



STAMFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT
725 BEDFORD STREET
STAMFORD, CT 06901-1194
OFFICE: (203) 977-4427 FAX: (203) 977-5583

A regular meeting of the Stamford Police Commission was held on Monday, March 1, 2021 at 5:00pm via Webinar.

Present at the meeting were Commissioners Abbazia, Figueroa, Flinn, Bass and Mercedes. Chief Timothy Shaw, Assistant Chief Thomas Wuennemann, Lt. Sean Cooney and Sgts. Gioielli and Gasparino, Director Jankowski. Attendees were Jere Eaton, Wendy Skratt, and Matthew Mead

Commissioner Abbazia called the meeting to order at 5:06pm

Review of Minutes

Commissioner Figueroa made a motion to approve the minutes from February 2021 meeting and Commissioner Mercedes second. All were in favor.

Appeal by Police Candidate Matthew Mead:

Candidate Mead appealed his disqualification from the SPD hiring process due to use of cocaine one time. Lt. Cooney informed the Commission that HR policy is a candidate cannot have used crack or powder cocaine with the past 10 years. Candidate Mead stated that he used cocaine in his sophomore year, which was 2013. Commissioner Abbazia said the Commission would evaluate and make a decision regarding this appeal in Executive Session.

Good Conduct by Officers:

Assistant Chief Wuennemann shared with the Commission that due to COVID and not meeting in person, the SPD would give the Commissioner Awards out to civilian and police personnel and at a time when we can gather we will have the Commission announce the awards they were given.

Comments from the Public

None

Personnel Issues

Commissioner Figueroa made a motion to go into Executive Session at 5:30pm second by Commissioner Mercedes. Commission came out of Executive Session at 5:52pm. Candidate Mead was asked to rejoin the Webinar. Commissioner Abbazia informed Candidate Mead that

his appeal was discussed and that the Commission felt they have to maintain consistency with guidelines and rules. Commissioner Flinn made a motion to deny Candidate Mead's appeal and was second by Commissioner Mercede. All were in favor. Commissioner Abbazia urged Candidate Mead to take the next police test.

Administration and Operating

Assistant Chief Wuennemann spoke about the SVU and Patrol units working together to arrest a suspect who on December 29 damaged a motor vehicle and then on January 21 SPD received another call of someone vandalizing a motor vehicle and stalking. Officers remembered suspect and he was arrested.

Traffic Enforcement Unit was slow the month of February due to weather. Officer Yanicky was detailed to emergency snow towing and found the owner of a vehicle she was about to tow. She found the owner had three active Prawn's and was taken into custody and help on \$25,000 bond.

Sgt. McAllister completed an arrest warrant for the operator of a crash in which is passenger -15 year old brother – was thrown through the windshield. This was the first ever; forced blood draw under a search warrant.

Officer Yanicky arrested a woman for the charges of OUI Evading Responsibility, Interfering with Police and Failure to Maintain Lane. The crash resulted in the death of her unborn baby.

On February 6 CARS was called to respond the 2200 Bedford street where a 73-year-old woman was struck by a vehicle operated by an 84-year-old driver. The victim has undergone five surgeries thus far.

The Crime Unit has issues with homelessness on the West Side. A shooting that took place on Ursula Place will have arrests forthcoming. In November 2020 on Stillwater Avenue at Virgil Street there was an attempted murder. Officer Gale assisted BCI in making contact with the suspect and he turned himself in on an outstanding arrest warrant in an attempted murder. Court set bond of \$750,000. Crime Unit has four outstanding homicides from 2020 that they are confident will be solved.

Property Crimes: Unit served a warrant on the fourth and final suspect from home burglary that involved multiple jurisdictions.

Unit made four arrest and were charged federally on burglary of the Verizon Store on Canal Street and numerous others.

New Business:

Chief Shaw spoke about our Bias Training that the entire department took and he received good feedback about the training. He talked about the Clergy Academy on Tuesday nights – 12-20 attendees – getting positive dialog back and forth and also good points and questions. On January 15, 2021, SPD changed its protocols regarding dealing with mental health issues. Since the change we have been on 19 less calls, while we still standby we were not involved.

Commissioner Abbazia asked if Chief Shaw could have information/a general understanding of the Bias Training for next month. Commissioner also asked A/C Wuennemann about shelters in Stamford and if the homeless can go into the shelters or do, we just let them be. The A/C told the Commission that because of COVID shelter capacity is down considerably because of the

amount of homeless they are able to have. Before COVID, it was 105-130, since COVID it is 80.

Chief Shaw informed the Commission that on March 23, 2020 there would be a budget zoom meeting for the New Year and that in April there will be four seats available for potential candidates at the Academy but they need to be vaccinated. Commissioner Figueroa asked if there was going to be a special meeting to interview the candidates. Lt. Cooney will be contacting all regarding a date and time for the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Abbazia

Timothy Abbazia
Chairman

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