



## 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 JULY 28, 2020 AT 7:00 PM

#### VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

**COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT:** Chairman Paul Carbo (presiding), Vice Chairman Dominic Balletto, Commissioner Eduardo Torrealba

**ALSO PRESENT:** Chief Edward Lennon, Deputy Chief Patrick Tracy, Clerk Marsha Maldonado, Reverend Mark Pilletere, Karen Martin, Android, (203) XXX-9863

Chairman Carbo called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

*Due to Governor Ned Lamont's March 10, 2020 declaration of a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency and subsequently issued Executive Orders, and Mayor Joseph A. Carfora's March 16, 2020 declaration of a state of emergency in the Town of East Haven due to the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 in the State of Connecticut including New Haven County, in-person public access to this meeting will not be permitted.*

[The public can access this meeting from a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Tonight's regular meeting is taking place remotely via ZOOM. Videoconference links and dial-ins were provided to the public.]

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Moment of Silence
3. Roll Call - Clerk Maldonado; quorum obtained
4. Announcement(s)
5. Consider and act upon the approval of the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes of June 30, 2020

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to accept and approve the regular monthly meeting minutes of June 30, 2020 as received; seconded by Commissioner Torrealba. Voice Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Consider and act upon the approval of the Monthly Reports (July 2020)

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to accept the monthly reports as received; seconded by Commissioner Torrealba. Voice Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Consider and act upon Committee Reports & Recommendations

8. Public Comment

a. Karen Martin (15 Oak Grove Road)

- i. Golf carts operated by juveniles (appear to be under 16) in her neighborhood in Momauguin – is this still permissible in a beach community? Commissioner Torrealba does not recall the Board or the Police saying that it was okay because we are a “beach community” and he believes that when there is not a specific Town ordinance, DMV and CT State laws are applicable. He encouraged her to contact the Department if she feels a crime, violation or infraction has occurred so that action can be taken.
- ii. Kids on Bikes – what is the Department’s stance on kids roaming around on bikes, taunting people and riding in/out of traffic – especially around the restaurant on Coe Avenue and Cosey Beach – generally not behaving nicely. Is there a dedicated officer to the Beach Area?

Chief Lennon commented that we have been getting complaints and have sent officers to take enforcement action. There are still rules of the road that everyone must follow regardless of age. As for staffing, we are doing our best to designate an officer on the weekends as we have in the past. As we hire additional positions, the likelihood of staffing the beach area on a permanent basis for this summer is going to be very hard for us. This sector is covered by routine patrol, however, calls for service have drastically increased over the last several weeks so we are doing our best to be there as much as we can.

9. Correspondence Received/Sent

- a. Tania & Robert Butler (88 Edward Street), undated; received on July 7, 2020 – Request for handicap sign in front of residence for autistic son who is non-verbal and has special transportation.
- b. Mary Cannata (75 Frank Street), dated July 20, 2020 – Issue of speeding traffic that continually goes through Frank Street between Thompson Avenue and French Street. Numerous children live on this block and are at greater risk being out of school due to COVID-19.

Commissioner Torrealba made a motion to defer both letters to the Traffic and Public Safety Committee for review; seconded by Vice Chairman Balletto. Voice Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Lennon mentioned that in addition to the Committee’s review, we would also follow up with Ms. Cannata regarding local traffic issues; although it is a difficult area to do enforcement, we will look for ways to be more of a presence in the area.

- c. EHBOPC letter sent to CTDOT, dated July 20, 2020 – Requesting the entire length of Laurel Street be deemed as a “No Through Truck Zone” pursuant to the regular monthly meeting of February 25, 2020 on behalf of the residents of Laurel Street.
- d. EHBOPC letter sent to CTDOT, dated July 20, 2020 – Requesting a Protected Pedestrian Crossing at the intersections of Wheelbarrow Lane, River Road and Foxon Road – which is the entrance/exit of the East Haven High School pursuant to the regular monthly meeting of February 25, 2020 on behalf of Erica Forti, Superintendent of Schools.

II. Department Updates (Chief Lennon)

a. Personnel Matters/Injured Employees

- i. There are multiple vacancies with the additional positions [approved by the Town Council]; however, operating strength is slowly starting to increase.
- ii. Civil Service has begun the testing process for Lieutenant and Grade C Recruit Officer which will help create the movement we need to fill vacancies.
- iii. One (1) sworn personnel remains on long term injured; status unknown
- iv. Two (2) sworn personnel are on light duty; one long term, one short term

b. Overtime

Overtime is a bit high right now due to two (2) major cases that have occurred over the last several weeks forcing us to do a lot of extra hours of overtime. Generally, if we take those cases/hours out of the equation, we are on par with where we have been historically.

c. Awards & Commendations

d. Noteworthy News

Commissioner Torrealba extends his thanks and gratitude to the members of the Department for the excellent work they have done under the very difficult circumstances of the very serious crimes we have had in the past few weeks; hopefully their investigation will bring it to conclusion and provide a measure of justice for the family of the young woman who suffered an untimely death. They perform a difficult job, under difficult circumstances and the officer is there to help at the worst moments in people's lives.

Chief Lennon agrees that they have been doing a great job and he is very proud of their hard work.

12. Old Business

13. New Business

- a. Review changes to the Town Code of Ordinance Chapter 11 - Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article I, Secs. 11-16 and 11-17, and consider referral to the Traffic and Public Safety Committee for evaluation and action.

Vice Chairman Balletto moves to defer to the Traffic and Public Safety Committee for evaluation and action; seconded by Commissioner Torrealba; Voice Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Consider and appoint Reverend Mark Pilletere of the Old Stone Church as a Department chaplain.

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to consider and appoint Reverend Mark Pilletere of the Old Stone Church as a Department chaplain; seconded by Commissioner Torrealba.

Deputy Chief Tracy commented that police chaplains play a very important role within our agency and are part of the EHPD family, assisting us in many different capacities. Our Chaplain Program was established many years ago to help us further engage in the community, breaking down old barriers and further enhancing our existing partnerships. Our police chaplains have always been available to listen to officers in their time of need. Reverend Pilletere has a very impressive resume and he will serve the men

and women of the Department very well. Pastor Mark has served in the U.S. Army for 12 years, he has earned his Bachelor's degree from Excelsior College in New York, a Master's degree from Bangor Theological Seminary, and has also served in Norwich as a police chaplain for two years, as well as the Lions District 23b for five years, and as a chaplain in the Central Region of Hartford Hospital for six years – he has done all of this while serving churches full time. Pastor Mark has been with the Old Stone Church since April 2020. We are very excited to have the opportunity to present him to the Board.

Pastor Mark addressed the Board, the Chief and the Deputy Chief thanking them for his appointment and he looks forward to serving the East Haven Police Department as their chaplain. The chaplain's role – especially during today's environment – is a very valuable and important role to listen to police officers and what they are going through.

Vice Chairman Balletto thanked him for his dedication and service, and willingness to serve the Department. Chairman Carbo welcomed him aboard – we do appreciate him joining us.

Voice Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 14. Adjournment

Commissioner Torrealba made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Vice Chairman Balletto. Chairman Carbo adjourned the meeting at 7:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

*[Audio recording on file – duration 24:40]*