



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
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 AT 7:00 PM
471 NORTH HIGH STREET
EAST HAVEN, CT

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

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Edward Lennon, Deputy Chief Patrick Tracy, Citizen(s)

Chairman Carbo called the meeting to order at 6:59 PM.

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 August 31, 2021
Commissioner Romans made a motion to accept and approve the regular Monthly Meeting minutes of August 31, 2021 as received; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro. All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Consider and act upon the approval of the Monthly Reports (September 2021)
Commissioner Romans made a motion to accept and approve the monthly reports as received; seconded by Commissioner Barbuio. All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Consider and act upon Committee Reports & Recommendations
 - a. Traffic & Public Safety
 - i. 200 Tyler Street – Request for crosswalk
Chief Lennon conducted an evaluation on Tyler Street in the general area of Taylor Avenue and recommends that the Board approves the crosswalk either closer to French Avenue or closer to the exit driveway of 200 Tyler where the sidewalk pitches properly for wheelchair access.
Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to approve the crosswalk on Tyler Street at the location selected by the Chief and Deputy Chief; seconded by Commissioners DiSilvestro and Romans. All in favor. No one abstained or opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Alarms Committee

8. Public Comment

a. Maureen Ann McGuire (address not provided) – Referenced her letter as noted in “Correspondence Received” Item 9.e. below.

b. Christopher Griswold (714 Laurel Street) – Spoke about his letter submitted to the Board as noted in “Correspondence Received” Item 9.d. below and further requested a review by the Traffic & Public Safety Committee. So moved by Chairman Carbo.

Chief Lennon asked Mr. Griswold if he would allow the speed trailer to be posted on the edge of his property to help gather data to evaluate the dynamics of traffic flow. Mr. Griswold wholeheartedly agreed.

c. Wendy Bellmore (57 Catherine Street) – Representing the Cosey Beach Association.

i. People blowing through stop signs

ii. School Bus Infractions

Deputy Chief Tracy commented that proactive traffic enforcement is ongoing in various parts of town to actively address this and we will also use our social media to educate the public about the State statute and associated fines with school bus violations.

Chief Lennon further commented that the State statute does not require a police officer observe the violation to still take enforcement action and bus drivers can complete a Traffic Complaint Statement form which can be investigated and then later enforced (we have not received any to date). Recently, a bystander took video of a violation, however, they did not get a clear view of the vehicle’s license plate for us to take enforcement action. Also, bus drivers can, and often do, call violations to their dispatch who immediately notify EHPD.

Ms. Bellmore’s paramount concern is the safety of our children and feels bus drivers have enough responsibility – watching children cross, enter and exit, and surrounding traffic – that the additional onus of filling out a form is too much when they should be keeping their eyes on the children.

Deputy Chief Tracy further stated that school bus infractions are one of the highest fines at a minimum of \$475 upwards of \$500.

iii. 3D Crosswalks Update – Deputy Chief Tracy reported that some research has been done and a canvas of the area in Hamden with holographic crosswalks described by Ms. Bellmore [in a previous meeting] were not located so they reached out to Hamden’s Traffic Maintenance Department who confirmed that they do not have any 3D crosswalks in their town. However, he contacted another municipality in Fairfield County that was reported to have them and spoke with their Deputy Chief who was not comfortable putting 3D crosswalks in a public roadway – it was actually a Girl Scout’s project done in a park on private property with mixed results; there is not a traffic study or any statistics done, however, it was only partially effective because people, unfamiliar with the holographics, were distracted staring at the crosswalks instead of paying attention to pedestrians on the sidewalk trying to cross. We are still looking into this but have been unable to find a municipality that has a 3D crosswalk in a public roadway.

Ms. Bellmore asked what they can do to help and understands that there is some money coming in to Town Hall, and asked if we have the ability to ask for a traffic safety study where we do it – why not

be the Town that makes the decision, if we educate people who drive through town that we have these, then we have the ability to write a grant to fund it in a certain number of locations and be the place that is the beta-test for the viability of these crosswalks. Chief Lennon would first like to do more research to find a community that has these crosswalks on a public roadway to see what the impact is before we can make any determinations. It is not a major expense or cost-prohibitive, however, he wants to ensure that it is not going to have any other consequences.

- iv. Painting of Crosswalks Status – Public Works has been inundated taking care of other outdoor projects around Town and we also like to wait for cooler weather to complete the painting of the crosswalks.

9. Correspondence Received/Sent

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

- a. Michelle Benivegna, Assistant Director Admin & Management, Mayor's Office (Email dated September 22, 2021)

- i. Request for Town road closure. Will be addressed under “New Business” – Item 12.a. below.

