



THOMAS H. KIELY  
CHIEF OF POLICE

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
TOWN OF TRUMBULL  
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POLICE COMMISSION

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JACK TESTANI, CHAIRMAN  
ANNA HENRY, VICE CHAIRMAN  
ALFRED LIGGINS, SECRETARY  
PHILIP DIGENNARO, COMMISSIONER  
WILLIAM MURPHY, COMMISSIONER

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Trumbull Police Commission Meeting  
Long Hill Conference Room – Trumbull Town Hall  
Tuesday, October 11, 2011

MINUTES

The Trumbull Police Commission Meeting was called to order at 6:57 pm.

Members Present: Jack Testani, Chairman  
Anna Henry, Vice-Chairman  
Alfred Liggins, Secretary  
William Murphy  
Albert Zamary

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

Absent: Philip DiGennaro

**Public Comment**

Opened at 6:58 pm.

There was one Public Comment by Lieutenant Richard Applebaum who submitted a complaint against Deputy Chief Michael Harry and a request under the Freedom of Information for training records. Chairman Testani accepted the letter and indicated that he would not comment; as he has not read the letter. Deputy Chief Harry requested that the Commission conduct a thorough investigation into the baseless complaints that Lt. Applebaum has filed for many years.

Chairman Jack Testani closed the Public Comments at 7:01 pm.

### **Approval of September 13, 2011 Police Commission Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Testani requested a motion to approve the Police Commission Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2011 MOTION made (Commissioner Liggins), 2nd (Commissioner Zamar). There was no further discussion. MOTION CARRIED WITH TWO ABSTENTIONS VICE-CHAIRMAN HENRY AND COMMISSIONER MURPHY.

### **Approval of September 20, 2011 Special Police Commission Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Testani requested a motion to approve the Special Police Commission Meeting Minutes of September 20, 2011 MOTION made (Commissioner Henry), 2nd (Commissioner Liggins). There was no further discussion. MOTION CARRIED WITH ONE ABSTENTION COMMISSIONER MURPHY.

### **Correspondence**

None.

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

Chief Kiely informed the Police Commission that Sergeant Phil Hadden was involved in a call on Shawnee Road where a man was firing a gun outside his house. Sergeant Hadden displayed good judgment in dealing with the individual and was able to assess the situation and tackle the individual to make the arrest. The Chief thanked and commended Sergeant Hadden and indicated he will be put in for an award. The Police Commission thanked Sergeant Hadden as well for a job well done.

On a sad note Detective Klopfer's wife burial service was last week.

The Trumbull Police Department and the Regional ERT team conducted a Basic SWAT School. The Police Department has a regional team with six towns, Trumbull, Easton, Monroe, Wilton, Westport and Darien. They had 18 students and over 20 instructors from several different Police departments and all of the reviews from the class came back excellent. They covered room entry, tactical firearms, officer rescues, tactical medical, hand to hand combat and doorway breaching. The ERT team is called for certain situations when special equipment and training is needed. The Police Department has about 11 officers that are ERT trained.

On October 27<sup>th</sup> the Police Department will have a retirement dinner for Detective Bracci at the Four Season's in Stratford.

There was a drug overdose on October 10<sup>th</sup> in Trumbull Center. There were three (3) civilians that gave CPR to the victim. The Chief would like to recognize the three (3) civilians next month.

The Chief attended the National Substance Abuse, Child Welfare and the Courts Conference in Washington. The Chief represented Connecticut Statewide Narcotics along with Chief Kehoe from Newtown.

Last week the Police Department completed their firearms qualifications for the whole department. The firing range has been Astro Turfed, a donation from St. Joseph's High School.

MRT training will be start next week to provide medical response training for all officers.

Thursday afternoon the Chief will be attending a meeting at the Police Academy in Meriden in reference to the new budget for the State of Connecticut. They are asking for a recruit training fee of \$2,500 per person to attend the Academy. The cost has not been enforced nor has it been removed. All these years training has been free to towns, funded by the State.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the Fiscal Year there are two (2) accounts in the budget that are over: (Overtime (37%) and Telephone (29.6%). Those two (2) accounts were affected because of Hurricane Irene and we are expecting to get reimbursed by FEMA. Paperwork has been submitted to the Town Finance Director and they will submit to FEMA.

The Police Department responded to 213 False Alarms, 4 Business burglaries, 6 residential burglaries (a few in the Nichols Area), 9 larcenies from cars (6 cars were in their driveways unlocked) (4 in the Nichols area, 3 in Trumbull Center and 2 in the Long Hill Area). Surveillance has been increased in the areas where break-ins have been occurring. There also were 152 Medical calls, 107 suspicious activity calls.

Chairman Testani asked about a report on the Shawnee Road incident regarding a communications issue. The Chief indicated that the officer's portable radio did not get a signal and the officer used his cell phone. The Chief indicated he will have Motorola to do a study on radio service in that area.

