



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
Long Hill Conference Room – Town Hall
October 14, 2014

MINUTES

The Trumbull Police Commission meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m.

Members present: Jack Testani, Chairman
Lino Costantini
Alfred Liggins
Roger McGovern

Absent: Philip DiGennaro
Albert Zamary

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

Public Comments

Public Comment opened at 7:21 p.m.

Mr. Chuck and Susan Lindsey, 30 Iron Gate Road. Mr. Lindsey indicated that their daughter Carolyn Lindsey went missing 3 weeks (September 20, 2014). Mr. Lindsey shared with the Commission that when they first had interaction with the Trumbull Police Department about their daughter, there was lack of response, lack of empathy, lack of follow up and some rudeness. He indicated that when he spoke to one of the Commissioners today, the Commissioner could not tell Mr. Lindsey how complaints are handled. He indicated that he has received more cooperation from the New Haven Police Department who is coordinating with the FBI. Mr. Lindsey said that the officer assigned to the case indicated he had not discussed the matter with any of the other police departments. Clinton Police Department has been in contact with the New York Police and the FBI. Chairman Testani asked for more information about Mr. Lindsey's daughter. Mr. Lindsey responded with his daughters name, address, name

of school she attends in Madison and that she was visiting for the weekend. Mrs. Lindsey informed the commission that she went to the Trumbull Police Department to report her daughter missing, she met with several police officers and one officer had her fill out police a report. She was brought to the back room and a couple more officers came to speak with her. She also met with another officer who she thought was the Chief of Police. Mr. Lindsey is frustrated because he feels nothing is being done by the Trumbull Police Department and Deputy Chief Harry's interaction with Mr. Lindsey has been unpleasant and he is not getting answers to the questions he asks. Mr. Lindsey would like to know whether complaints are a matter of public record or are they available by freedom of information request. He would like to know how similar matters have been handled in the past. Chairman Testani responded that they are part of public record. Chairman Testani asked if there was anything further he would like to say for the public record? Mr. Lindsey had nothing further. Chairman Testani had made a suggestion to go into executive session to discuss the matter further with the officers involved. Chief Kiely indicated that he would like to talk to the officers investigating the case and report back to Mr. Lindsey. Commissioner Costantini indicated that an Internal Investigation should be conducted. Chairman Testani expressed his sympathy for what they are going through. Chairman Testani indicated that there will be an investigation and they will do anything they can to find an answer for Mr. Lindsey and the Commission will get back to him.

There being no further Public Comment, it was closed at 7:41 p.m.

Deputy Chief Harry spoke and indicated that they did all what they could do as soon as they found out Mr. Lindsey's daughter was missing. DC Harry indicated since this incident, the detectives have been harassed every day by Mr. Lindsey, wanting to know each and every step that is being taken in this case. DC Harry indicated the information that is available has been given and made available to Mr. Lindsey. Chief Kiely made the decision to assign the case to Detective Sergeant Weir.

Approval of the September 18, 2014 Police Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept the Police Commission Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2014 as presented. Motion made first by Commissioner McGovern, seconded by Commissioner Liggins. There was no further discussion. MOTION CARRIED WITH ONE ABSTENTION Commissioner Costantini.

Correspondence

None.

Chief Kiely's Report

Deputy Chief Byrnes – Operations Report

Deputy Chief Byrnes reviewed the Calls for Service, burglar alarms for the month of September were 175, YTD there have been 1,737 and reported there has been a 13% decrease in alarm-burglary calls compared to last year.

Commissioner Costantini asked why the increase in the MV Arrest, DC Byrnes responded that was due to the Distractive Driving Grant that the department participated in.

There were two (2) bank robberies; arrests have been made in both cases, DC Harry will provide more information.

There were several drug violations for the month of September which included arrests for marijuana, cocaine, mushrooms and prescription drugs. Patrol continues the drug enforcement.

DUI arrests are listed at three (3) but the actual arrests were six (6) for the month of September.

Medical calls for the month of September were 153 which continues to average five (5) calls per day.

There were 52 arrests which included burglaries, sexual assaults, DUIs and narcotic arrests.

Chief Kiely indicated that the department has an officer in the Statewide Narcotics Task Force and shared the YTD numbers of what has been seized; US currency \$126, 689, firearms 1, vehicles 10, cocaine 2.4 pounds, crack 359 grams, heroin 4 kilos (10 pounds), marijuana 15,000 gram (34 pounds), synthetic none, methamphetamine none, pills 13,000, LSD 140 individual tabs, and mushrooms 219 grams. This is what people are selling out on the streets.

