command interviews of the 10 candidates on May 18th. That will culminate with them sending their recommendation to the Police Commissioners.

c) Public Safety Radio System Project Update

Captain Palmieri stated that they are waiting for a confirmation date on the Mill Street tower. They are going to install their new equipment on the tower and then, when it has to be serviced, they will remove it. They were going to wait until the new tower was built, but it is still in discussions.

d) CAD/RMS System Update

Captain Palmieri stated that they gave the company a brand new computer to load the software onto. They had asked for a clean computer to install all the software on to troubleshoot the problem. The vendor lent them a brand new system for the project. That has not locked up since the process was started. He will have more information for the Commissioner next month.

e) Finance Requests

Captain Palmieri relays that their appropriations that they requested from the Board of Finance were attached to the Commissioners packets.

7. Operations Report by Captain DePalma

a) Social Hosting Arrest

Captain DePalma relays that, on April 29, 2016 the Southington Police Department received an anonymous complaint that there was an underage drinking party occurring at a residence on Burwell Avenue. Upon arrival, the Officers found evidence of drinking games, alcohol consumption and marijuana use. The Officers found several teenagers inside the house and their ages ranged from 14 – 17 years old. All of the teenagers that were found at the party were picked up by their Parents / Guardians and safely transported home. The homeowner, a 49-year-old female, was present when the Officers were investigating the incident. She was issued a Misdemeanor Summons for Social Hosting (Permitting Minors to Possess Alcohol) and was given a court date of May 9, 2016 at Bristol Court.

b) Motor Vehicle Fatality

Captain DePalma stated that, On April 30, 2016, the Southington Police Department received a call of a serious two-car accident that occurred on West Center St. near the intersection of Summit Street. Upon the officers' arrival, they learned that a head on collision had occurred. Upon investigation it was learned that a 26-year-old female Southington resident was operating her vehicle westbound on W. Center St. and made contact with an eastbound vehicle operated by a 30-year-old male Bristol resident. The eastbound vehicle was also occupied with one passenger. As a result of the accident, all parties involved were transported to area hospitals with injuries. It was subsequently learned that the 30-year-old male Bristol resident died as a result of his injuries. This motor vehicle accident is currently under investigation by the Department's Accident Investigation Team. More information will be released when it becomes available.

c) Thalberg Lockdown

Captain DePalma relayed that, on April 27, 2016, the Southington Police Department was notified by school officials of an "unauthorized person" in the area of Thalberg School located at 145 Dunham Rd. As a precaution, school officials placed the school in "Secure School" mode. Upon the officers' arrival, they located and interviewed the "unauthorized person" who was determined to be a special needs individual who lives in the neighborhood near the school property. He had wandered onto the school property and was looking in the school windows. The individual was transported home by the Police. There was no threat to any student(s) and nothing of a criminal nature was found to have taken place. The "Secure School" mode was lifted after the school officials were notified of the Police Department's findings. No further action was taken in this incident.

d) South End School Disturbance

Captain DePalma relayed that on April 21, 2016, Southington Police Officers were dispatched to South End Elementary School, 10 Maxwell Noble Drive for a physical altercation among staff members. Based on the investigation, a 29-year-old female from Wallingford, CT. was arrested and charged with Assault 3rd Degree and Breach of Peace 2nd degree. She was processed and released on a \$1,500 non-surety bond with a court date of May 2, 2016 at Bristol Court. The investigation revealed that this school employee was involved in an argument with her Supervisor (Victim) after the Victim addressed her about being late for work. The employee then allegedly punched the Victim in the face, attempted to punch the Victim in the face a second time and then threw a cup of coffee at the Victim as the Victim turned to run away. The Victim fell to the ground and the employee was then observed trying to bang the Victim's head against a wall. She was also observed kicking the Victim. At this point a parent who was dropping off a student, and staff members intervened and pulled the accused from the Victim and separated them. The Victim reported head, face and back pain and was transported to a local hospital by ambulance for medical treatment. As a result of this incident, the school was placed in Secure School Mode for a short time. The accused is employed as a District Wide Technology Assistant and the Victim is employed as a District Wide Technology Supervisor.

e) Distracted Driving

Captain DePalma stated that The Southington Police Department partnered with the Connecticut Highway Safety Office as part of National Distracted Driving Awareness Month to crack down on drivers who chose to ignore Connecticut's mobile phone laws. The joint effort occurred during the month of April, which began on April 4th and continued through April 30th. Four teams of officers were utilized to conduct the distractive driving operation. The following infractions issued is as follows:

- April 04, 2016: 13
- April 12, 2016: 15
- April 15, 2016: 16
- April 26, 2016: 14

Officers from the patrol division also issued infractions in regard to distracted driving in the month of April with the following results: Infractions: 15

The total distracted driving operation infractions which includes the input from the patrol division are:
Infractions: 73.

Fines for using a mobile phone while behind the wheel have not changed, though they are still steep. A first offense will cost \$150, a second \$300, and a third and subsequent offense \$500. The effort will ramp up again in August from the 3rd to the 16th.

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

Whereupon, The Commission went into Executive Session.

8. 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, Commissioner Pestillo, Commissioner Kalkowski, John F. Daly, Chief of Police, Captain Lowell DePalma and Captain William Palmieri.

No motions were made or votes taken during executive session.

Executive session was adjourned.

9. Regular session

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

Commissioner Kalkowski made a motion to add the hiring of an Assistant Animal Control Officer to the agenda. Commissioner Pestillo seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Commissioner Kalkowski made a motion to hire Colin Narducci as Assistant Animal Control Officer as soon as he is available. Commissioner Verderame seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Jodi Lapreay
Recording Secretary