



# 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  
MAY 25, 2021 AT 7:00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

**COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT:** Chairman Paul Carbo (presiding), Vice Chairman Dominic Balletto, Commissioner Diane Romans, Commissioner Joseph DiSilvestro, Commissioner Barbara Barbuio

**ALSO PRESENT:** Chief Edward Lennon, Town Attorney Michael Luzzi, Esq., Captain Joseph Murgio, Town Council Chairman Joseph Deko, Amy Derbacher, Karen Martin, Nick Palladino, Eduardo Torrealba, Lorena Venegas, Zinger

Chairman Carbo called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

*To the residents and tax-payers of the Town of East Haven, and other interested parties, 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 April 27, 2021  
Commissioner Romans made a motion to accept and approve the regular Monthly Meeting minutes of April 27, 2021 as received; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro; Voice Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried.
6. Consider and act upon the approval of the Monthly Reports (May 2021)  
Commissioner Romans made a motion to accept the monthly reports as received; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro. Voice Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried.

7. Consider and act upon Committee Reports & Recommendations

Will address under New Business – Item 12.a.

*[Vice Chairman Balletto was experiencing technical difficulties and has joined the virtual meeting]*

8. Public Comment

a. Karen Martin (15 Oak Grove Road)

- i. Last night's meeting [of the Traffic and Public Safety Subcommittee] was amazing and again thanks to everyone who put in all the work. She will reserve further comment for later in the meeting.
- ii. Golf Carts – At the last meeting, she was directed to the **2015 Connecticut General Statutes, Section 14-300g - Operation of golf carts. Equipment. Insurance.** *“Thank you for pointing me in the right direction on that. The very first line of this statute says that any municipality is authorized to permit the operation of golf carts. So, that brings me to my first question, if we are authorized to permit, does that mean that everybody in the whole state is allowed to have golf carts on their streets or do we have to make an ordinance to allow golf carts on the streets? Authorized to permit. So, I have a feeling that we need to have an ordinance if we don't already have one, but that's something that maybe we should look in to. Also, the State goes on to say that golf carts can only be used during daylight hours and must be equipped with an operable horn, must be equipped with headlights, must be equipped with a flag to notify other drivers and pedestrians where they are, and also everybody operating a golf cart must have a driver's license. Now, I know that you guys already received a couple of letters from another member of our neighborhood anyway about children driving golf carts all over the streets down in our neighborhoods and you know more than four. And the other thing that should be required, I think is required, is seat belts for each individual seat and each golf cart only seats four people, and there are more than four people in some of these golf carts that the children are driving around. So, I really think that we need to look into this further, and I would really appreciate it if we could, perhaps possibly our Traffic and Safety Committee now that they've done such a good job on the parking, possibly they would like to look in to where we stand on this. I mean, who's liable for any problems that may come up, maybe accidents? If they don't have a driver's license and they're not insured, who pays? Who's liable? Are we liable for allowing golf carts on our streets without an ordinance? We are very upset about some of the things that are going on in our neighborhoods with golf carts. The other two things, I wanted to send pictures but I never got around to it – one picture I took about a month ago very soon after your last meeting, the golf cart parked on the beach, inside the gates on the beach. And this past Thursday there was a golf cart with two adults – one driver and one in the passenger seat, and another child – I want to say, young teen – sitting on the back, lounging about with his feet hanging off the side, completely unsafe. This is a hazard for us and who's gonna be liable? I would really like to ask that someone consider looking in to this further. That's all I want to say about that.”*

Chairman Carbo commented that we follow the State statutes and suggested that perhaps Chairman Balletto and Commissioner DiSilvestro [as the Traffic and Public Safety Subcommittee] take this issue under review.

Lorena Venegas – *[experiencing technical difficulties – her microphone is not working]*. She sent the following comment via the Zoom “Chat” feature:

“I apologize you could not hear me. I will submit comments via email to Commission. Thank you for your efforts on beach parking.”

9. Correspondence Received/Sent

*All correspondence is distributed to the Board in advance of the meeting.*

a. Jonathan Mulhern, Chief of Police, Branford Police Department (dated May 12, 2021):

*“On behalf of the men and women of the Branford Police Department, we wish to extend our sincerest thanks to the members of your department that provided assistance on April 13, 2021 responding to a barricaded person firing a rifle in our town. During the initial response, two Branford Police Officers were pinned behind a police cruiser as the gunman continued to fire from an elevated position. Within minutes of the first shots, we requested the additional personnel from your department and activation of the South Central Regional SWAT Team.*

