

**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING**  
**September 8, 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, July 2016.

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

**3. Communications.**

**a. Communications from the Public**

Art Cyr of 105 Berlin Avenue stated that he told everyone, starting with the Town Manager, that this Town's emergency response to the chemical spill on Spring Street was nothing short of outstanding. He stated that we have a great crisis response team with Attorney Sciota, Chief Daly and Chief Clark, the Health Department and the Water Department. We were lucky that it was only 350 gallons and it hadn't rained. It could have been a lot worse. The response from this Town and the coordination was spectacular. This was a real good example of how great it is to have the Mobile Command Center in Southington.

He commented that he has been driving miles and miles around Town over the last few weeks and, aside from one spot with three faded signs, he has not found any signs that are faded or damaged. The Police Department working with the Highway Department regarding signs, works really well. It's these little things that make this town a good town to live in.

Mr. Cyr asked how many speed trailers the department has and was told one. Mr. Cyr asked that the Police Commission to allow the Police Department to put it in

next year's budget for a second speed trailer because the speed limit signs do not work, especially on the newly paved roads.

Mr. Cyr also brought up concerns about the Rails to Trails from Curtiss Street to High Street. He believes there needs to be more signage to control vehicle traffic through the intersection.

**b. Commissioner Communications**

None.

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

Chief Daly relayed that they received a letter from Cromwell Police Chief Denise Lamontagne thanking Chief Daly and the Southington Police Department for assisting with security during the 2016 Travelers Championship. He also relayed a letter from John Adams of the Southington Community Services acknowledging outstanding work done by Officer Thomas Atterato in the handling of a medical incident involving a homeless person. This outstanding job was also recognized by Chief Daly and Town Manager Garry Brumback.

Chief Daly presented a Proclamation to George Trostel for his dedicated service to the Southington Police Department Explorers Program. The Proclamation stated the following:

George Trostel first served the town of Southington as a Supernumerary Officer. He was subsequently hired as a regular Southington Police Officer; a role he served in for over 20 years. After retiring as a regular full time police officer, George continued to serve his community as a Supernumerary Officer.

George Trostel first started out with the Southington Police Explorer/Cadet post as a Supernumerary Officer and then stayed on as a civilian adviser after his retirement. During his time with the post George helped dozens of kids successfully graduate the program and enter into careers in EMS, fire service, and police related fields. With his long and distinguished police career, George was able to pass along his knowledge to the Explorers in the classroom and also in practical skills scenarios.

George Trostel served as an Advisor for the Southington Police Explorers/Cadets from 2004 through 2016.

George Trostel was instrumental in the Southington Police Department Explorer/Cadet post becoming recognized not only statewide, but throughout the New England region for excellence. George took his own time to chaperone the post at both stations days and the yearly cadet police academy. Under George's guidance the Southington Police Department Explorer/Cadet won numerous awards at these events.

Through his good nature and caring, George Trostel became known as "Grandpa George" to not only the Southington Police Cadets/Explorers but all of the Cadets and Explorers at the NERLEEA (Northeast Regional Law Enforcement Educational Association) Academy he attended every year. His dedication and his passion to the program will be missed by all the Cadets and Explorers he worked with.

## **5. Bills Submitted for payment**

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

## **6. Administrative Report by Captain Palmieri**

### **a) Accreditation General Order Update**

Captain Palmieri supplied the Police Commission with some minor changes to a series of General Orders that were mandated by POST State Accreditation.

Commissioner Pestillo made a motion to approve the changes to the General Orders mandated by the State as submitted. Commissioner Kalkowski seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

### **b) Annual Report Fiscal Year 2015-2016**

Captain Palmieri stated that he provided the Commission with the Annual Report that was submitted to the Town for fiscal year 15-16. This was just a snapshot of activity throughout the fiscal year. The statistics end of it is in transition because they have a new CAD and RMS system so they are changing some things over.

Commissioner Verderame made a motion to approve the Annual Report Fiscal Year 2015-2016 as submitted. Commissioner Kalkowski seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

### **c) Public Safety Dispatcher Training Update**

Captain Palmieri stated that the Dispatcher training is moving along. Both Dispatchers are doing very well. They are scheduled to end their training on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **e) Departmental Assignment Processes**

Captain Palmieri relayed that they sent out two assignments. One is for the SIU (Special Investigations Unit) and the other is part of one of their budget initiatives to assign a second shift supervisor to the Detective Bureau.

