

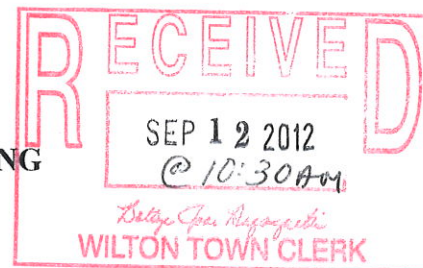
Wilton Police Commission



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**POLICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
26 JULY 2012**

CTO



Vice Chairman Commissioner Don Sauvigne called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m. In attendance were Commissioner David Waters, Commissioner Chris Weldon (joined by telephone at 5:28 p.m.), Chief Michael Lombardo, Captain John Lynch, Officer Steven Rangel and "Enzo".

Officer Rangel introduced Enzo, the newest member of the Department, to the Commissioners.

MINUTES

Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sauvigne. Motion carried 2-0.

DISCUSSION OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Monthly reports were reviewed and discussed. The number of MV Stops is down slightly from last month, approximately 6%. There has been a continuing challenge due to limited available personnel, but the Department has been able to move some personnel around and to temporarily assign the SRO to additional duties since school is out. The Ramsey homicide case is being processed through the court system.

The Activity Report was reviewed. The number of DUI stops and MVAs are similar to last year at this time. EMS Assists are slightly lower than last year at this time.

The MAC Report was reviewed and discussed. Chief Lombardo noted that the Nu-Metrics study of speeds on School Road had been performed following the installation of the new fixed location digital radar sign. The study indicated an increased volume of traffic on School Road from that of the prior study, which might be due to the time of year, but no significant change in the average speed. The Commissioners noted that while the average speed may not have changed, there was likely a reduction in excessive

speed as more vehicles drove at a speed closer to the average. This location had been selected because of the crosswalk and the number of near misses with pedestrians, and reducing excessive speed is a positive outcome. The Chief reported that the Department is not yet ready to recommend a location for the third fixed location digital radar sign, which will be presented to the Commission for consideration at a future meeting. Wolfpit Road would probably be an appropriate location because of the elementary school, the church and the pedestrian zone in that area, but because it is a State road the Department will need to verify if DOT approval is required.

The SRO Report was reviewed and discussed. The Explorer program has concluded for the school year. Next year the annual trip is to Hartford so it will be easier and less expensive for the Explorers to attend. Chief Lombardo reported that the fundraising will shift to a telemarketing service, but that he had instructed them to ensure that they are not pushy or aggressive. Commissioner Sauvigne asked whether it would be possible for any of the Explorers to make solicitations directly, but fundraising restrictions may prevent that type of activity. The SRO was also involved in an investigation of malicious Twitter postings and a significant number of fingerprinting requests. The K-9 patrol will start visiting the schools in October, once the training has been completed, to create another contact with students.

REPORT OF CHIEF LOMBARDO

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

- Letter from Chief Lombardo thanking Bill Bishop, Sr, Bill Bishop, Jr. and Chris Bishop, owners of Blue Buffalo, for their donation of \$50,000 in support of the K-9 Unit.
- Letter from Chief Lombardo thanking former Commissioner Mark Ketley for connecting him with the Bishops, owners of Blue Buffalo.
- Email from Donald McGran (Fairfield County Bank Security Advisor) to Chief Lombardo expressing gratitude for the investigative work done by Sgt. Tunney, A/Det. Cipolla, Det. Trahan and Det. Tarrant.
- Letter to Sgt. Tunney from Marie Karvelis thanking him for stopping her for speeding and making her realize she needs to be more aware.
- Letter to the Editors (Bulletin – 6/21/2012) from Dianne Murphy and Ben Briggs thanking emergency services for prompt response to a chemical reaction that took place on June 11th.
- Letter to Captain John Lynch from Monroe Chief Salvatore thanking him for participating in the oral boards for the Lieutenant promotional process.
- Thank you letter from Chief Lombardo to Sean Obranski for pizzas delivered to the department.
- Thank you letter from Chief Lombardo to Peg Koellmer for tray of wraps delivered to the department.
- Email from Cathy Pierce (Director, Social Services) thanking Captain Crosby, Lt. Bartek, Sgt. Kluk, Det. Tarrant and Officer Baker for handling a difficult situation in a calm and professional manner.