Deputy Chief Byrnes provided a report of the K-9 calls. He indicated that the K-9 has been busy and has done an excellent job. There were three (3) cases that the Deputy Chief highlighted that were successful. On 9/2/2011 K-9 assisted the State Police who were investigating a hit and run on Rt. 25. Officer Carlson and K-9 went to houses on Pioneer Trail and located the operator where he lives. The K-9 found the suspect hiding in woods near suspects home. On 9/9/2011 there was a motor vehicle accident on Madison Avenue and the operator left the scene. Officer Carlson was on duty and along with the K-9 they began the track. After some time the K-9 tracked to a house some distance away from accident which indicated where the victim had gone. It turned out that the victim was given a ride to another location by the resident of where

the K-9 sensed the suspect. On 9/29/11 a violent domestic on Moose Hill Road and the suspect fled the scene on foot. The K-9 found suspect hiding in the woods near suspects home.

Deputy Chief Harry provided his Detective Bureau report. He indicated that Detective Testi participated at the Home Depot – Safety Day. They had 301 children that showed up for the Safety Day to be fingerprinted.

There were fifty-eight (58) finger printings done for employment and fourteen (14) for pistol permits for a total of seventy-two (72). Each finger printing takes approximately ½ hour which amounts to 37 ½ hours in which a detective was lost to do this detail.

Officer Rob Coppola was selected for the temporary Detective position for one year. He has an extensive background in financial matters, and will work on financial crimes.

There was a fatality as a result of the accident outside Police Headquarters on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

A complaint was received from a gentleman on Wordins Lane regarding cars coming down Daniels Farm Road at excessive speed. They also received a complaint on Chatham Drive and Clarion Place. A letter was sent to supervisors to increase patrol and radar was done. After a week or so of enforcement they did notice a dramatic decrease in speed on Chatham Drive. Seven (7) infractions were given in the area of Chatham Drive and one (1) was issued on Daniels Farm Road in the area of Wordins Lane. A patrol car will be assigned there periodically to continue enforcement.

The DUI Enforcement Grant began on October 30, 2010 and continued through August 2011. Motor vehicle enforcement for the month of August resulted in 166 total citations, including 1 DUI and 1 drug arrest during the 7 day period in August.

The TPD Traffic Unit assisted the Bridgeport PD with a 2 car MVA located on Madison Avenue at Frank Street which involved a Bridgeport police car.

The TPD Traffic Unit assisted Fairfield PD with a MV/bicycle accident which resulted in a fatality.

The Traffic Unit is called out quite a bit as they are very well trained and are good at what they do.

Rails to Trails – Town Highway has been asked to make the installation of the signs at the crossing on Whitney Avenue.

The Chief wanted to let the Commission know about a Traffic Grant that is being researched; if the four (4) towns of Fairfield, Easton, Monroe and Trumbull commit to 16 hours per month working jointly in traffic enforcement, the Grant entitles them to purchase traffic enforcement equipment at ½ price. The Chief will be meeting with the other Chiefs to discuss the Grant.

Commissioner Zmary made mention of the “no right turn on red” restrictions that is not working on Daniels Farm Road and White Plains Road and drivers are just going through the light. He also mentioned that he has seen a lot of other areas in town that the “right turn on red” drivers are just going through the light without stopping. Chief will notify the Traffic Unit.

Commissioner Zmary mentioned that the light on Shawnee Road is still not working. Deputy Chief Byrnes mentioned that it is a State Road and we do not know why it has not been activated. Chief Kiely said he will check the status of the light.

### **Old Business**

Commissioner Murphy wanted to underscore what the Chief said as he commended Sergeant Hadden. Commissioner Murphy mentioned that Sergeant Hadden has been recognized by the Commission before, and commends him for his actions again in this case. Sergeant Hadden makes the Commission and the Town of Trumbull look good.

Chairman Testani would like to congratulate Officers Edwards and Perkowski who were sworn in last week. They began the Academy on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Business**

Vice Chairman Henry asked about the process to follow in reference to the Public Comment that was presented earlier in the meeting.

Chairman Testani indicated that it is the Commission's responsibility to acknowledge the receipt of the complaint and he doesn't think that they should discuss the complaint because he has not had a chance to read the complaint. However, Chairman Testani has asked the Chief to copy the letter and email to each Commissioner to discuss at the next Police Commission meeting, unless the other Commissioners think that a Special meeting should be held. Chairman Liggins suggested that two (2) or three (3) Commissioners should work on this. Commissioners Henry, Liggins and Zmary have volunteered to help investigate this complaint. Commissioner Zmary suggested that this complaint be discussed in Executive Session.

Chairman Testani suggested to the Chief in the future if an action is going to be taken regarding any Police Department personnel, the Commissioners be informed.

## **Adjournment**

Chairman Testani called for a motion to adjourn. MOTION made (Commissioner Murphy), 2<sup>nd</sup> (Vice Chairman Henry) to ADJOURN the Trumbull Police Commission Meeting at 7:50 pm. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vivian Munoz  
Clerk of the Commission