



THOMAS H. KIELY
CHIEF OF POLICE

POLICE DEPARTMENT
TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT 06611

158 EDISON ROAD
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT 06611

P (203) 261-3665
F (203) 452-5162

POLICE COMMISSION

JACK TESTANI, CHAIRMAN
ALFRED LIGGINS, COMMISSIONER
ROGER MCGOVERN, COMMISSIONER
LINO COSTANTINI, COMMISSIONER
PHILIP DIGENARO, COMMISSIONER
ALBERT ZAMARY, COMMISSIONER

Trumbull Police Commission Meeting
Trumbull Police Department – Chief's Conference Room
Wednesday, August 14, 2013

MINUTES

The Trumbull Police Commission Meeting was called to order at 6:58 pm.

Members Present: Jack Testani, Chairman (arrived at 7:08 p.m.)
Lino Costantini
Alfred Liggins
Roger McGovern
Albert Zamary

Also Present: Chief Thomas H. Kiely
Deputy Chief Glenn Byrnes
Deputy Chief Michael Harry
Lieutenant Thomas Savarese

Absent: Philip DiGennaro

Public Comments

Opened at 7:00 pm.

There being no public comments Chairman Jack Testani closed the Public Comments at 7:01 pm.

Approval of July 16, 2013 Police Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the Police Commission Meeting Minutes of July 16, 2013 as presented.

MOTION made 1st by Commissioner McGovern, 2nd by Commissioner Costantini. There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED WITH ONE ABSTENTION, COMMISSIONER LIGGINS.

Correspondence

- Memo from Officer Fedor regarding Police Cadet Academy. The Trumbull Police/Cadet Post attended the annual Police Cadet Academy at the University of Hartford. The following cadets who attended received awards:
 - Allie Bachman-Basic Phase, Delta Squad-1st Place Marching Competition
 - Christina Garrity-Basic Phase, Charlie Squad
 - Ian Maloney-Basic Phase, Charlie Squad
 - Tyler McCarthy-Basic Phase, Delta Squad- 1st Place Marching Competition
 - Andres Ruiz- Basic Phase, Delta Squad-1st Place Marching Competition
 - Emily Grilley-Advanced Phase
 - Sam Johnson-Advanced Phase, 1st Place Crime Scene Investigation
 - Addiel Rodriguez-Advanced Phase, 1st Place Crime Scene Investigations
 - Sam Allen-Practical Skills Phase
 - Ryan Gorton-Practical Skills Phase
 - Andres Ramos-Practical Skills Phase
 - Jimmy Lindine-Career Development Phase
- Thank you letter from St. Catherine of Siena Elementary School for the donations of a Police Car Ride to school for 2013.
- Letter from Mr. & Mrs. MacMillan of New Fairfield thanking Officer Perez as he assisted them as they had locked their keys in their car.
- Letter from Mr. Allen Finkenaur thanking Officer Moramarco as he helped resort his mailbox which was vandalized.
- Letter of appreciation from Chief Andrew Kingsbury of the Westport Office of Emergency Management and on behalf of the Town of Westport for the use of the Trumbull's light towers during their July 3rd fireworks celebration.
- Article in the Trumbull Times: Good-bye and thanks too many from Frank Cicero thanking Chief Kiely and the Trumbull Police Department who always handled any problem he presented to them in the most professional manner.

Chief Kiely's Report

- Chief Kiely reported that Officers Kelly and Mike Gonzalez had a baby girl. Mom and baby Ava are all doing well.
- Chief Kiely reported that the department is dealing with some IT issues. The department has been working hand in hand with Bill Chin the town's IT person and hope the IT issues will be resolved.
- A meeting was scheduled for August 27th with the Department of Transportation regarding rails-to-trail. Unfortunately, DOT canceled meeting and the department is waiting for a new date.
- Chief Kiely reported that there was a meeting last week with the Statewide Narcotics. The following attended the meeting First Selectman Herbst, School Superintendent, Assistant School Superintendent, Public Health, School Nurses, School Security, Major Butch Hyatt who is charge of the State Wide Narcotics operations for the state, Captain

Dale Hourigan who runs the State Wide Narcotics for the state and Sergeant Dave Montini who runs street operations in lower Fairfield County. The Statewide Narcotics shared what is being seeing out there in the region pertaining to drugs. This would be an educational component in which retired coronal from the Army would teach school staff in what to look for and be aware of the students pertaining to drugs.