*Within minutes, your officers had arrived on scene and played an instrumental role in rescuing an injured civilian and enhancing containment of the gunman. The South Central Regional SWAT Team engaged in a seven-hour standoff that ended when the gunman took his own life. The thoughtful tactical process and professionalism employed by the team contributed to a safe resolution for all officers involved. We express our thanks to the officers assigned to the SWAT Team and the other members of the East Haven Police Department that came to our aid in a time of need.*

*All those involved demonstrated professionalism and courage under very trying circumstances. Formal recognition for the officers will occur at a later date. We are very fortunate to have the East Haven Police Department as our law enforcement neighbor and regional partner. Once again, thank you and the members of the East Haven Police Department for your assistance during this critical incident.”*

Clerk Maldonado formally acknowledged Lieutenant Kevin Klarman, Sergeants Joseph Mulhern, Joseph Finoia, Jeffrey Valette, Detectives Molly Perry, Nicholas Adams, John Fraenza, Joseph Carangelo, and Officers Ahmad Wahib, Frederick Sego, George Gerosa and Paul Scelza as the Department personnel involved in the Branford incident.

Chairman Carbo wanted to say “Kudos” to the Chief, Deputy Chief and his team.

b. Jacklyn Trickett-Sargent (45 Edgemere Road), dated March 24, 2021 – two (2) separate letters:

- i. Concerns about golf carts being used in the Momauguin area and throughout town. Request for enforcement.
- ii. Traffic dangers and speeding on Coe Avenue. Request for crosswalks with lights, preferably one at the entrance to Proto Drive to slow traffic enough to give pedestrians the opportunity to cross. At the very minimum, speed bumps would accomplish the same thing.

Clerk Maldonado made a recommendation to defer items b.i. and b.ii. to the Traffic and Public Safety Subcommittee for review; so moved by Vice Chairman Balletto.

*[Before continuing, Chairman Carbo wanted to let everyone know that Ms. Venegas was unable to speak during Public Comment so she will be sending correspondence to Miss Maldonado.]*

10. Department Updates (Chief Lennon)

a. Personnel Matters/Injured Employees

Although we are at full staff “on paper,” we are operating, technically, eleven (11) personnel “short.”

- i. Seven (7) recruits in various phases of training either at the Academy (4 in one, 2 in another) or field training (1).
- ii. Three (3) sworn personnel are on long term injury; one (1) on light duty with a pending return.

b. Overtime

Trending in the right direction for this time of year. There are two (2) payrolls left in the fiscal year and we are confident that we can cover any deficits from within our own budget utilizing unused salary.

c. Awards & Commendations

Chief Mulhern's letter from Branford Police was forwarded to the Awards Committee to confer awards.

d. Noteworthy News

- i. Members of the Department will be participating in the annual Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run again this year on June 18, 2021.
- ii. East Haven High School Senior Chad Feola, our nominee for the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA) Carl Moller Scholarship Award, has been selected and will be recognized at the CPCA Annual Meeting on June 10, 2021.

II. Old Business

12. New Business

- a. Consider recommendations from the Traffic and Public Safety Subcommittee regarding changes to the Town's Parking Enforcement and Management Plan, including but not limited to the beach area of Town.

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to consider recommendations from the Traffic and Public Safety Subcommittee regarding changes to the Town's Parking Enforcement and Management Plan, including but not limited to the beach area of Town; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro.

Vice Chairman Balletto commented that the Chiefs' Office did a great job with their presentation last night along with the Mayor's Office, including some members of the Town Council for their involvement in this project which has been a longstanding nightmare for most people living in the beach community. It is the culmination of a lot of hard work. He is asking the public to realize that this may not be a perfect solution but it is a major step to move forward rather than continuing to talk about it. It will have its quirks so please be patient and give us the summer to work it out. Changes may be needed long the way and we welcome constructive feedback.

Vice Chairman Balletto, as the Chairman of the Traffic and Public Safety Subcommittee, addressed the full Board with the official notice of the Subcommittee's recommendation:

The Traffic and Public Safety Subcommittee held a public hearing on Monday, May 24, 2021 at 7PM at the East Haven High School regarding the Town's Parking and Enforcement Plan. A copy of the presentation has been provided to each member of the Board. The Subcommittee voted to move the plan to the full Board for consideration and a vote.