- ii. Request for a stop sign at the intersection of Dodge Avenue and French Avenue. Received many complaints and this will be of great help to the neighborhood.

Chief Lennon has spoken with the Administration and plans to post a speed trailer on Dodge Avenue to assess the traffic flow/impact. His recommendation is to defer to the Traffic & Public Safety Committee and he will report back next month. So moved by Chairman Carbo.

- b. Lorena Venegas (Email dated September 17, 2021)

“I need help with a children’s bus stop at the corner of Wilkenda and Coe Avenue. There are many middle schoolers and high schoolers that have to cross Coe Avenue to board the school bus. The car[s] simply go too fast on this stretch of road. The owner of Ocean Port store did request and received approval to have a crosswalk installed many years ago, but it was not done, and he lost track of paperwork. We need help from the Traffic & Safety Committee of the Board of Police Commissioners. Please enter this letter as my formal request for review and action, along with a picture and video. We need traffic calming measures here, signage, died [speed] monitoring, and better sidewalks.”

Chief Lennon stated that this whole area is part of the Shoreline Greenway Trail project which includes the installation of a crosswalk in that general area to connect to the existing trail and improve better walking conditions along this route. He believes that the project will adequately address this concern and requests this be tabled until more information is available on exactly when the project will begin. Regarding the previous request from Ocean Port for a crosswalk, we do not have any record of this request or its approval. Commissioner DiSilvestro would like to keep this under “Old Business” for an update at the next meeting.

- c. Cherie Savage, 16 Laura Lane (Voicemail received September 27, 2021) – Request for dead end signage to prevent traffic from looping through Laura Lane.

Deputy Chief Tracy explained the traffic flow in this neighborhood and proposed a “NO OUTLET” sign at the intersection of Burr Street and Charter Oak Avenue to deter traffic away from Laura Lane which would better address this request.

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to install a “NO OUTLET” sign at the intersection of Burr Street and Charter Oak Avenue on the Burr Street side; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro. All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

- d. Christopher Griswold, 714 Laurel Street (Undated; Received September 13, 2021) – Requests the Board consider changing the location of the stop sign at the intersection of Laurel Street and View Terrace by repositioning the stop sign coming from New Haven to the opposite side of the intersection so that cars coming down Laurel Street towards New Haven would have the stop sign. This change would allow truck traffic moving up Laurel Street to keep their momentum going and reduce noise levels as well as exhaust emissions; these extremely loud engine noises and shifting of gears are incredibly loud which greatly impacts the quality of life in the neighborhood.
- e. Maureen Ann McGuire (Hand-delivered to a Board Member September 28, 2021 prior to the start of the meeting) – Formal complaint concerning several members of the East Haven Police Department for an event that occurred on October 20, 2020.

Clerk Maldonado was given a copy of the letter which will be date-stamped as received and processed accordingly.

10. Department Updates (Chief Lennon)

a. Personnel Matters/Injured Employees

- i. Two (2) sworn personnel on injury leave – no return date at this time
- ii. One (1) sworn personnel remains on light duty – making steady progress
- iii. Four (4) recruit officers and one (1) lateral transfer in various stages of Field Training (FTO)
- iv. Three (3) recruit officers in various stages of Academy Training

b. Overtime

- i. Slightly lower than average and tracking better than this same time period FY2021
- ii. Catching up on trainings which may increase overtime for the next several pay periods but will level off again in subsequent pay periods

c. Awards & Commendations

- i. Police Chief’s Association of Connecticut (PCAC) 2021 Meritorious Service & Distinguished Chiefs Dinner (September 29, 2021, Vazzano’s Four Seasons) – Officer Brandon DePalma will be honored as a Top Graduate of P.O.S.T. Academy Class 368 (delayed recognition due to COVID-19 pandemic)
- ii. Preliminary planning for a formal Department award ceremony with a tentative date in early 2022; will keep the Board apprised

d. Noteworthy News

- i. Two (2) recruit officers will graduate from the Milford Police Academy on November 17, 2021

II. Old Business

12. New Business

- a. Consideration and approval of road closure request for a Town community Halloween event – October 23, 2021 (rain date October 30, 2021)

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to approve the requested road closure; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro. All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to go in to Executive Session [undisclosed topic] with the Board, Chief Lennon and Deputy Chief Tracy present. Executive session commenced at 7:31 PM and concluded at 7:40 PM.

13. Adjournment

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner DiSilvestro. Chairman Carbo adjourned the meeting at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

[Audio recording on file – duration 33:04 for public session only; executive session excluded]