- The lieutenant and sergeants promotional test will be given on August 24th. There are 5 sergeants taking the test for lieutenant and 25 officers will be taking the test for sergeant.
- The hiring process is moving forward.
- Officer Robert Pysz graduated on August 13th from the New Haven Police Academy.
- On September 11th Officers Lusniak and Ruiz will be graduating from the police academy.
- Officer Sota is doing well per the Field Training officers.
- The new police vehicles have arrived.
- On September 19th the department will be participating in the anti-texting enforcement run by AT&T. The officers will be doing heaving enforcement in texting and cell phone use.
- In October the department will he hosting a 2 week SWAT course.
- NexGen was here to train the Records Department regarding the Alarm Ordinance software.

Commissioner Costantini asked if the Brian Casey's position has been filled. Chief Kiely responded that it has not but the IT department has hired someone with the hope that it will help the police department with all IT issues in the department.

Commissioner Costantini asked if the proposal regarding the Communications Center was provided to the First Selectman and Board of Finance. Chief Kiely responded that it has been provided to them. A panel has been put together which includes a member from the Police Department, Fire Department, Emergency Management and EMS. Deputy Chief Byrnes will be representing the police department. Chief Kiely reported that the First Selectman has given the panel 90 days to establish a plan.

- The Bridgeport Police Department has agreed to allow the Trumbull Police to access radio transmission from the Bridgeport Police should the Trumbull Police need to contact them for any assistance via the radio system. There will be 2 supervisor cars that will have the radio frequency along with the dispatch center.
- The police department has partnered up with TPAUD to have a pills disposal box in the lobby. The reason for this is to have any unused pills disposed properly. Prescription drugs have become an issue in the town; children are taking the prescriptions drugs from parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. The children are using the prescriptions or selling them. TPAUD has agreed to cover all expenses to have the disposal box set. The police department will help with completing any paperwork that needs to be done.

- The department will be purchasing a license plate reader which will recognize if a car is stolen, it will notify the officer. Most of the surrounding police departments have purchased a license plate reader so it will be an asset to department.
- Vice President Biden invited 15-20 law enforcement professionals to the White House Executive Offices on July 19th for the purpose of hosting a round table discussion relating to Commonsense Immigration Reform. Through AFSCME Council 15, VP Biden invited a CT law enforcement officer. Council 15 chose Detective Robert Coppola to attend, in which he did. Detective Coppola expressed that it was an honor & privilege. He represented not only the Trumbull Police Department, but all law enforcement officers in Connecticut. There were many Chiefs, Sheriffs, and Law Enforcement professionals in attendance. The round table discussion lasted 2 hours and was very productive. He sat with many law enforcement professionals from around the country, including Commissioner William Bratton, who he was able to personally meet. Vice President Biden entered the room and shook hands with each and every member present. The meeting involved the 15-20 of us, 5-10 White House Staff Members, one White House Photographer, and the Vice President. They discussed several law enforcement & public safety issues arising out of Immigration Reform. Some of the common themes included:
 - Border security
 - Human Trafficking
 - Drugs
 - Domestic Violence
 - Financial Crime
 - Violent Crime

Although here in Connecticut we do not have a problem with Border Security like southern & northern states have, we do have similar issues relating to the immigrant population:

- A pathway to citizenship was discussed in detail allowing the 11 million illegals residing in the U.S. to obtain citizenship.
- Any immigrant who doesn't take advantage of the new proposed law will not be allowed to hide in the shadows any longer.
- Any immigrant who commits or has committed a violent act will be deported
- It's been proven that immigrants who are here illegally, but have not committed criminal or violent acts, are less likely to involve themselves with assistance from the police; either as complainants, victims, or witnesses because of the perceived fear of deportation.
- The relationship between the police & immigrant population turns adversarial rather than as a partnership.
- Underreporting of domestic violence & human trafficking was brought up by a colleague from Illinois.
- A Chief from Virginia brought up a county issue of MS-13 gangs taking advantage of the immigrant population & creating vigilantism.

