



# EAST HAVEN DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES

471 NORTH HIGH STREET • EAST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06512

Mayor Joseph A. Carfora

Honorable Board of  
Police Commissioners

HONORABLE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 25, 2020 AT 7:00 PM  
471 NORTH HIGH STREET  
EAST HAVEN, CT

**COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT:** Commissioner Dawne Flynn, Commissioner Eduardo Torrealba, Commissioner Paul Carbo, Commissioner Dominic Balletto, Commissioner Marc Conte

**ALSO PRESENT:** Chief Edward Lennon, Deputy Chief Patrick Tracy, Mayor Joseph Carfora, Citizens, ETV Videographer

Commissioner Torrealba called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Moment of Silence
3. Roll Call – Clerk Maldonado; quorum obtained
4. Reorganization and Election of Officers for the Board

Commissioner Torrealba entertained a motion for nominations for Chairman. Commissioner Balletto nominated Paul Carbo; Commissioner Flynn nominated Eduardo Torrealba. Commissioner Torrealba asked thrice if there were any other nominations and moved for a roll call vote: Carbo – 3 (Balletto, Carbo, Conte); Torrealba – 2 (Flynn, Torrealba). The Board has elected Paul Carbo as Chairman. Motion carries.

Chairman Carbo entertained a motion for nominations for Vice Chairman. Commissioner Torrealba nominated Dawne Flynn; Commissioner Flynn nominated Eduardo Torrealba; Commissioner Conte nominated Dominic Balletto. Chairman Carbo asked thrice if there were any other nominations and moved for a roll call vote: Balletto – 3 (Balletto, Carbo, Conte); Flynn – 1 (Torrealba); Torrealba – 1 (Flynn). The Board elects Dominic Balletto as Vice Chairman. Motion carries.

Commissioner Torrealba congratulates both the Chairman and Vice Chairman on their appointments tonight.

Chairman Carbo entertained a motion for nominations for Secretary/Clerk. Commissioner Torrealba made a motion to appoint Miss Marsha Maldonado as the Clerk of the Board. Voice Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Announcement(s)

Chief Lennon reminded the Board about the Police Athletic League (PAL) Bingo Charity Fundraiser this Friday, February 28 – 5:45PM at the Senior Center.

6. Consider and act upon the approval of the regular monthly meeting minutes of January 28, 2020  
Commissioner Conte made a motion to accept and approve the regular monthly meeting minutes of January 28, 2020 as received; seconded by Vice Chairman Balletto. All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Consider and act upon the approval of the monthly reports (February 2020)  
Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to accept and approve the monthly reports as received; seconded by Commissioner Conte. All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Consider and act upon Committee Reports & Recommendations

Chairman Carbo noted that new appointments would need to be made. Commissioner Torrealba confirmed that the current members of the subcommittees would remain until new members are appointed. Chairman Carbo asked if there were any reports:

- a. Alarms Committee – Commissioner Flynn and Chairman Carbo stated there is nothing to report at this time.
- b. Police Personnel Committee – Vacant
- c. Traffic & Public Safety Committee – Commissioner Torrealba stated that there is nothing to report at this time.

Commissioner Conte made a motion to accept the Committee reports; seconded by Vice Chairman Balletto. All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Public Comment

Chairman Carbo asked thrice if there was any public comment. No discussion. Public Comment is closed.

10. Correspondence Received/Sent

- a. Erica Forti, Superintendent of Schools (dated February 19, 2020) – Request for the Board, as the local traffic authority, to consider the proposed Protected Pedestrian Crossing and send a letter to the Office of the State Traffic Administration (OSTA) requesting a formal a review and subsequent action. Chief Lennon explained that currently the intersection of Wheelbarrow Lane and Route 80 is set as a push-to-green crosswalk as opposed to a Protected Pedestrian Crosswalk – when a pedestrian hits the button, the entire intersection would be “redded out.” The OSTA will review/take action upon receipt of the request from the local traffic authority (BOPC).  
Commissioner Torrealba made a motion to issue a letter to the State Traffic Administration mirroring the request of the school Superintendent and the Chief’s recommendation; seconded by Commissioner Flynn. All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Department Updates (Chief Lennon)

- a. Personnel Matters/Injured Employees
  - i. Two (2) sworn personnel remain on long-term injured status – no update on return to duty.
  - ii. Two (2) vacancies in the Detective Bureau. Civil Service has scheduled the test for the first week of April and approximately eight (8) people have signed up to take the exam.
- b. Overtime – About the same (slightly less) as previous years.
- c. Awards & Commendations

d. Noteworthy News

- i. The Department recently took delivery of our second K9 who is currently in the K9 Academy. Additionally, a local business has offered to donate a third K9 and once all is secured and finalized, we will publicly disclose the business. Also, in the near future, we will host a K9 ceremony to memorialize a former retired/deceased K9 and recognize our two new K9s.

