

**MINUTES  
DARIEN POLICE COMMISSION  
OCTOBER 5, 2023**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The 2,462<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Darien Police Commission was held on the above date. In attendance were Commissioner Cunningham, Commissioner Hayes, Chief Anderson, and Captain Marron. Channel 79 was present to record the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

**2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Cunningham motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 7, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Hayes. All were in favor. The time was 4:01 PM.

**3. CORRESPONDENCE**

Resident delivered breakfast sandwiches on 9/9/23. Thank you note sent.  
Stamford resident delivered cake, cold cuts and cheeses on 9/11/23. Thank you note sent.  
Resident delivered a tray of chocolate chip cookies on 09/11/23. Thank you note sent.  
Doughnuts delivered by So Fresh Doughnut Co. on 09/21/23. Thank you note sent.  
Lunch delivered by former resident on 09/28/23. Thank you note sent.  
Letter from Patrick Lewis to the Chief and Commission generally praising law enforcement.

**4. DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY**

Captain Marron reported the following department activity from September 7 to October 4, 2023:

- On September 19<sup>th</sup> officers discovered that the speed limit signs on Garden City Rd had been stolen and replaced with non-compliant signs. Investigation is ongoing.
- On September 23<sup>rd</sup> at approximately 5:00pm a Fitch Ave. residence was burglarized.
- On September 29<sup>th</sup> a Darien resident reported that she fell victim to a phone scam in which she provided personal identifying and financial information. As a result a fraudulent wire transfer of \$45,000 was made from her bank account.
- On September 25<sup>th</sup> several officers were dispatched to a Middlesex Rd residence that was under construction. The complainant indicated several subjects were seen remotely on camera either trespassing or burglarizing the residence. When officers arrived, they located 6 individuals. Four of the individuals were immediately detained and two individuals fled. After short foot pursuits, the two fleeing individuals were apprehended and detained. One of the individuals had a 9 mm replica BB gun in his waistband. All of the individuals were determined to be juveniles from Stamford. They were all charged with Criminal Trespass and the two that fled were additionally charged for Interfering with an Officer. The subject who had the BB gun was charged for possession of the firearm. One officer involved in the foot pursuit sustained a minor leg injury but still has not returned to duty.

*cont.*

- 7 Domestic disturbance incidents 3 of which involved arrests
- 4 incidents of check fraud or mail theft
- 2 DWI arrests
- 2 Stolen vehicles which were unlocked. 1 had the keys in it.
- 5 overnight burglaries of unlocked cars, 3 burglaries of locked cars which had the windows smashed
- 26 Motor vehicle accidents, 8 involving minor injuries.
- 231 Traffic Stops conducted by the Traffic Division and the Patrol Division
- AIT hosted a three day digital mapping reconstruction seminar
- DHS Open House 9/21, Middlesex Open House ON 9/28, all of the Elementary School Open Houses on 9/14, Darien Road Race 9/17
- Pumpkin Fair next week 10/14, Rocktoberfest 10/7,

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Stuart and Mary Stockdale of 359 Mansfield Avenue, along with Christine Foster also a Mansfield Avenue resident, were present to speak on the Dynamic Speed Signs that are being installed. All three residents expressed their displeasure with the location of the signs, and questioned the need for same. They also advised that they had no notification that the signs were to be installed, and that they felt that this would negatively affect their property values. Mr. Stockdale questioned the need for more signage in a "rural" area that already has several signs regarding the speed limit and the school zone. Chief Anderson advised that Mansfield Avenue is not considered a rural roadway but a "primary arterial road" with 7500 to 9000 vehicles on a daily basis. Commissioner Hayes also advised that the signs serve as a speed limit warning and a school zone warning for Ox Ridge School. Commissioner Cunningham advised that the Commission would discuss further.

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

Building Issues Update

Chief Anderson advised that he would like to have the sign at the front of the building updated, and will be looking into the matter.

The women's locker room bid is due on 10/12/23.

The men's locker room floor drain backed up over the past weekend, with the situation corrected.

Chief Anderson advised that the Fire Suppression system pipes are due to be tested soon.

Commissioner Hayes asked for an update on the new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. Chief Anderson advised that the migration is going well, with the new system scheduled to switch over to NEXGEN in December.

*cont.*

Traffic Issues:

Dynamic Speed Signs on routes 106 and 124, see Public Comment above.

Five Mile River Road survey revealed no clear consensus with 31 responses out of 63 mailings. The Commission tabled this item until the next meeting.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

Tow List – Lone Star request to be added to the current list after Vernal's Service requested to be removed in the spring. Chief Anderson advised that Lone Star currently has an agreement with Grant's to tow in their spot on the tow list, and if added they would control fifty percent of the tows. Therefore, Chief Anderson advised that the list should remain as is with three services towing: Bills Service, East Coast, and Lone Star towing for Grant's.

Proposed 2024 Police Commission schedule. Normal first and third Thursday's of each month with July 4<sup>th</sup> and Thanksgiving each falling on one of the scheduled Thursdays. Commissioner Cunningham advised that the two holidays would just be non – scheduled. Tabled until the next meeting.

Public Act 23-146 regarding quarterly meetings with town officials to address gun violence. Chief Anderson advised that the Public Act allows for waiving such meetings if there is indeed no gun violence to discuss. Motion to approve by Commissioner Hayes, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham. All were in favor. The time was 4:51 PM.

Discussion on switching from Fords to Chevrolets. Chief Anderson advised that we have not been able to purchase new Fords for 2 years due to manufacturing issues, with the nearest possible date for delivery well into 2024. The Chief also expressed concern over having to buy different parts for two sets of vehicles that would prove costly in the long run.

Depot Turkey Trot. Amy Daniels, executive director for the Depot met with Captain Marron and the Chief earlier in the week to discuss the event to take place the day after Thanksgiving. Ms. Daniels advised that the event would be contained within the Board of Education property along the High School cross country route. Captain Marron advised that this could be done with minimal need for traffic control, with the event ending before noon.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to be considered, Commissioner Cunningham motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Hayes. All were in favor. The time was 5:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard LaBella, Recording Secretary