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POLICE COMMISSION

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JACK TESTANI, CHAIRMAN  
ANNA HENRY, VICE CHAIRMAN  
ROGER MCGOVERN, COMMISSIONER  
LINO COSTANTINI, COMMISSIONER  
PHILIP DIGENNARO, COMMISSIONER

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Trumbull Police Commission Meeting  
Long Hill Conference Room – Trumbull Town Hall  
Tuesday, September 11, 2012

The Trumbull Police Commission Meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm.

Members Present: Jack Testani, Chairman  
Anna Henry  
Roger McGovern  
Lino Costantini

Also Present: Deputy Chief Michael Harry  
Deputy Chief Glenn Byrnes

Absent: Philip DiGennaro  
Albert Zamarly

**Public Comments**

Opened at 7:10 pm.

Mrs. Yvonne and Ethan Henry of 65 Tait Road came before the Police Commission with concerns regarding the parking for the trail. There seems to be ample parking and it is extending into their neighborhood where they have their children playing and they are making U-turns and it comes from the top of Church Hill Road to the curve. Cars park on both sides of the road and they are concerned should an emergency vehicle need to pass through, they would have difficulty. Tait Road is a dead end street and it only has one entrance. The other issue is the safety of the children. The children play in the street and there are a lot of vehicles that are there on Saturdays and Sundays and they are concerned. They ask that the town help with the parking because they feel invaded at times because they lose their privacy because of the cars turning around. The trail is made for everyone to enjoy but when there are times that they need to take extra care of when they leave their home because people just walk on the

road. They had requested that the Town trim down the bushes on the entrance/exit of the trail because you are not able to see if there was any one exiting the trail. A neighbor is proposing that one side of the road be "no parking". If that is done then there will be cars parking on one side which will extend down Tait Road. They are looking for suggestions and how this can be resolved. First Selectmen Herbst apologized for not calling. First Selectman apologized and said he is one of the many people who use the trail and park there as well and he is aware it presents a problem for the residents. The First Selectman informed them that the Town just received a \$1.8 M Federal Grant to make enhancements to the trail and one of the discussions they are having with the Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning agency is to examine areas along the trail where additional parking can be provided. This will certainly not solve the problem completely but more parking spaces will become available and less people will be on Tait Road. Mrs. Henry also mentioned that on the internet it states that the entrance to the trail is on Tait Road and that could be a problem the way it is being advertised. Therefore, everyone comes to Tait Road to enter the trail. There is other access to the trail and they are not aware of it.

Chairman Jack Testani closed the Public Comments at 7:16 pm.

#### **Approval of August 14, 2012 Police Commission Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner McGovern indicated that on page 2 under the Traffic Issues, the word "parkway" should be "Park Avenue".

Commissioner Henry asked in the same paragraph if it was Fairfield and Trumbull who would be in charge of the traffic light not Bridgeport and Trumbull. Commissioner McGovern mentioned that Bridgeport is in charge of the light on Old Towne and Park Avenue and half way up it changes to from Bridgeport to Trumbull on the right and then the other side would be Fairfield, who would be responsible for the light. Therefore, the minutes should read "between Fairfield and Trumbull will share the responsibility."

Motion to approve the Police Commission Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2012 as amended. MOTION made (Commissioner McGovern), 2nd (Commissioner Henry). There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. ONE ABSTENTION, Commissioner Costantini.

#### **Bryan Gaus – Westfield Trumbull Shopping Center**

Mr. Gaus, General Manager at Westfield Trumbull Shopping Center provided the Police Commission with an update on the Police Substation and the location. It will be located in the lower level of the mall. Construction has begun and furniture will be delivered by the end of this week. The globes from the previous location have been installed on the outside of the substation. The graphic designs are being worked on for the exterior. Mr. Gaus is anticipating for a grand opening of the Police Substation on October 1<sup>st</sup> or sooner. Commissioner Costantini asked if the substation is facing Main Street. Yes, that is correct. The access is fairly accessible from door 6, near Ruby Tuesday's. Commissioner Costantini thanked Mr. Gaus for providing the Police Department with the substation and said he also likes the location. Commissioner Testani asked if there was signage in the old substation that would be appropriate for this location. Deputy Chief Byrnes responded that he did not see it being appropriate for the new location and that Mr. Gaus staff is working on the project of graphics for the new location.

