

**MINUTES
DARIEN POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 18, 2024**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The 2,468th meeting of the Darien Police Commission was held on the above date. In attendance were Commissioner Huffard, Commissioner Cunningham, Commissioner Hayes, Chief Anderson, Captain Marron, Captain Hudyma and Richard LaBella, recording secretary. Channel 79 was present to record the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Commissioner Hayes motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 21, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Huffard. All were in favor. The time was 4:02 PM.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Anderson thanked all the residents and businesses who delivered items over the Holidays. William Ravies RE delivered "Goodie Bags" on National Law Enforcement Day. Thank you note sent.

Thank you from Plymouth, CT PD for participation in promotional oral board.

Certificate of Excellence awarded from Crimes Analysis Unit (Records Clerk Michelle Gironda).

State of CT First Responder Certificate of Operation valid 04/01/24 through 03/31/25.

Prayer card from the Westshore Gideons. Thank you note sent.

4. DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

Captain Marron reported the following department activity from December 21, 2023 through January 17, 2024:

- On December 27th a Hecker Ave resident reported that they fell victim to a cryptocurrency scam in which \$255,000.00 was lost.
- On December 30th it was reported that a sign at Cherry Lawn Park was vandalized.
- On December 31st it was reported that the front window of the Darien News Store on Tokeneke Rd had been pushed in. The damage was consistent with someone being pushed into the window.
- On December 31st a 33 year old Norwalk man was arrested after he was observed naked on Noroton Ave. Upon arrival the subject tried to jump off the Noroton Avenue bridge over I-95, ran from the scene, fought with officers, was tasered, and finally subdued. The subject, clearly under the influence of narcotics, was taken to the hospital and then later processed for numerous charges.
- On January 5th this agency received an anonymous tip of underage drinking at Chez Ernie's on Tokeneke Rd. Upon arrival officers identified 36 underage individuals at the establishment. This incident is under investigation by the Detective Division and the Liquor Control Division of the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection.
- On January 10th it was reported that a Blueberry Ln residence was burglarized.

cont.

- On January 11th a 51 year old Darien woman was arrested by warrant for two counts of Evading Responsibility. The arrest stems from her leaving the scene of two separate accidents she was involved in on December 8th.
- 11 Domestic disturbance incidents, 6 of which involved arrests.
- 2 incidents of check fraud.
- 2 stolen vehicles that were unlocked with the keys in them, 6 car burglaries of unlocked vehicles.
- 21 motor vehicle accidents, 2 having minor injuries.
- 137 Traffic Stops conducted by the Patrol Division and the Traffic Division focusing on areas that residents have complained about and general enforcement.
- 1,300 calls for service during this same time period
- Ofc. MacDonald has successfully finished his basic training and graduated from the police Academy last Friday.
- Our Citizen's Police Academy graduates 01/18/24.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT (see under Old Business)

6. OLD BUSINESS

Stewart Stockdale Re: Dynamic Speed Signs in area of 359 Mansfield Ave. Mr. Stockdale was present to express his displeasure with the placing of the northbound sign in the area of his property. Chief Anderson explained that the DOT had advised him that the original sign specifications of the project were approved in error. The DOT required changes are to remove the "school" and "strictly enforced" wording, and replace with a standard 35 MPH speed sign. The location of the sign was not an issue with the DOT.

Stephanie Phillips Re: Patton Dr. Ms. Phillips was present along with three neighbors, to request "dead-ending" Patton Drive. The ongoing concern is speeding and cut through traffic. Commissioner Hayes questioned whether other options such as white lines, choke point, speed table or speed humps may help to solve the issues. Captain Hudyma advised that in a November 2022 study the average speed was 23 MPH in a posted 25 MPH zone over a two week period marking 2600 vehicles. Ms. Phillips stated that a survey taken among her neighbors largely favors the dead end option. The panel expressed concerns with larger vehicles and snow plows needing to turn around. Chief Anderson advised that traffic signal upgrades in the area are due in the near future as part of the Noroton Heights project. Commissioner Huffard advised that she will personally respond to the street during peak traffic times to view the situation. Commissioner Huffard requested that the Patton Drive issue be placed on the agenda for the next scheduled meeting.

Department Reorganization: Additional Sergeant position. Chief Anderson explained that the creation of an additional Sergeant's position would allow for a Lieutenant to supervise all Sergeants on all three shifts. Currently there is no supervision of Sergeants on the 3-11 shift. The Chief explained that there are still some concerns regarding staffing and scheduling. These should be addressed before the next scheduled meeting.

Radio Encryption. Commissioner Cunningham advised that he was working with Captain Hudyma and Officer Cusano on radio encryption. Commissioner Cunningham explained that verification of all radios accommodating encryption needs to be completed. It has yet to be determined how many radios from all other emergency services will operate in encrypted mode. Implementation of a formal policy and training needs to be completed. Motion to approve by Commissioner Huffard, seconded by Commissioner Hayes. All were in favor. The time was 5:14 PM.

cont.

Building Issues Update: Captain Hudyma advised that there is an ongoing problem with climate control in the server room. The construction on the female locker room is scheduled to begin on February 5 or February 12, 2024.

Traffic Issues: None

7. **NEW BUSINESS:** None

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to be considered, Commissioner Huffard motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Hayes. All were in favor. The time was 5:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard LaBella, Recording Secretary