

TOWN COUNCIL
Town of Trumbull
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TOWN HALL
Trumbull

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RULES & RESEARCH COMMITTEE
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 27, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: The clerk called the roll and recorded it as follows:

PRESENT: Joy Colon, Chairman, Nicole Satin, Vice Chairman, Kelly Mallozzi, Kevin Shively, Veronica Lenzen, Mike Buswell, Alissa Hall, Alternate (Not voting), Chris DeCruze, Alternate, (Not voting)

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Vicki A. Tesoro, Chief Administrative Officer Cynthia Katske, Town Attorney Daniel Schopick, Town Council members, Jason Marsh, Dawn Cantafio, Tony Scinto, Technology Director Bill Chin, Health Director Luci Bango.

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1. **RESOLUTION TC29-124:** Moved by Satin, seconded Mallozzi
BE IT RESOLVED, That the First Selectman having recommended the appointment of Andrea Fonseca as a member of the Police Commission, Andrea Fonseca be and the same is hereby appointed to the Police Commission for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2026.

Due to Ms. Fonseca's absence motion was made by Shively, seconded by Satin to pass without recommendation. Motion passed unanimously.

It was questioned how it is determined which appointee gets which term. Attorney Schopick explained the Police Commission resolutions before the committee are the First Selectman's recommendations, the appointees' terms could be changed. The Chair noted the resolutions do reflect party balance. Attorney Schopick explained Mr. Trefz has been on the commission for several years and the vacant term, Kathy Champion's seat ended in 2021, she moved out of town. Ms. Fonseca will resign from her seat on the EDIT Task Force when she takes the oath for the Police Commission.

First Selectman Tesoro explained the last Charter Revision changed the method of selecting recommendations for the Police Commission, before the last Charter recommendations for the Police Commission did not go to the Council for approval, but now does. Mr. Trefz has been serving on the commission for many years, his term expired and will be extended to the first Monday of December 2023 if the resolution is approved and if First Selectman Tesoro is reelected and Mr. Trefz wants to continue to serve she would be more than happy to reappoint him and Mr. Magliocco as well. If people want to continue to serve she is more than happy to reappoint them. People want to give back to the community.

Andrea Fonseca arrived at the meeting at 7:06 p.m. Councilman Shively withdrew his motion.

Andrea Fonseca indicated her party affiliation as democrat, she would like to serve on this commission because she comes from a long line of public servants, her father was a public servant, professionally she is a public servant and her brother is currently a law enforcement agent. For her, public service is a way of life and thinks she can give from her experience both personally and professionally to this commission.

The most pressing issues for the Police Department are what they are currently working on, community engagement and recruitment. She knows from her profession recruitment and retention is a sticky place to be in at the moment and are equally important.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

2. RESOLUTION TC29-125: Moved by Lenzen, seconded by Mallozzi
BE IT RESOLVED, That the First Selectman having recommended the reappointment of Christian Trefz as a member of the Police Commission, Christian Trefz be and the same is hereby reappointed to the Police Commission for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2023.

Christian Trefz was present and explained he was asked to serve by the previous first selectman. It was an interesting chance to serve the town, and has learned quite a bit since and finds it fascinating. He respects the Chief and the way he runs the department, he likes getting to know the officers, what their lives are like, what responsibilities they have and how much they care about the town. The officers are in a difficult position right now and he cannot imagine what it is like to do that every day, because recruitment is so hard the pressure on the police officers is even more intense because of the shifts they have to work.

The most important thing they are working on is the retirement benefits, it is crucially important, it is hurting staffing levels. He is concerned and hopes this gets resolved and the town picks up the pace and takes care of the officers. The officers have a tough job and need to be taken care of.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

3. RESOLUTION TC29-126: Moved by Shively, seconded by Mallozzi
BE IT RESOLVED, That the First Selectman having recommended the reappointment of Mary Beth Thornton as a member of the Police Commission, Mary Beth Thornton be and the same is hereby reappointed to the Police Commission for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2027.

Mary Beth Thornton was present and indicated her party affiliation as democrat. She would like to be reappointed because it has been the best experience she has had as a public servant. She has volunteered in town for 25 years, this commission and the entire police department are some of the finest people in Trumbull.

One of the most interesting and little known facts is the Police Commission is nonpartisan. They are there to support our police so they can support the town. The biggest issue facing the department is retention. They are looking at a study to reinstate a defined pension plan. That is very important work the Police Commission has brought forward. The First Selectman is working with them and the BOF and Council at some point to make that a reality. What is most rewarding being on the commission is getting to know the day-to-day of each police officer, how hard they work and with the longer shifts how that affects them, their families and even their marriages. That was not apparent to her before and of course the general public would not see that, it gave her an even greater respect for them.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

4. RESOLUTION TC29-127: Moved by Buswell, seconded by Mallozzi
BE IT RESOLVED, That the First Selectman having recommended the reappointment of Angelo Magliocco as a member of the Police Commission, Angelo Magliocco be and the same is hereby reappointed to the Police Commission for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2024.

Angelo Magliocco was present and indicated his party affiliation as republican. He is going into his seventh year on the commission and has served as chairman under both the previous first selectman and the current first selectman. They are a good commission, are nonpartisan and do not look into anything other than what is the best for the police department.

They are a cog in the process of recruitment, they have their job to research and get the best possible scenario for our officers and recruitment. It breaks his heart when he sees officers they have hired working road jobs in Monroe or in Norwalk. Something has to be done and thinks everyone knows that.

He has lived in town his whole life and has been active in the community. He enjoys serving and helping out. He has a great rapport with Chief Lombardo, and he looks

forward to seeing Andrea Fonseca on the commission, getting her ideas and moving forward.

The most pressing issue for the Police Department is retention and recruitment, they go hand in hand. They are all working hard to do what is asked of them to get to that, and thinks as a whole they should be able to get what is needed and get it done.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

The Chair echoed the many sentiments that were said at this meeting. There was an accident in front of her home this past weekend, the police were there and were consummate professionals and thanked them for that.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Satin, seconded by Shively the R&R Committee adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni
Margaret D. Mastroni, clerk