Commissioner Testani asked if the radio communications are still being worked on. Deputy Chief Byrnes indicated that the communications has improved. It was an antenna issue but that has been resolved. Mr. Gaus indicated should there be any other questions please contact him directly through.

### **Correspondence**

None.

### **Chief Kiely's Report**

Deputy Chief Byrnes informed the commission that there were 65 arrests for a variety of charges during the month of August. Deputy Chief Byrnes noted the number of Drug Violations (10) for the month of August. There has been a considerable increase in drug violations. There are several officers that are responsible for the increase in enforcement efforts, primarily, on the 4-12 shift specifically Officer Pires, he has done a commendable job. Officer Pires is responsible for almost 50% of the enforcement cases for the past year. Deputy Chief Byrnes indicated that is almost a 500% increase over the same period from previous year. Officer Pires is doing an excellent job along with Officer Falkenstein and Coutinho are also doing a tremendous job under the supervision of Sgt. Hadden. In addition these officers have been responsible for the field training of the new recruits. They were commended for an exceptional performance on a daily basis so much that they are being used for training capacity. Officer Siljamaki is in the last phase of his training which will be completed within the next few months. Commissioner Henry asked the officers what has caused the increase, what is being done differently or what is happening differently? Officer Falkenstein responded that a lot of this has to do with Officer Pires who has set the bar high and the rest of the officers have joined in. Commissioner Testani asked if Officer Pires is doing anything differently. What is the reaction of the people when they are caught, are they difficult or cooperative? Officer Pires responded that for the most part they are cooperative but for the most part they are people who have problems and cannot deal with it. The majority are teenagers and 90% of the parents are not aware that their child is on drugs. The way they find the narcotics violations is by patrolling the areas more frequently. Commissioner Henry asked if there are repeat offenders, Officer Pires indicated they are repeat offenders. Commissioner Testani asked what the parents' reactions are when they find out about the child being arrested for narcotics violations. Officer Pires responded that some are surprised and some parents know and are frustrated and with the hope of that the arrest will help the child. Commissioner Testani thanked Sgt. Hadden for the supervision of the officers as they are doing an outstanding job. Year-to-Date there are 95 cases involving drug violations and the bulk of them are in the 4-12 shifts under the supervision of Lt. Kirby, Sgt. Jones and Sgt. Hadden. The year-to-date drug violations for 2011 were 41 cases.

There were 181 burglar alarms for last month, which average out to 6 per day; they were averaging out 7 per day last year and 8 per day the prior year.

### **Traffic**

Deputy Chief Harry indicated that there have not been many traffic complaints but they did have a few to follow up on. On Greenbrier Road, they have contacted the highway department

to clear foliage on one speed limit sign that is covered and the need to post another speed limit sign near the intersection of Spinning Wheel Road. Traffic Officers Richard and Thompson have gone out to each of the complaints with a particular attention to Marigold Lane with the issues of property damage and speeding cars. Officer Richard has contacted the highway department and the UI in which they will follow up with the issues. There was another traffic issue that is not listed on the report which involved vehicles passing the stopped bus stop on White Plains Road. A patrol car has been assigned to monitor in the morning and afternoon. The Traffic Division was called out to assist with a fatality in Monroe. Once again this shows how well the officers are trained and how good a job they do. The department will be getting another ticket writer which will be installed in the traffic car. We currently have 2. The next DUI Enforcement Grant is from November 2012 – September 2013.

Commissioner Testani mentioned that there was a traffic complaint on the crossing on Church Hill Road to Tait Road last month. The complainants indicated that cars are speeding down the road and running the red light. Is there an update, should they continue to increase the police presence? Deputy Chief Harry indicated he will ask the traffic officers to monitor the area periodically and a report will be sent to the commission via email.

Commissioner Henry mentioned with the complaint that was presented to them on Tait Road, the First Selectman indicated that something will be done in the future but in the mean time should they do something, as in parking only one side of the street. Deputy Chief Harry responded if that is done then all the cars would be on one side of the road and that exacerbates that problem. Suggestion was made to let people know to they can also park at Old Mine Park. Commissioner Costantini informed the commission that the times he has been there people park on the right side of the road not on the left therefore, he has not seen a problem of being it difficult for cars to pull out. Commissioner Testani asked if a police car would monitor the parking area. Commissioner Costantini asked that no tickets be given. Deputy Chief Harry replied that will not happen the patrol car will monitor the area. Deputy Chief Byrnes informed the commission that there were “no parking” signs installed to allow emergency access some time ago and that area is still posted. Commissioner Testani asked would it be helpful for public works to place some sort of sign on Tait Mill Road indicating not to double park or something similar. First Selectman Herbst indicated if the sign is placed they need to make sure that it is enforced. Deputy Chief Harry said they will monitor the area and will identify what the problem is.