Chief Kiely reported that with now having the Cheesecake Factory and the Apple store this will bring more activity to the Westfield shopping center. Target is aggressively attacking shoplifters.

Chairman Testani expressed concern that the mall management decided to eliminate the police substation and informed DC Byrnes via email that the space was being eliminated. The current mall manager has indicated there is no space available at the moment. Chairman Testani agrees with what Chief Kiely had said that if the location that is given to the department is not visible, the department will not accept the location. Chairman Testani asked if the mall management understands how important it is for the department to have a substation and whether the mall manager should attend one of the Police Commission meetings to address the concerns. DC Byrnes responded that the manager realizes it is important. DC Byrnes reported that after the substation was vacated the mall manager Mr. Madden met during the move and the question was asked where can they relocate to. Mr. Madden recommended one location which was inadequate and DC Byrnes informed him that they will wait for a better location. DC Byrnes also spoke to him about the holidays approaching and the sooner a location is determined the better it will be for the department and Westfield. DC Byrnes followed up with a letter after their meeting. DC Byrnes is scheduled to meet with mall security to discuss the holiday schedule and this will be another opportunity to meet with Mr. Madden to discuss the substation again.

Chairman Testani asked if it would be helpful to send a letter to the manager regarding the substation or have him attend meeting. DC Byrnes indicated it would be of value to have a letter come from the Police Commission expressing concern of the substation.

Chairman Testani asked if the letter that was sent to the previous mall manager Brian Gauss can be located and sent to the commission to revise and send out another letter to the new mall manager.

Chief Kiely reported that the meeting at the Town Council regarding the cell tower went well. Chief Kiely thanked the Town Council members for being extremely receptive.

Chief Kiely reported that there were sixty (60) candidates that showed interested in being a police officer. There were thirty (30) no shows, twelve (12) failed and there are nineteen (19) eligible candidates which will move forward to their background checks.

Chief Kiely reported on behalf of Chief Joe Laucella of EMS, a new ambulance will be arriving on October 27th. EMS has received a FEMA grant in which EMS will receive two (2) cardiac machines which cost approximately \$40,000 each. The number of volunteers is increasing. Total calls for the month of August was 303, percent covered 94%; mutual aid 17, total response time 7.2 minutes, transport rate 75% and ALS intercept 12.

Chief Kiely sent a letter to David Sawicki State DOT about lowering the speed limit on Route 111. An email was received from Thomas Silva and read as follows; "this will confirm our conversation regarding the results of Department of Transportation (DOT) review of the Town's request to lower the speed limit on Route 111 between Route 25 and Trefoil Drive. With the high volume of traffic due to the commercial development along this segment and other considerations, the DOT would consider only a modest reduction in the speed limit from the current 40 mph to 35 mph. The requested 25 mph speed limit would be artificially low and would not be expected to be obeyed by motorists or improve the safety of the area and, therefore, would not be approved. Please present the DOT recommended 35 mph speed limit for Route 111 at the next Police Commission meeting and let us know if the Commission concurs with our recommendation of a 35 mph speed limit. Chairman Testani indicated that they are in agreement with the speed reduction to 35 mph."

Chief Kiely sent a letter to Daniel Veronesi at the State DOT regarding Route 111 (Monroe Turnpike) at Drive to Chips/Edge Fitness Town of Trumbull which read as follows; "Thank you for completing the traffic study of the above subject area. The study determined that this intersection meets the warrants to consider the installation of a traffic control signal. The report also indicated that this decision to install a traffic control signal also includes the consideration of other roadway factors that are explained in the report. I would like to request that the Department of Transportation review the attached letter that I received from Tighe and Bond INC., to determine its relevance to the traffic control signal. Tighe and Bond is the Engineering Company representing the Developer. The letter is written by Mr. Joseph Balskus

who is their Director of Traffic and Parking. Please be advised that this request is not meant to dispute the findings in the Department of Transportation traffic study but only to insure that all relevant information is considered on this matter.” The department is waiting to hear back from Mr. Veronesi.

Traffic Report

Lt. Savarese provided an update on the traffic light on Daniels Farm Road and Strobel Road, currently it is under review. The Engineering Department did a traffic study and determined there is enough traffic to warrant installation of a traffic light. The next step will be for the Town Engineering Department to meet with school officials and Lt. Savarese to go over the current problems that exist and determine how to proceed.

There were 2 speeding complaints from residents.

One complaint was about speeding vehicles on Woodcrest Avenue during the morning hours and the speed awareness trailer was placed on Woodcrest Avenue and added to the enforcement list.