- Many gangs are taking advantage of the immigrant population throughout the country and robbing them for cash in their homes because immigrants cannot obtain bank accounts.
- Drug trafficking, exploitation for financial crimes such as extortion, loan sharking, and gangs were also discussed.
- Vice President Biden stated that President Obama remains steadfast in continuing & increasing the amount of criminal deportations throughout the country.
- Border Security was a main concern.
- Vice President Biden then allowed a 5 minute briefing for the press to come in at the end of the meeting. He made a statement and answered a couple questions.

Detective Coppola returned with a positive impression of Vice President Biden. The staff was inviting, friendly, and hospitable. Detective Coppola participated in, and observed, the American system of government that day, he felt it is truly the best system in the world. He feels extremely proud to be an American.

- Chief Kiely presented a Merit of Excellent Arrest to Office Darren Millington for an incident on July 29th, while patrolling the lower parking level of Target, located at the Hawley Lane Shopping Mall observed a suspicious vehicle backed into area adjacent to elevator. Making the MV stop, Officer Millington was able to observe enough questionable activity to affect a motor vehicle arrest and identify the two individuals. Not satisfied, Officer Millington was able to ascertain that there were two other suspects in the area and succeeded in locating and identifying them. It was later found that the four suspects were part of a cross country forgery and larceny scheme already amassing upwards of 5 million dollars in fraudulent activity through fraudulent coupons and credit cards. Chairman Testani also complimented Officer Millington as he received positive compliments from a Trumbull resident.
- Chief Kiely also presented a Merit of Excellent Arrest to Office William Ruscoe; unfortunately Officer Ruscoe could not attend. Officer Ruscoe on May 23rd observed a suspicious vehicle parked near the shopping mall. Officer Ruscoe discovered that the occupants and two additional accomplices were in possession of 53 fraudulent credit cards. Several of the fraudulent cards had already been used netting the suspects over \$5,000 in cash in addition to merchandise acquired through the illegal use of the credit cards. The FBI was able to provide the Police department a translator due to the language barrier with the suspects.
- The department received an award from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration and Connecticut Department of Transportation regarding child passenger safety program. This program is for Trumbull residents to have the cars seats installed properly by a certified officer. The award recognized the Trumbull Police Department of over 10 years of commitment to service and educating parents and caregivers of the proper installation of car seats. Officers Thompson and Richards are the officers who install the car seats.

Deputy Chief Byrnes Report

Deputy Chief Byrnes informed the commission that there were approximately 1,500 calls for the month of July. Deputy Chief Byrnes informed the commission that the K-9 Unit is doing a magnificent job specially the newest member Officer Greg Lee. They were called out to assist in five (5) calls for the month of July; two (2) calls from the Weston Police to track down someone who fled from officers and assisted them with another case, which was a success. On another occasion they were called out to Bridgeport to assist with a building search and later the same day were called by the State Police who were on a foot pursuant and the suspect had fled from them at the PT Barnum Housing Complex. They also assisted Darien where a suspect in a car break in fled from the officers. Officer Lee did a track for several blocks which ended as a success. A few weeks ago Officer Carlson and K-9 Cyrus were called by Easton Police to assist as two (2) hikers were lost in a large wooded area and even though the hikers had cell phones they were unable to be located. This occurred on a Saturday after 9 p.m. The K-9 team were able to track from the hikers from where their car was parked and followed the trail about a mile into the woods and located the hikers and lead them out to safety. The K-9 program overall has been very successful and Officer Lee is following in the successful footsteps of Officer Carlson. Deputy Chief Byrnes is glad to see that they are both doing so well.

Deputy Chief Byrnes reported that there were two (2) overdose cases within the past few weeks which both involved prescription drugs. There were 64 Criminal Arrests for the month of July. There were seven (7) DWI arrests and over 200 motor vehicle violations.