1. The Town and the Police Department will begin to use an electronic permitting program for both resident and visitor permits.
2. All of the following streets will require a permit to park on from May 15 until October 15 from 7AM until 9PM:
  - a. Atwater Street
  - b. Bradford Avenue
  - c. Cambridge Court
  - d. Catherine Street
  - e. Center Avenue

- f. Coe Avenue (South of the intersection of Soundview Avenue to Cosey Beach Avenue)
  - g. Cold Spring Street
  - h. Cosey Beach Avenue
  - i. Cosey Beach Road (from Coe Avenue to Catherine Street)
  - j. Dewey Avenue
  - k. First Avenue
  - l. George Street (south of Soundview Avenue)
  - m. Henry Street (south of Soundview Avenue)
  - n. Hobson Avenue
  - o. Jamaica Court
  - p. Palmetto Trail
  - q. Phillip Street
  - r. Seaview Avenue
  - s. Second Avenue
  - t. Stevens Street (south of Soundview Avenue)
  - u. Sunset Pass
  - v. Wilkenda Avenue
3. The current existing no parking areas for all of the aforementioned streets will remain and will not be changed at this time.
  4. The Town and the Police Department will issue temporary visitor passes to residents that reside on the affected streets for guests to their respective residences.
  5. There will be ten-minute drop-off/pick-up parking spots established and monitored near the Town Beach. The operator must remain with the vehicle.
  6. The parking lots adjacent to the Town Beach will not allow overnight parking from May 15 until October 15 from the hours of 9PM until 7AM.
  7. Visitor spots will be established in the Town Grove parking lot for a daily fee. All Town residents will be able park in the Town parking lots free of charge.

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to take action to approve the Subcommittee's recommendations; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro.

Chairman Carbo asked if any Commissioners had any questions or concerns.

Vice Chairman Balletto also commends Commissioner Romans for attending the Subcommittee meeting.

Commissioner Romans said that it was a great presentation and thanked everyone involved in this project because it took a lot of work, and she thinks it was very well received by the Town's people.

Chairman Carbo opened up to any other questions, limited to two minutes.

Town Council Chairman Deko: *"Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to make a quick statement. I want to thank you all for taking this into consideration. This has been a long time coming. I know I've been working on this project for well before I was elected to the Council four years ago. So, this is a long time coming, I appreciate all your support. I know that the residents in my district really appreciate this. Chief Lennon, Deputy Chief Tracy and along with Mayor Carfora, it's a lot of work, we got it this far, and I really hope that you guys vote to enact this and whatever the Town Council needs to do ordinance-wise, we'll do it. Chairman Carbo, you and I have had plenty of conversations about it and our vision, and this is exactly what we want. This all started – I'll just make a quick mention to the Momauquin Cosey Beach Neighbors Association which is an informal group that meets monthly down the beach. We have been*

*talking through this with them. It's well-attended – about 75 members of the neighborhood go to the meeting, whether virtually or in-person, and it's been ironed out pretty well between that group so I want to give them a quick little kudos because it was born there. So, thank you all very much. I hope that we have your support for it."*

Chairman Carbo wanted to interject, the same as Chief Lennon and Vice Chairman Balletto said, that this is a starting point; this is not written in stone that this is it, we're all done. We can make this evolve with us.

Chairman Deko agreed and feels as though we are going to come across some bumps and it is a work in progress for sure. One of his other concerns, and he is glad it was addressed, was enforcement. The men and women of the Department have enough to do on a daily basis, however, this is a quality-of-life issue and a big thing to address, and he wants it to be as easy as possible for them to enforce this. The Town Council can make as many ordinances as they want but it is about enforcement. The program that we are going to be using is very user-friendly and it makes it easy to enforce which is key.

Lorena Venegas commented via the Zoom "Chat" feature as follows:

"Can you talk about staffing and beach patrol this summer? What happens to violators?"

Chairman Carbo responded that both of these questions were addressed last night but he believes that as far as the patrolling, that is going to be done by our resource officers with respect to not taking our patrol officers that we need on the beat and changing the quality of life. These are going to be officers that are going to be in the area, and if needed elsewhere, the priority would be the Town with parking second to that.

As for violators, Vice Chairman Balletto noted that there are various fines [*please see [East Haven, Connecticut - Code of Ordinances, Chapter II - MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, Sec. II-16. - Stopping, standing and parking prohibited in certain places. and Sec. II-17. - Penalties for parking violations.](#)*] and processes to collect on those violations will be implemented through the new program.

Chief Lennon referenced last night's special meeting minutes that are already posted to our website along with the presentation which are more descriptive, and will answer both of Ms. Venegas' questions.

Karen Martin wanted to reiterate one more time that last night's presentation was really outstanding and addressed all the questions. *"We do realize that it's a beginning and we'll take this as a step forward, and we're very, very happy that this is what you are doing for us and we very much appreciate it. I hope you guys will continue with this and vote "yes," and let's get it going. Great job. Thank you."*

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

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13. Adjournment

Commissioner DiSilvestro made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Vice Chairman Balletto. Chairman Carbo thanked Chairman Balletto and Commissioner DiSilvestro for their hard work as well and 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 28:32]*