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A regular meeting of the Stamford Police Commission was held on Monday, October 4, 2021 at 5:00pm at Stamford Police Headquarters.

Present at the meeting were Commissioners Abbazia, Bass, Flinn, Figueroa and Mercede. Chief Timothy Shaw, Assistant Chief's Louis DeRubeis and Silas Redd, Director Ted Jankowski, Lt. Sean Cooney, Sgts. Richard Gasparino and Christopher Gioielli.

Commissioner Figueroa called meeting to order at 5:04pm because Commissioner Abbazia was a little late.

Review of Minutes

Commissioner Mercede made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 13, 2021 meeting and was second by Commissioner Flinn. All were in favor.

Employee Performance Recognition

Commissioner Awards

Awards were given to eight officers and one MTAPD officer. Chief Redd acknowledged Investigator T. Comerford for his 6/26/20 investigation into a sexual assault victim who was a juvenile. The suspect was found in California and Investigators Comerford and Molina went to California and brought him back with a warrant on June of 2021.

Lt. Scanlon of BCI gave a brief synopsis of an incident where a homicide took place and his team investigated and prepared a warrant for the suspects arrest on August 2021. Officer Speer was on patrol and noticed someone who fit the description of the suspect at the train station. Officer Speer took the suspect down and with the help of Officer Velez, MTAPD was able to handcuff and arrest the suspect on September of 2021.

All received a Police Commissioners Award Certificate and a bar.

Comments from Public

No comments from the public

Personnel Update

Chief Shaw stated that on Saturday October 2, 2021 a test was given for entry level Police Officer. Lt. Cooney stated that 523 signed-up for the test and 385 actually showed up to take the test. The oral part of the test will be on October 16, 2021. Internal Affairs will be working with a much smaller pool of candidates. In January of 2019 795 signed up for our test and 572 took the test and in December of 2016 807 signed up for the test and 459 took the test.

Quarterly Complaint Update

Sgt. Gioielli gave the Internal Affairs report for the past nine months - 48 complaints-17 are still under investigation, 24 are closed and seven were sustained. Commission Bass inquired about what improper investigation means. Sgt. Gioielli stated it is when people feel their investigation was not done properly or they should not have been arrested or given a ticket.

Administrative & Operations Report

Lt. Scanlon reported on the activities of the BCI with shootings, robbery, and extradition. Crime was down this month.

Property Crimes – Cars are still a big item in the city. The PD has on several occasions sent out social media telling residents to lock their cars and take their keys. Seems this information is going on deaf ears. This year 2% of break-ins of cars were forced and 98% of the cars were unlocked. The department received a grant thru the State for Auto Theft Task Force overtime and a suspect was caught and arrested with five counts of criminal attempt at burglary 3.

Chief Shaw congratulated Lt. Scanlon and his entire crew on their solvability rate. We are way above the curve. Director Jankowski told the Commission that the numbers from the FBI were out and Stamford was down 7% in crime. We are the safest state in New England and the safest city in Connecticut in bringing crime down. Director stated that the Stamford PD is doing great, great work.

Community Engagement

Assistant Chief Redd said that the community intervention is going very well. Shoulder to Shoulder is doing well with the assistance of the Police Department, City Social Services, Liberation/Pacific House, Domus and Optimum Centers for Community Health Services. They continue to go out into the neighborhoods and work continues. Some have embraced Shoulder to Shoulder and some have not.

Chief Shaw announced the new SPAL-(Stamford Police Activities League) stand alone, non - profit league we are working to open at the Chester Addison Center and the owners have graciously offered the building to us if we could use it. We are starting out small and following the Waterbury PD PAL, which they began several years ago. The building is turnkey and ready for a good cleaning. We have several City services looking to help; The Ferguson Library already has a small media center at the Center and is looking to come in and update the books on the shelf and help with research, Domus is on board to help in any way they can, SPEF (Stamford Public Education Foundation) would like to help us. Chief Shaw is utilizing our Police Foundation to help with leases, forms, getting the building ready and the SPA who has a 501C.

The support from the Community is exceptional and many Corporations in town are patiently waiting to help.

Commissioner Flinn asked if this SPAL would interfere with the Boys & Girls Club. Chief Shaw said not. The SPAL is geared toward elementary and middle school students. Cloonan has already stated that they have students who would greatly benefit from SPAL at Chester Addison Center. The Chief also stated that Waterbury has a Boys & Girls Club, a YMCA and a PAL and everyone gets along.

Old/New Business

Chief Shaw wanted to thank Lt. Cooney for his many years in Internal Affairs and his help with hiring, investigations, etc. as he is now transitioning over to our Training Division. Lt. Michael Noto will be replacing Lt. Cooney in IA.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:54pm Next Commission Meeting will be held on November 8, 2021.

Submitted,

Timothy Abbazia

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Chairperson