Detective Bureau Report

Deputy Chief Harry informed the commission that Officer Gonzalez had her baby. She will no longer be assisting the detective bureau with fingerprinting therefore the detectives will now handle. Fingerprinting should increase due to the new hires for the schools. There were four (4) burglaries in July. Detective Schwartz who handles the pawn investigations was able to solve two (2) of the burglaries within two days. The victims were able to receive back their stolen items. Back in 2010 there was a home invasion and 2 ½ years later the detective bureau received the DNA and knows who the suspect is. The suspect is incarcerated for 20 years for other crimes he has committed but the detective bureau is going forward in getting an arrest warrant for him. The suspect has been interviewed but was not cooperative.

Lt. Thomas Savarese Traffic Report

Lt. Savarese informed the commission that there a couple of items that will need to addressed by the commission.

The first item is Traffic sign request. The City of Bridgeport Board of Education is requesting the installation of three (3) "Slow Down School Entrance Ahead" traffic signs on Old Town Rd for the Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet Campus. Officer Richard reviewed the request, checked the area and there were no issues identified regarding their request. Therefore, a motion is requested from the traffic authority.

Motion made for the installation of three (3) "Slow Down School Entrance Ahead" traffic signs on Old Town Road for the Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet Campus. MOTION made 1st by Commissioner Liggins, 2nd by Commissioner McGovern. There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The second item is a parking complaint on Park Street. A resident reported motorist using the Valley and park their vehicles obstructing his driveway near the dead end of Park St. They requested additional no parking signs. Officer Richard checked the area and determined that the addition of three (3) no parking signs will address the parking problem in this area.

Motion made for the installation of three (3) no parking signs as presented. MOTION made 1st by Commissioner McGovern, 2nd by Commissioner Zamar. There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Lt. Savarese informed the commission regarding the enforcement on Whitney Avenue. Lt. Savarese has spoken to the Engineering department this week and they did receive a proposal study from Tighe & Bond regarding Whitney Avenue and they are in the process of evaluating the study and the cost factor of their recommendation. Chairman Testani asked if Engineering will have a decision/report in September. Lt. Savarese replied that the Engineering would have their decision of accepting the proposal from Tighe & Bond. Enforcement continues to be done on Whitney Avenue and Route 111.

Lt. Savarese reported there were 16 arrests on Huntington Turnpike for speeding violations.

Lt. Savarese reported that the milling and paving project has begun on Main Street between Route 15 and Broadway which will continue until August 28th.

Chairman Testani asked about the Parking complaint on West Lake Rd. Ellen Jancski reported a parking issue in the area of 72 West Lake Rd. This area consists of 5 cottages near the Pinewood Lake Clubhouse. Vehicles that park in this area during Clubhouse events restrict the travel lanes and create line of sight restrictions for pedestrians and vehicles that exit or enter the cottages. Officer Richard contacted the complainant and checked the area. He found that the resolution would involve the posting of two (2) no parking signs. This would restrict no parking for all the residents. Mrs. Jancski indicated that she has the backing of her neighbors and will be forwarding this info to Officer Richard before further action is taken. Chairman Testani also asked will the traffic division be waiting for the other neighbor's complaints. Lt. Savarese indicated that they will wait to receive any other complaints before anything is decided.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Chairman Testani asked if Lt. Savarese would provide a summary regarding each of the tow applicants.

Lt. Savarese reports that three (3) applications were received which are Buds Towing, Family Garage and Mid Town Garage. Officers Richard and Thompson were assigned to visit each facility unannounced and check each facility according to the Tow Policy requirements.

Family Garage is in compliance with the Tow Policy. There were no issues. Criminal checks were done on the employees and Lt. Savarese followed up with the owner regarding one of their employees but that has been addressed.

Bud's Truck & Diesel Service is in compliance with the Tow Policy. There were no issues. Criminal checks were done on the employees and there were no issues.

Mid-Town Garage, Officer Thompson and Richard visited the facility and there were a few issues regarding the storage area for vehicles that is required by the policy. Lt. Savarese visited the facility and spoke with Mr. Mason about the required storage area, installing cameras, lighting and roof issues, which have been repaired.