### **Training Report**

There were several training activities during the month of August.

### **Sick/Injury Report**

Attendance for the month of August is improved. Several officers who were out due to surgeries have returned to duty.

### **Detective Bureau Report**

Deputy Chief Harry reported that they have received another DNA hit from a 2009 case. They are working to get additional information to arrest the suspect. Detective Testi just finished

investigating a case from January that involved child pornography with over 36,000 images. The arrest warrant was sent to the court. It took from January 2012 to September 2012. On August 27<sup>th</sup> there was a burglary in the morning and by the afternoon the suspect was located. Detective Sergeant Scinto was able to locate and lift a fingerprint and they brought it up to West Haven Police Department who has an AFIS machine in their department and were able to make identification. Year to date there have been 400 fingerprints, which do not include the pistol permits. There were 60 Pistol Permit applications. Detective Coppola has been appointed as a full time Detective. A day and time will set up to swear in Detective Coppola. The vacancy for a part time Detective position has been posted. This position will be for one year. The department is still down one Detective.

Deputy Chief Byrnes informed that the EMS representatives informed the commission last month about the changes and procedures that have been underway the telephone company will be installing more equipment and additional lines. The activation date is October 1<sup>st</sup>.

The summer concert plans are in place which is scheduled for September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Police Officer hiring process is underway. The final candidate list has been assembled and the background investigations are in progress. This takes times as there is a lot of information that needs to be gathered. The department is on a waiting list for the Academy class in January. The next available opening would be in April. The department is exploring other options as in the Academies in Bridgeport, Milford and Hartford.

The process has begun to find new IT personnel.

Since the Records Department normally has two (2) Record Clerk positions at the present time they do not have any. It is the understanding that within the next two (2) day there will be a list of candidates which will be approved by the Civil Service Commission.

The second K-9 is well on its way. The class has been scheduled for the first week of October and Officer Greg Lee is scheduled and equipped to attend the class for 14 weeks. Graduation is expected in January of 2013.

### **Grievances 12-11 and 12-12**

By request of the Police Union the Grievances will not be address until the October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Unfinished Business**

Commissioner McGovern asked if there is any resolution on the traffic study on Route 111. Deputy Chief Harry informed that the Traffic Division is exploring difference signage as in higher visibility signs, therefore an Engineer needs to assist with the decision. Commissioner McGovern suggested that when the button is pressed and that when the cars turn right off the connector there is another yellow flashing light prior to them going up the hill. Cars are coming too fast down and up the hill. Deputy Chief Harry indicated that there are two (2) issues there, one would be to have a traffic engineer study the issues and what affect would any other light have on the intersection? The other that they have come across is that crossing

is infrequent and the police department cannot post an officer there for an 8 hour shift. Officers are aware to pay extra attention to that crossing. Commissioner McGovern asked what is going to happen when the new shopping center opens. Deputy Chief Harry informed the Commissioner that he is not familiar with the traffic study and if there will be traffic lights. Commissioner McGovern asked if the road will be widened. Deputy Chief Harry again is not aware of the traffic study and Deputy Chief Byrnes also responded that the Police department has not been given any traffic plans. Commissioner Testani asked if by the October meeting an update be provided from the State what kind of (a) traffic study has been done (b) what kind of enforcement can be implemented and/or changes to help elevate the concerns that have been brought up.

### **New Business**

First Selectman reported that there is new development, first of its kind Cancer Facility which is affiliated with Yale New Haven Hospital being built on Park Avenue at the former Gulf Digest building.

A thank you letter was sent to John J. Petillo of Sacred Heart University on behalf of the Police Commission for their donation of \$1,000 for the Police Explorer Program.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn meeting. MOTION made (Commissioner Henry), 2<sup>nd</sup> (Commissioner McGovern) to ADJOURN the Trumbull Police Commission Meeting at 8:20 pm. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vivian Munoz  
Clerk of the Commission