The second complaint was about speeding vehicles on Twitchgrass Road. The complainant was concerned with the safety of the children in the area and requested “slow-children at play” sign but those are not recommended at this time as they encourage a false sense of security for the children and parents. Twitchgrass Road has also been added to the enforcement list.

The DUI Enforcement Grant ended in September. There were five (5) days for enforcement for the month with 96 citations were issued, including 2 DUI arrests.

Distracted Driving Enforcement Program was in September, an eleven (11) day enforcement period with 328 citations issued. The object of this program was to decrease fatalities and injuries as a result of crashes caused by driver distraction especially caused by hand held mobile phone use. Lt. Savarese spoke with a representative from DOT and they are looking do the program again next year.

There were 248 cases assigned to the Traffic Division. The motorcycle unit participated in the Milford Annual Fire Muster which benefits camps for children with special needs. They also participated in the Sikorsky motorcycle ride which benefits the Wounded Warriors Project.

Officers Thompson and Richards attended a reconstruction seminar conducted by the Pennsylvania State Police.

The town is participating in the Redflex Student Guardian bus video violation program in which the Traffic Division has processed 13 citations for the month of September.

The speed awareness trailer has been setup at the following locations for the month of September: Strobel Road, Madison Avenue near Madison Middle School, and Route 108 near St. Joseph High School.

There were also two (2) recent fatal motor vehicle accidents. One was on Church Hill Road and Quality Street involving a motorcycle and the other was on White Plains Road and Wesley Drive.

There was also a complaint from Mr. Meza. Officer Richard has spoken to the complainant, and the concern is the amount of traffic flow that is expected to increase due to the commercial project in Monroe. One of the things requested was a stop sign to be placed on Madison Avenue and Newton Lane. Officer Richard explained that stop signs are not to be used for speed control. There will be speed enforcement in this area.

Deputy Chief Harry - Detective Bureau Report

Chief Kiely complimented the Detective Bureau for the hard work they have put into all the cases that have occurred.

Deputy Chief Harry reported that on August 21, at Best Buy, East European Counterfeit was used to make several purchases worth \$6,300. One of the suspects was apprehended at the store. While the investigation continue and at a later date the second suspect was about to board an airplane at JFK airport. An arrest warrant was put together, the Port Authority PD was contacted and they were able to apprehend the suspect.

On September 17, there was a sexual assault, the party was identified and was arrested.

On September 20, there were two (2) missing person. The first one is Carolyn Lindsey and the other missing person was returned home.

On September 23, a bank robbery occurred at Webster Bank. The Detectives followed up with the video and came to find out a similar incident had occurred in Bridgeport, Rye, NY and Suffield. The suspect was identified and arrested and after being interviewed, the suspect admitted to all four (4) bank robberies.

On September 25, a carjacking took place on Hawley Lane at the Trumbull Marriott.

On September 26, a bank robbery occurred at Peoples' Bank on Madison Avenue. Two armed suspects entered and robbed the bank and fled the scene. The car that was used was the vehicle that was carjacked on September 25. They drove the stolen vehicle to the Westfield Shopping Center and set the car on fire and fled in another car. The quick response, interviews and with the help of Bridgeport PD the car was located in Bridgeport and one suspect was arrested. The investigation continues.

On September 29, another sexual assault was reported which involved children in the family. This was the fourth arrest warrant in this case and he is currently incarcerated.

Commissioner Costantini complimented the Detective Bureau for an excellent job.

The Drug Box located in the lobby of the Trumbull Police Department collected from February to May, approximately 438 pounds of prescriptive drugs.

There is a slight increase in Alarms for the month of September. Chairman Testani asked if DC Harry knew if the Chief of Staff reached out to Dr. Cialfi regarding the false alarms at the schools. DC Harry explained that the 25 alarms he sees on the chart also include town buildings not just the schools. DC Harry reported that Dr. Cialfi receives a report of the false alarms at the schools on a monthly basis.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Commissioner Costantini made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the incident that was presented during public comment at 8:36 p.m. MOTION made by first by Commissioner Costantini and seconded by Commissioner McGovern. ALL IN FAVOR, motion carried unanimously.

Entering into Executive Session: Commissioners Costantini, Liggins, McGovern and Testani, Chief Kiely, Deputy Chief Byrnes, Deputy Chief Harry and Lieutenant Savarese.

A motion was made to exit Executive Session at 8:54 p.m. Motion made first by Commissioner Costantini, seconded by Commissioner McGovern. There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

There being no further business to discuss, and upon motion made by Commissioner Costantini, seconded by Commissioner McGovern, the Trumbull Police Commission adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vivian Munoz
Clerk of the Commission