- Letter from New Canaan Chief Edward Nadriczny expressing gratitude for food tray sent to his department as an expression of sympathy.
- Thank you note to Chief Lombardo for participating in the Community Health Assessment Focus Group in Norwalk.
- Letter from Frank Dunn, thanking Chief Lombardo and Lt. Stephen Brennan for arranging a ride-along with Officer David Hartman.
- Letters of appreciation from Chief Lombardo to Stamford Police Chief Nivakof, Westport Police Chief Dale Call and Major Meraviglia of the CSP for assistance from their Canine Units during an incident on July 5th.
- Note from Flora Aharonovitz for assistance from Officers Arnault Baker and Timothy Fridinger, along with a thank you letter from Chief Lombardo.

Chief Lombardo noted the following donations: (1) made by Flora Aharonovitz to the Wilton Police Fund (\$20.00), and (2) made by Bill Bishop, Sr, Bill Bishop, Jr. and Chris Bishop of Blue Buffalo for the K-9 Program (\$50,000.00).

Chief Lombardo reported that the State DOT had provided notice to the Department of a request for a one year extension of the STC approval with respect to the Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Mixed-Use Development.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Consideration of Officer Request for Extension of Residency Requirement under Article 19 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Chief Lombardo reported that Officer Dolenk has requested an extension of the residency requirement. Under Article 19 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement a member of the Department must live within 45 road miles from Town Hall, and the Chief and the Commission may, on request, increase that to 50 miles. Chief Lombardo confirmed that Officer Dolenk resides 46.29 miles from Town Hall, and there has never been an issue of tardiness or a failure to timely report for duty. The Commission determined that the request was de minimis and that this was the type of circumstance where a waiver could be considered appropriate. Commissioner Waters made a motion to grant an extension of the residency requirement from 45.00 miles to 46.29 miles, on the condition that the waiver only applies to Officer Dolenk's current residence. If his residence should change and did not comply with the 45 road mile requirement he would need to seek, and the Commission would not be required to grant, a new waiver. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sauvigne. Motion carried 3-0.

- B. Discussion on Asset Forfeiture Account.

This matter was tabled.

- C. Discussion on Ideas to Raise Funds for the Police Fund.

The Commissioners held a general discussion of ways to raise funds for the Police Fund, a fund that has been in existence since 1970 and which is intended to help members of the Department in times of unexpected financial needs. The Fund is currently administered by Hal Clark (Board of Selectmen), Chairman Weldon, Chief Lombardo and Det. Tarrant (PBA). Suggestions included placing a notice on the Department webpage and providing literature and seeking donations at town events such as the Fourth of July. Further discussion and action on this matter are contemplated. The Commissioners agreed that any requests would require tasteful marketing.

D. Merwin Meadows

Chief Lombardo noted that the Department continues to check after-hours use of Merwin Meadows often but that nothing negative has occurred recently. Parks and Recreation also had nothing that had been brought to their attention. The Department will continue to monitor the area but it appears that the unacceptable behavior has calmed down.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Lombardo reported that at a ceremony on July 23rd the Department accepted the donation of the gift of a statue "Soldier of Remembrance" from Peg Koellmer. Peg has been a great supporter of the Department and the gift was gratefully received. The statue will be placed in the lobby of the Police Department once an appropriate cabinet is constructed.

REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

There were no reports of the Commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:52 p.m., the meeting went into Executive Session to discuss ongoing Labor Issues. No action was taken in the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:20 p.m., the Commission came out of Executive Session and a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Weldon seconded by Commissioner Waters and passed 3-0.

Respectively submitted,
David F. Waters, Acting Recording Secretary