## **7. Operations Report by Captain DePalma**

### **a) Stolen Vehicle Arrest Update**

Captain DePalma relayed that, on July 14, 2016, a 23 year old Waterbury resident was charged with Larceny 3rd degree and Criminal Mischief 1st degree. On November 30, 2015 Officers were dispatched to the area of 271 West St. on a report of a stolen motor vehicle. SPD Dispatch stated that the complainant's vehicle had been stolen out of the driveway of the above address and it hit a fence across the street. Along with the fence, the vehicle also struck a shed and two small trees. The vehicle was abandoned against the fence and it was reported that the unidentified suspect left the scene going northbound on West Street.

Investigators processed the interior of the vehicle for evidence and based on a DNA swab, an Offender hit was received for the accused. DNA samples were submitted for analysis and based on the results an arrest warrant was signed.

### **b) CVS Robber Update**

Captain DePalma stated that, On 07/14/2016 a 30 yr. old Coventington, Georgia resident was charged with Robbery 2nd Degree, Conspiracy to Commit/ Robbery 2nd Degree, Larceny 6th Degree and Conspiracy to Commit Larceny 6th Degree. His accomplice was arrested on May 19, 2016 for his involvement in this incident. Two individuals drove to the CVS and the accused entered the store and allegedly committed the robbery. After the robbery was committed, the two individuals left the scene in the conspirator's vehicle. During the course of the robbery, the accused told the victim to open up the cash drawer and give him all the money. The Victim believed that the accused was holding or implying that he had a weapon in his pocket.

### **c) Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Campaign**

Captain DePalma relayed that the campaign was conducted from August 3rd through the 16th and marked the second time this year their agency was mobilized by adding special patrols aimed at catching distracted drivers, especially those on their phones. The campaign was to remind residents to "SUBTRACT THE DISTRACTION" and is part of the "U Drive. U Text. U Pay" program. This effort is to crackdown on motorists who choose to text, talk or otherwise distract themselves from the task of driving by using a hand-held mobile phone. These special patrols were conducted on three different days. The detail yielded 52 stops for distracted driving.

### **d) Theft from Town Property Update**

Captain DePalma relayed that on August 5, 2016 at approximately 6:00 pm Bail Enforcement Agents turned in a 36 year old Southington resident on three active warrants.

Warrant #1: The warrant alleges that between May 2016 and June 8, 2016, the accused burglarized a Town of Southington owned storage garage on East Summer ST. Taken in the burglary was a large quantity of miscellaneous electrical items and equipment that the Town

uses for various festivals / events throughout the year. He was found to have "scraped" the items that were reported missing at a local scrap dealer. Total value of the items taken is \$13,686.00

**Warrant #2:** The warrant stems from a domestic violence investigation at the accused's residence on 06/10/16. The warrant alleges that during the incident, the accused followed the Victim through the residence yelling and screaming for money. The Victim became fearful of his actions and the Victim locked themselves in a room away from the accused. He began to bang on the door and the Victim called 911. The accused fled the scene prior to Police arrival.

**Warrant #3:** The warrant alleges that the accused Failed to appear in court on July 6, 2016. The original charges were Burglary 3rd and Violation of Probation.

e) **Traffic Advisory on Route 10 in Southington Update**

Captain DePalma relayed that on Wednesday August 10, 2016, an oversize / overweight vehicle caravan traveled on Route 10 which started at the Southington Plainville town line at approximately 8:00 pm. At that time Police escorted the caravan to assist with traffic flow around the caravan as it traveled along Route 10. In preparation for the caravan to safely travel on Route 10, a temporary traffic detour was established and stated the following:

On 08/10/16 between 7:00 pm and approx. 11:00 pm a portion of Route 10 (South Main ST.) in Southington will be closed from Clark ST. to the I-84 On / off ramps and Mulberry ST. The area will be closed while the caravan travels through the area and a bridge in the area is reinforced with "jumper structures" to accommodate the load. A detour route will be set up on Route 10 to assist motorists through the area.

Motorists were asked to avoid the area if at all possible.

f) **Fatal Accident Update**

Captain DePalma relayed that on August 15, 2016 at approximately 9:55 AM officers responded to the area of Savage Street at the intersection of Rockwood Drive for a reported car vs pedestrian motor vehicle accident. The investigation revealed that a 37-year-old Wallingford resident was operating a 2004 Chevy Trailblazer in a northerly direction of Savage Street. In close proximity to the intersection of Rockwood Drive, the passenger side of the Wallingford vehicle collided with a 50-year-old Southington resident. She was on the eastern edge of Savage Street when struck by the vehicle. The Southington resident/pedestrian was transported from the scene to Bradley Memorial Hospital where she succumbed to her injuries. This case is still under investigation.

