

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
June 23, 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, Commissioner Landino 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, May 2016.

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

3. **Communications.**

a. **Communications from the Public**

None

b. **Commissioner Communications**

Commissioner Pestillo would like to thank Officer Tom Gallo and the Captains for allowing the Godspell rehearsal to use the community room.

4. **Chief Jack Daly's Report to Commission.**

On May 24th He met with States Attorney Brian Perlesky with an update on some of the impact of the state budget reductions that are going to have impact on court operations that will directly affect the department. The Asset forfeiture bureau and the Office of the Chief States Attorney has been disbanded and this will directly affect how the department apply for asset forfeiture monies.

He gave us a list of national case load averages for how many cases each prosecutor handles.

The New Britain district judicial operations is where we send all our major cases and will have 20% fewer personnel than it did in 2010.

The fiscal year 2017 budget losses are 2 prosecutors in GA 15, 1 juvenile/domestic prosecutor, 2 RIAP prosecutors and 1 New Britain clerical position. The caseloads as of GA 15 as of June 1, 2016 had 728 cases per prosecutor and 225 cases per prosecutor for juvenile.

We received a letter Noreen Patterson expressing appreciation of Officer Burke, Dispatcher Adam Frenette, Dispatcher Lester Bouchard and Dispatcher Joe Silverio. Her 21 year old son had a medical issue and she called 911 for assistance and praised the Dispatchers for their compassion and quick work and recognized Officer Burke for his actions as an iatrical part of saving her sons life.

We received a letter from Yvonne Mahoney the HR manager at Bracone Metal Spinning complimenting Officer Mark DiBattista. The company fired an employee for workplace violence. Officer DiBattista responded to the call and Ms. Mahoney reported that Officer DiBattista's professionalism and handling of the complaint went above and beyond the call of duty. His handling of the complaint made all employees of the company feel safe and secure.

We received a letter from Anna Bednarczyk thanking Officer Busa for returning her stolen property. Officer Busa located and returned items stolen from Michael Longo's headstone.

We received a letter from Crystal Elbert thanking Officer MacKenzie for speaking with her son. Mrs. Elbert asked Officer MacKenzie to speak with her son as he was having some issues. She praised Officer MacKenzie for taking the time to speak with her son as the conversation they had was of great help to the family.

Lastly, I received a letter on June 16, 2016 from Detective Wojenski stating that he is retiring from the Southington Police Department effect August 2, 1016 and his last day will be August 1, 2016. He stated it has been an honor to serve the town of Southington for the past 15 years and thanking the Chief and the Police Department for the opportunity and experiences that have been afforded to him.

5. Bills Submitted for payment

Commissioner Kalkowski made a motion to approve the bills from May 2016 as submitted. Commissioner Pestillo seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

6. Administrative Report by Captain Palmieri

a) General Order 600-24 Lethality Assessment Program

This is a state program to help access the potentiality against threats domestic violence or violent crime incidents.

Commissioner Verderame made a motion to approve General Order 600-24 Lethality Assessment Program. Commissioner Landino seconded. Commissioner Pestillo abstained. Motion passed on a voice vote.

b) Public Safety Radio System Project Update

Goosetown Communications has obtained all of the equipment needed for the Mill Street Tower changeover. Project Manager Tim Carr is currently working with a Water Department representative to set an installation date. The installation date has not been set.

c) Nexgen CAD/RMS change over update

Nexgen has had the mobile data terminal running at their shop for the past month without any problems. The test MDT is running Windows 10 instead of Windows 7. We currently have the MDT and are in the process of installing it in the sergeant's vehicle. The system will run in the sergeant's vehicle an system programs will be added one at a time to see if the system freeze up can be recreated.

d) Board of Finance Appropriation

\$1,468.80 was requested to be transferred back into dispatcher overtime, after the department received reimbursement from a State of Connecticut E911 Training Grant.

7. Operations Report by Captain DePalma

a) **Citgo gas station robbery**

On 05/19/16 at approx. 9:43 am the Southington Police Dept. responded to 202 Main ST. (CITGO GAS STATION) on a report of an Armed Robbery with a knife.

The Store Clerk reported that the suspect entered the store, pulled out a knife and walked directly to the counter. The Suspect demanded money and the store clerk picked up a stool to defend himself and the suspect then ran out of the store in a westerly direction behind the store. The suspect did not get any money during this incident. The store clerk was not injured and the store clerk did not hit the suspect with the stool.

Officers responded to the scene, canvassed the area and also conducted a track with a K-9 team that was unsuccessful.