Chairman Testani asked about the towing rates. Lt. Savarese indicated he did not have the list of the towing rates and charges but he believes that the towing rates are regulated by the State of Connecticut. Mr. Mason from Mid-Town informed the commissions that the rates are set by DMV and the towers have the towing rates posted and cannot exceed them.

The Chairman asked for input regarding the three (3) towing applications. Lt. Savarese responded that with Family Garage and Bud's Truck & Diesel Service there were no reasons found to reject their applications. As for Mid-Town Garage, Lt. Savarese previously mentioned their concern is the inadequate storage area which does not comply with the Tow Policy.

Commissioner Costantini asked if all the background checks have been done on the employees who will be towing. Lt. Savarese responded that the employees have been fingerprinted taken and have received replies from the FBI and State reporting that there are no issues. There were a couple of employees for which no reply was received but a check has been run through computer for the FBI and State and everything came back fine. Mid-Town Garage employees will not be fingerprinted until the issues that were discussed with Mr. Mason have been resolved.

Commission McGovern asked what the mileage radius is for the towers. Lt. Savarese responded per the policy the company needs to be located within a 7 mile radius of the Trumbull Town Hall, located at the intersection of Church Hill Road and Main Street (Route 111). Commissioner McGovern also asked if the towers are in compliance with the mileage radius. Lt. Savarese responded that they have checked and they are all in compliance.

Chairman Testani asked what would happen if one of the towing companies where not in compliance with the background check policy. Lt. Savarese responded that they would identify the problem and notify the commission to determine if any action needs to be taken. Lt. Savarese referred to page 10, Section 5, Suspension or Revocation.

Commissioner McGovern asked when the towing company responds, whether the officer will know who the tow operator is, or if he is on the list to tow. Lt. Savarese responded that at the present time there is no procedure. Chairman Testani asked that any further discussion be made in executive session.

Commissioner Zamary made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:16 p.m. to discuss the Towing Policy/Applications. MOTION made 1st by Commissioner Zamary and 2nd by Commissioner McGovern. There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Entering into Executive Session: Commissioners Costantini, Liggins, McGovern, Testani, Zamary, Chief Kiely, Deputy Chief Byrnes, Deputy Chief Harry, Lt. Savarese and Vivian Munoz.

A motion was made to exit Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. MOTION made 1st by Commissioner Zamary and 2nd by Commissioner McGovern. There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A motion was made to amend the current Tow Policy to implement a picture identification requirement for each tow operator who works within the Town of Trumbull. MOTION made 1st by Commissioner Zamary and 2nd by Commissioner McGovern. There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A motion was made to approve Bud's Towing and Family Garage as tow operators within the Town of Trumbull. MOTION made 1st by Commissioner Liggins and 2nd by Commissioner McGovern. There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Testani encouraged Mr. Mason to make the recommended changes to the building that were discussed with Lt. Savarese and re-apply.

Mr. Mason mentioned a building he just sold in which he would be able to store 8 or 9 vehicles, but 3 or 4 would have his snow plows, which make the area look smaller. He indicated that he would be able to squeeze the cars in within the building and other buildings. Mr. Mason indicated that when he was inspected about a month ago he knew that there were a few things that were not in compliance. He also indicated that he has been inspected 5 or 6 times in the past and was told his facility was fine and he passed and now at this inspection of the facility did not pass. Mr. Mason contacted the owner of one of the neighboring building to lease so he can have space to store the cars. Mr. Mason does not think that there will ever be a need to store 20 cars at once. He also indicated that he was not aware the policy indicated he needed to have a 20 car storage area. Chairman Testani suggested again that he discuss this further with Lt. Savarese and re-apply at another time.

Chairman Testani asked if there was any further new business to discuss, there being none he requested for meeting to be adjourned.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting. MOTION made 1st by Commissioner Costantini, 2nd by Commissioner McGovern to ADJOURN the Trumbull Police Commission Meeting at 8:41 pm. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vivian Munoz
Clerk of the Commission