g) **DWI/Distracted Driving Accident and Road Closure Update**

Captain DePalma stated that on August 17, 2016 at approx. 9:00 pm, Officers responded to the area of Meriden-Waterbury Trpke. @ Canal St. on a report of a three vehicle accident with possible injuries. The road was closed for approximately one hour during the investigation. The operator of Vehicle#1 was identified as a 45-year-old Meriden resident and

she stated she took her eyes off of the roadway to read a text message at which time the front end of her vehicle made contact with the rear end of Vehicle#2 causing that vehicle to hit vehicle #3. Further testing on scene showed that she was allegedly operating under the influence. The accused was issued a Misdemeanor Summons and charged with DUI, Following too Close, Use of a hand-held mobile device while driving and Distracted Driving.

h) Trespassing at YMCA/Camp Sloper Update

Captain DePalma related that on August 16, 2016 at approximately 10:47 pm, SPD Dispatch received a report of a possible large party on the property of YMCA Camp Sloper. Officers found a caravan of approximately 10 - 15 vehicles driving through the property. The people found within the vehicles claimed that they heard there was a party at the camp via social media. Due to the fact that all were found on private property after hours of operation, they were issued infractions for Simple Trespass. Forty four 16, 17, and 18-year-olds from Meriden, New Britain, Hamden, Bristol, Wallingford, Wolcott, Clinton, Farmington, Plainville, and Chester were cited.

i) Car Burglars Arrested Update

Captain DePalma stated that on August 21, 2016 at approximately 5:25 AM, a resident of Parkview Drive contacted police headquarters to report seeing three males looking into vehicles. Officers responded and the witness directed them to the area where the males were last seen. Officers checked the area and found an 18-year-old Southington resident and two juveniles hiding in the area. The subsequent investigation revealed that the three individuals went through several vehicles and sheds in the area and stole numerous items from inside the different sheds and vehicles they entered. Items ranging from sunglasses to small power tools and equipment were taken from the different locations. The 18-year old was also found to be in possession of alcohol. He was also in possession of different pipes and items commonly used to smoke marijuana. 18-year-old was subsequently charged with Possession of alcohol by a minor, 5 counts of Burglary third degree, 5 counts of larceny sixth degree. 4 counts of Possession of drug paraphernalia, 5 counts of conspiracy to commit larceny third degree, 5 counts of conspiracy to possess drug paraphernalia, Conspiracy to commit criminal trespass third degree and interfering with an officer. The two juveniles will be charged for their participation in the crime.

j) Chemical Spill at Light Metals Coloring Company Update

Captain DePalma stated that on August 24, 2016 approximate 12:41 PM, dispatch received a call that there was a chemical spill at light metals on Spring Street. Southington emergency services and DEEP responded. We received subsequent information that the Southington Water Department was working closely with the Town's Emergency Response Team to monitor the remediation process for the chemical spill. As a precaution, two of the SWD's wells were temporarily shut down until there was a better understanding of the amount, type and the remediation process of the chemical spill. As of this date, laboratory tests were still pending but field tests of river water and soil in the area were negative for the presence of the dangerous chemical. It has been reported that there are no fish kills or other dead aquatic life.

k) Sexual Assault in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Update

Captain DePalma relayed that on August 26, 2016 at approx. 5:30 pm, a 40-year-old Waterbury resident was arrested at his residence on an arrest warrant. He was taken into custody without incident and transported to the SPD where he was processed and charged with Sexual Assault in the First Degree, Assault in the Third Degree and Reckless Endangerment in the Second Degree. The warrant stemmed from an alleged domestic violence sexual assault incident at a local hotel on August 7, 2016. The warrant was sealed and no further information can be released.

l) Silver Alert Update

Captain DePalma stated that on August 29, 2016 at approx. 6:09 am the Southington Police Dept. received a report of a missing juvenile. He is autistic and has left the home in the past and was located at various locations within the Town of Southington. The Southington Police Department Patrol Div. and an SPD K-9 unit actively searched for the missing boy. The juvenile was subsequently found in Cheshire by a Cheshire resident.

m) Crime Prevention Update

Captain DePalma relayed that the 2016-2017 school year is under way. Officer Kevin Naranjo has been assigned as Southington High School's new school resource officer. Officers Justin Burke and Jonathan Lopa have recently graduated from the DARE training school and will be teaching this school year. They'll be joining Officers Butler, Cifone, and Gallo in teaching this program.

Motion to enter into executive session was made by Commissioner Pestillo 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 Kalkowski 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 Pestillo seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jodi Lapreay", with a large, stylized initial "J" and a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Jodi Lapreay  
Recording Secretary