The suspect was described as a white male approx. 21 years old, thin build, approx. 5'8" tall, wearing a black hat, dark glasses, bandana (black with a white design) covering the face, black hoodie sweatshirt and black sweatpants, white sneakers and he was armed with a large knife.

As a result of this incident schools in close proximity to the gas station were put in "secure school mode" to prevent anyone from going in or out of the schools during the search. The secure school mode has since been lifted.

The Southington Police Dept. is currently investigating this incident.

b) **CVS Robbery Main Street**

On 05/19/2016 a male Wolcott resident age 30, was taken into custody at Bristol Court on an arrest warrant. He was processed and charged with Conspiracy to Commit Robbery 2nd degree and Conspiracy to Commit Larceny 6th degree. He remained in custody with a court set \$35,000 surety bond listed on this warrant. The Wolcott resident was arraigned at Bristol Superior Court for these charges later the same day.

The arrest stemmed from an investigation of the robbery at the CVS store located at 310 Main ST. on 03/11/16 at 5:41 am. The warrant alleges that he drove an accomplice to the CVS Pharmacy and the accomplice entered the store and allegedly committed the robbery. After the robbery was committed, the Wolcott resident and the accomplice fled the scene in his vehicle. During the course of the robbery, the suspect/accomplice told the victim to open up the cash drawer and give him all the money. The Victim felt as if the suspect/accomplice was holding or implying that he had a weapon in his pocket.

It was reported that that approximately \$199.64 was taken from the register. No one was injured during this incident.

There is currently an arrest warrant under review for the accomplice.

c) **Click It or Ticket**

This year's 2016 CIOT Spring Campaign WAVE 50 ran from May 23-June 5, 2016. During the Wave's pre survey conducted on May 17, 2016, it was found that 74.5% of the operators surveyed were belted. Results of the campaign as follows;

130 Seatbelt Infractions

9 Cell Phone Infractions

5 Distracted Driving Infractions

2 Speeding Infractions

5 Other MV Infractions

During the post wave survey conducted on June 8, 2016 it was learned that 91% of the operators surveyed were belted.

d) **Walmart armed robbery**

On Friday May 27, 2016 at approximately 8:00 am, officers responded to a report of an armed robbery at Walmart located at 235 Queen Street in Southington. The suspect fled the scene prior to officer's arrival.

A black male wearing jeans, a blue baseball cap, a two tone grey shirt with blue sleeves, approximately 5'8" tall, weighing between 160-170 pounds, with a well-trimmed beard and hair walked up to one of the registers with a bottle of iced tea. As the clerk attempted to ring out the iced tea, the suspect lifted his shirt and showed the clerk that he had a handgun tucked into his waistband. The suspect then demanded money from the register.

The clerk yelled and the suspect fled without taking any money. The suspect was seen entering a light blue Scion TC in the parking lot. Witnesses provided information on the vehicle's plate. It was described as an unknown out of state plate bearing the numbers 300 followed by an unknown combination of three letters. The vehicle fled the plaza parking lot and went an undetermined direction on Queen Street.

After an extensive investigation by our detective division, an arrest warrant for the individual suspected who committing this robbery is being processed. More information will be released upon the service of the warrant.

e) **Fundraiser for Special Olympics**

On May 27, 2016 Southington Police Department held its annual fundraiser for Special Olympics. The fundraiser was held at Hawks Landing Country Club between the hours of 4 PM and 8 PM. There was a DJ, a special Olympian, raffle and of course excellent food. \$1521.00 was raised for the Special Olympians. Officer Jeff Ward should be recognized for coordinating this event. Because of his dedicated efforts, this event was a success.

Officer Ward also coordinated the Torch Run for Special Olympics that was held on June 10, 2016. The torch was carried throughout the town of Southington to help bring awareness for Special Olympics.

f) **Memorial Day Remembrance**

On May 27, 2016 at approximately 11 AM, members of the Southington Police Department went to the American Legion on Memorial Day to pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country. The Southington Police Department's color guard was also in attendance.

g) **Stolen Motorcycles**

On 5/28/16 at approximately 9:00 pm, officers were dispatched to the area of Flanders Road. near Tallwood Drive on 2 abandoned motorcycles. It was later learned the motorcycles were reported stolen on 05/27/16 were recovered.

Based on the investigation, a male Waterbury resident age 18 and a Southington male resident age 23 were taken into custody without incident. Both were transported to HQ. where they were processed and charged with 53a-124, Larceny 3rd Degree. Bond was set at \$25000.00.