Commissioner Flynn commented that the K9s are a welcome and necessary addition to the Department. She and her family would like to donate a Kevlar vest for the animal's protection in honor of her late husband who was a 28-year veteran police officer with the New Haven Police Department. It is important to take care of and protect such a valuable asset, the same as we do for our other officers.

- ii. Bank Robbery, Key Bank, 245 Main Street (January 30, 2020) – The suspect passed a note to the teller who was able to provide a description. Officers quickly developed a suspect who lived close by; they surrounded the house and took the suspect into custody within 12 minutes. Patrol recovered all the money and dumped clothing. Subsequent interviews by Detectives and the FBI yielded a confession. Impressive job by everyone.
- iii. Motor Vehicle Stop/Drug Seizure (February 23, 2020) – Just before midnight, Officer Savo conducted a MV stop and detected an odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. The operator admitted to having marijuana. A subsequent search of the vehicle found a large quantity of marijuana, also some LSD, some edible marijuana and THC syrup. He also consented to a search of his hotel room where additional marijuana was found along with THC cartridges and marijuana edibles. In total, approximately 4.89 lbs of marijuana was seized. Excellent job by Officers Savo and Coppola who were the main officers on this incident.

12. Old Business

- a. Candelora/Residents of Laurel Street

Chief Lennon, upon additional research on the NO THRU TRUCK issue, asked the Board to send a letter to the Office of the State Traffic Administration (OSTA) to recognize Laurel, Bradley and Grannis Streets as a NO THRU TRUCK zone. The area is eligible for the designation and it would go a long way in resolving some of the traffic issues. It would not prevent any truck from driving on those streets but it will prohibit its use as a cut-through between routes and interstates.

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to send a letter as described by Chief Lennon; seconded by Commissioner Flynn. All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried.

13. New Business

- a. Discussion and approval of revised policies 207.5 (Early Intervention System), 302.6 (Weapons and Weapons Storage), 307.3 (Confidential Informants), 404.3 (Use of Force), 405.4 (Use of Lethal Force), 415.7 (Domestic Violence), 426.5 (Traffic Enforcement), 449.1 (Thermal Imager), 450.1 (Use of Narcan)

Chief Lennon spoke about policy 450.1 (Use of Narcan). The Fire Department still remains as the first responders for opioids/overdoses however, on rare occasion, police officers come upon people in opioid overdoses. We are working on several outreach programs for opioid response. There has been a drastic increase in potential exposure for first responders while processing evidence, responding to overdoses and dealing with arrestees. We have already been trained in the administration of Narcan (an opioid antagonist for fentanyl overdose) and we will be adding it to our "go bags." The first delivery of Narcan will be provided via grant through our collaboration with

BHcare (our local mental health provider) and then at our expense. There is a 18-24-month shelf-life if unused but we cannot put a price on saving a life.

Deputy Chief Tracy explained that there are no monumental changes to the other policies. The EIS clarified the four (4) categories on the EIS system; Weapons and Storage to comply with updated requirements for TASER recertification and handling retraining if there are lapses; Confidential Informant is to tighten up who is responsible for maintaining the files and who has access to them; Use of Force was a lot of definition changes to be in line with our lock-up instruction which is the modality we follow for any Department defensive tactics training; Use of Lethal Force was a lot of definition updates and providing medical attention after the application of force; Domestic Violence for compliance with enacted CT Public Act 19-189 as well as the recommendations in the CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence 2019 Model Policy; Traffic Enforcement was grammatical; Thermal Imager policy will provide guidance on deploying our thermal imaging unit with certain limitations with respect to Fourth Amendment rights. The higher liability policies have more recurring training than standard policies.

Commissioner Conte made a motion to approve the revised policy en masse effective March 16, 2020; seconded by Commissioner Flynn. All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 14. Adjournment

In closing, Chairman Carbo recognized Mayor Carfora and Town Attorney Luzzi, thanking them for attending this evening.

Commissioner Torrealba made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Vice Chairman Balletto. Chairman Carbo adjourned the meeting at 7:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha M. Maldonado  
Clerk to the Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

*[Audio recording on file – duration 27:22 minutes]*