

Wilton Police Commission



240 Danbury Road  
Wilton, Connecticut 06897  
Tel: (203) 834-6260  
Fax: (203) 834 6258

**POLICE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
10 JUNE 2013**

**CTO**

Commissioner Don Sauvigne called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Commissioner David Waters, Chairman Chris Weldon (by telephone), Chief Michael Lombardo, Deputy Chief Robert Crosby, Captain John Lynch, Wilton High School Principal O'Connell, Michael Safko and Lauren Safko.

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Weldon made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Waters. Motion carried 3-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

In recognition of the members of the public present who wished to address the Commission, Commissioner Waters suggested that the Commission scramble the agenda to take up New Business. Commissioner Sauvigne made a motion to scramble the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Waters. Motion carried 3-0.

**A. Safe Rides Presentation**

Michael Safko and his daughter Lauren, who attends Wilton High School, made a presentation to the Commission with respect to the Safe Rides program they are instituting in Wilton which they want to start with the 2013-2014 school year. There had been such a program in the mid-1980's and there are active programs in several surrounding towns.

The program will provide safe rides home to Wilton high school students -- they will only provide rides starting and ending within Wilton, they will only drive a person to their home and they will only provide one ride to a person per night. Each Safe Rides team will be a coed pair of volunteer students, and they will be trained by Chris Gardiner of Wilton EMS. Mark Ketley has donated space at Trackside for the operations center, and

there will be an adult advisor present during the hours that the Safe Rides program is operating.

They have met with the Board of Selectmen, Chief Lombardo, Chris Gardiner of Wilton EMS and the Wilton Youth Council, and they have reached out to Wilton Schools Superintendent Gary Richards.

Chief Lombardo asked if there were any downsides to the program. They reported that they have spoken with the organizers in other towns and they do not anticipate any. Certain operational matters may need to be worked out, such as how to address Wilton students at parties in a nearby town, “alumni” requesting Safe Ride services, etc. The biggest challenge will be to get people to use it and to ensure that privacy and the integrity of the system is maintained, balanced against legitimate medical and public safety concerns.

The program does not require action by the Commission. The Commissioners, however, stated their support for the program. Chief Lombardo and/or other members of the Department will attend the Safe Rides board meeting on June 20, 2013 to endorse their activities.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

In recognition of other members of the public present who wished to address the Commission, Chairman Waters suggested that the Commission further scramble the agenda to take up Old Business. Commissioner Sauvigne made a motion to scramble the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Waters. Motion carried 3-0.

#### **A. Discussion and Consideration of School Zone Designation on Route 7 from School Road to the Entrance of the Wilton High School**

Chief Lombardo reported that the State DOT will in all likelihood approve a school zone designation on Route 7 between School Road and the entrance of the Wilton High School if requested by the Commission. At a minimum there would be signage indicating it is a school zone and the hours of the school zone designation, with flashing lights. The flashing lights and, if desired, speed indication signs would be at Town cost. Principal O'Donnell expressed the continued support of the school system for the designation.

Commissioner Weldon requested that the matter be placed on the Commission's next agenda as old business. In the meantime, Chief Lombardo will confirm the current speed limit in the area and the speed limit that DOT would require if a school zone were established, and the cost to the Town of the signage alternatives. The Commissioners suggested that the Chief and Principal O'Connell also reach out to interested parties including the PTA and the YMCA to see if some of the funding for the signage could be contributed by these organizations since the Department cannot fully fund it and the cost could impact both the type of signage and the timing of installation. The goal would be

to have the school zone established and the new signage installed in time for the start of the 2013-2014 school year.

### **DISCUSSION OF MONTHLY REPORTS**

Monthly reports were reviewed and discussed. The Commissioners noted that the number of MV Stops is consistent with the same period in prior years, which is commendable given coverage issues resulting from injuries and illness during the month. The Commissioners noted the continued increase in pistol permits.

The Activity Report was reviewed. There were no reporting concerns.

The MAC Report was reviewed. Officer MacLean has been filling in for shift officers so her other activities have been limited. The Commission discussed the responsibility for line painting – when DPW repaves a street then DPW is responsible for line painting/signs; when the lines/signs simply wear out the Department is responsible for repainting. The needed painting on Spectacle Lane is an example of DPW responsibility. The Commissioners requested that future MAC Reports include a follow up from the prior month's MAC Report to state what action had been taken with respect to traffic areas of concern, and what the results of those actions were.

The SRO Report was reviewed. There were no notable reporting matters. Chief Lombardo will request that the SRO attend the Safe Rides board meeting.

### **REPORT OF CHIEF LOMBARDO**

Letters of thanks and jobs well done and other miscellaneous matters were reviewed.

- Letter from Chief Lombardo thanking Peg Koellmer for her generosity.
- Letter from Gloria and Ralph Perschino expressing their appreciation for assistance they received.
- Letter from Deputy Chief Hans Rhynhard (UConn PD) thanking DC Crosby, Capt. Lynch, Sgt. Tunney, Officers Dolenk and Fridinger for their assistance with a residence search in Wilton.
- Letter to Stamford Police Chief Fonteneau from Chief Lombardo, thanking him for assistance from the Stamford Bomb Squad Team members.
- Letter to Captain Lynch from Moore Physical Therapy & Fitness for his assistance during their Spring Wine Tasting event.
- Email from Robert McDowell, Executive Director of the Wilton Family Y, to Chief Lombardo thanking him for his participation at the Y's Community Leader Breakfast Forum.
- Letter from John Logan, Chief Field Support Service of the United Nations, Department of Safety and Security, concerning the support and professionalism of Sgt. Kluk.

## **NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**

### **B. Discussion of Fundraising Efforts for Various Department Programs**

The Commission discussed the ongoing need for funding of several Department initiatives, including the Wilton Police Fund that is used for extraordinary needs of officers of the Department; the K9 Program that was started with a generous donation by Blue Buffalo; and the Police Explorers program serving high school youth. The Commissioners and Chief Lombardo agreed to reach out to three or four members of the community to form an exploratory discussion group as to the best means to raise funds for these programs. This matter will be placed on a future agenda as old business.

## **REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS**

There were no reports of the Commissioners.

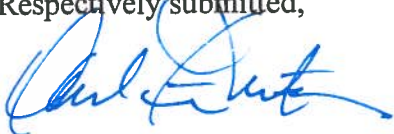
## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:11 p.m., the meeting went into Executive Session to consider personnel issues. At 9:31 p.m., the Commission came out of Executive Session. No action was taken in the Executive Session.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:32 p.m., a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Waters seconded by Commissioner Weldon and passed 3-0.

Respectively submitted,



David F. Waters, Acting Recording Secretary