The owner reported that the motorcycles were worth approx. \$2250.00 combined.

h) **Handgun arrest**

On 06/04/16 at approx. 6:30 pm, a 77-year-old Southington female was issued a Misdemeanor Summons for Reckless Endangerment 2nd degree. She was released on a \$5,000.00 Non Surety Bond was scheduled to appear in Bristol Superior Court on 6/14/16.

Officers responded to Geno's Grille (98 Main ST.) on a report of a loaded handgun (.380 cal.) found in the female restroom by an employee. The handgun was seized by the officer and traced back to the Southington resident . She reported she became ill while at the restaurant and went into the restroom. While in the restroom, she left the handgun on the paper dispenser so it would not fall on the floor. When she left the restaurant to get some fresh air and to go

home she forgot that she left the handgun on the paper dispenser. She does hold a valid CT. Pistol Permit.

l) **Fatal accident arrest**

On 06/09/16 at approx. 6:30 am, the Southington Police Department arrested a 26-year-old Southington female who turned herself into the Southington Police after learning there was a warrant for her arrest. She was charged with Manslaughter 2nd degree with a Motor Vehicle, Assault 2nd degree with a Motor Vehicle, DUI, Reckless Driving and Failure to Drive Right. The Southington resident was processed and held on a \$150,000.00 court set bond and appeared in court on 06/09/16.

The warrant is a result of an investigation of a fatal motor vehicle accident on 04/30/16 at 12:19 am on West Center St. in Southington. The warrant alleges that Southington resident in was operating her vehicle in the westbound lane of West Center St., when she crossed the centerline and struck a vehicle head on in the eastbound lane of West Center St. The Eastbound vehicle was operated by a Bristol resident and had a front seat female passenger. The Bristol resident died of injuries sustained in the crash and the female passenger suffered serious injuries. The accused was also transported from the scene with serious injuries. Medical records obtained by investigators indicated that she was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident.

j) **Disturbance involving gun**

On 06/13/16 at approx. 11:23 pm, a Southington male resident age 19 was arrested. He was charged with Breach of Peace 2nd Degree, Interfering with Police and Brandishing a Facsimile Firearm. He was held on a \$50,000 cash or surety bond and appeared in Bristol Court on 06/14/16 at 09:00 am.

Officers were dispatched to the area of Pinecrest Drive on a report of a disturbance involving a gun. The investigation shows that the Southington resident was at his residence with some friends and when the homeowner asked the friends to leave, he allegedly became agitated, retrieved a handgun and began threatening people within the residence. Upon the officers arrival, he was allegedly intoxicated and uncooperative with the investigating Officers and he physically resisted while being taken into custody.

The handgun was found to be an "air soft" type gun and it is a facsimile of a Colt model 1911.

k) **Liberty bank robbery**

On 06/10/2016 a 45-year-old male Southington resident was taken into custody at Bristol Superior Court and processed for the charge of Criminal Attempt to Commit Robbery 2nd Degree 53a-49/53a-135. He is currently incarcerated at the Hartford CC. and he remained in custody on this charge and other pending criminal charges against him.

The warrant alleges that on 04/16/16 at approx. 1329 hours a Southington resident attempted to rob Liberty Bank located at 60 North Main Street in Southington. The warrant

further alleges that he entered the bank, handed the teller a note. As the teller was opening the cash drawer, Dean took the note back and walked out of the bank without getting any money.

Commissioner Kalkowski stressed his opinion on people not honoring stop signs and traffic signals. He witnessed multiple cars on the stop sign at Pleasant St. and Flanders Rd. and also observed them on Queen St and I-84 on ramp. Was questioning if there was anything the department can do or should do to send a message to the drivers that there are stop signs and traffic lights for a reason.

Captain DePalma commented that there is a couple different ways to approach the issue and that would be by public information and law enforcement. He will try to get some type of campaign out to do that in both publication and law enforcement.

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

10. Fulltime Dispatcher Hiring

Commissioner Verderame made a motion to hire David Shaffer as a Full Time Dispatcher as soon as he is available. Commissioner Kalkowski seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

11. Substitute Dispatcher Hiring

Commissioner Landino made a motion to hire Gillian Bigby as a Substitute Dispatcher as soon as she is available. Commissioner Verderame seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

12. Master Sergeant Promotion

Commissioner Pestillo made a motion to promote Sergeant Frank Bavaro to the position of Master Sergeant. Commissioner Kalkowski seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

13. Sergeant Promotions

Commissioner Landino made a motion to promote Officer Jeffrey Ward to the position of Sergeant effective 6/29/16. Commissioner Kalkowski seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Commissioner Kalkowski made a motion to promote Detective Mark Beal to the position of Sergeant effective 6/30/16. Commissioner Landino seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Judy Cyr
Recording Secretary

