PRESENT: Commissioners Anthony Dawson; Stephen Garcia; Evelise Ribeiro; Gregory Smith; and Donald Walker

Chief Anthony Campbell (entered - 6:21 p.m.): Department of Police Service
Assistant Chief Herbert Johnson: Department of Police Service
Lieutenant Robert Criscuolo: Department of Police Service
Lieutenant Rose Dell: Department of Police Service
Lieutenant Brett Runlett: Department of Police Service
Officer Yelena Borisova: Department of Police Service
Phyllis Verdoliva: Administrative assistant

Michael Carter: CAO, City of New Haven
Kathleen Foster, Esquire: Senior Assistant Corporation Counsel

Tyree Blackwell
Christopher Caccomo
Jonathan Elterich
Joseph Dinatale
Justin Harpe
Daniel Hunt: New Haven Public Schools
Jean Louisgene
Conley Monk
Christopher Noble
Nicholas Pazsak
Miguel Pittman, Sr.: Community and Police Relations
Maurice Randall
AnneMarie Rivera-Berrios: Resident
William Tanner: POST-C

OPEN SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m., Anthony Dawson, Chair, presiding.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Discussions and Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of July 10, 2018.

** Commissioner Garcia moved Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of July 10, 2018

** Commissioner Ribeiro seconded
Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
**
Motion passed (5-0-0)

INTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT
Lieutenant Rose Dell

Closed Complaints
■ No. 058-17-C: Lordina Osei filed a complaint against Sergeant Pedro Colon. The complaint was received on October 13, 2017. She alleged Sergeant Colon illegally searched her car and took two cell phones from her vehicle. During an internal investigation, Sergeant Colon explained that the two cell phones were seized as they had recordings of the events that led to her arrest. Shortly after the complaint was made, Osei retrieved her cell phones from the property room. All attempts to reach Ms. Osei via phone or mail were to no avail. The matter was closed on July 28, 2018 as not sustained.

■ No. 026-18-C: Bonnie Epstein filed a complaint against Officer Palmer which was received on May 25, 2018. Ms. Epstein alleged that Officer Palmer inserted himself into a civil matter when he asked her to close her apartment door on the Fairbanks Housing Complex. The investigation revealed that Officer Palmer did not violate any Department polices or procedures when he requested that she close her door because it created a fire hazard. A letter was hand delivered to the complainant. The case was closed as exonerated on July 28, 2018.

■ No. 017-18-C: Richard Kane filed a complaint against Officers Totino and Ortiz, Jr. This complaint was received on April 21, 2018. Mr. Kane alleged that the officers were rude, argumentative, aggressive and ignorant regarding Connecticut law as it pertains to civil matters. The case was assigned to Sergeant Koval in the Patrol Division. He reviewed the body-worn camera footage and found that the officers were professional and conducted a fair and impartial investigation to mediate a neighbor dispute. A letter was sent to the complainant. The officers were cleared by body-worn cameras. The case was closed as exonerated on July 28, 2018.

■ No. 020-18-C: Eileen Stewart filed a complaint against Officer Aviles which was received on May 11, 2018. Ms. Stewart alleged that Officer Aviles failed to investigate an incident in which she was the victim of domestic violence, and did not treat her with courtesy and respect, and that he failed to active his body-worn camera. Officer Aviles was found in violation of five General Orders including Patrol Operations, Body-worn Cameras, Rules of Conduct, Domestic Violence and Incident Reports. The complainant was notified via certified mail. The case was closed as sustained on July 7, 2018.

■ No. 010-18-C: Kenneth Henry filed a complaint against Officer Mendez. It was received April 4, 2018. Mr. Henry alleged that Officer Mendez kept reaching for his firearm, and was rude and argumentative. The investigation determined that Officer Mendez was reaching for his handcuffs and not his firearm. A certified letter was sent to the complainant. The case was closed as exonerated on August 8, 2018.

■ No. 043-18-C: Ashley Chincester filed a complaint against officers at the Yale Police
Department. The complaint was received on July 31, 2018. Ms. Chincester alleged that she was stopped while in her vehicle, and that least ten to fifteen officers pointed their guns at her, and she was traumatized by this. Since this case involved Yale police officers it was investigated and closed by Lieutenant Jones at the Yale Police Department. New Haven Police Department closed its investigation on August 9, 2018. The disposition is unknown.

■ Chief Dawson asked if the complainant was contacted. Lieutenant Dell replied that she was unsure. She further stated that Yale Police Department was contacted and informed of the complaint. Lieutenant Jones stated that he handled the matter.

■ Commissioner Smith inquired as to what “handle it” meant. Lieutenant Dell replied that it appeared the Yale Police Department conducted its own IA investigation and she did not know what that entailed.

■ Commissioner Dawson stated that these are some of the concerns the Board has had for a little while about transparency. He stated that the unknown disposition is in contravention of the Board’s position on transparency. He further stated that once an investigation is completed by the Yale Police Department, New Haven Police Department should be privy to the disposition. He added that the Department should look into ways to work with the Yale Police Department on this issue.

■ No. 025-18-I: Chief Campbell initiated this matter against Officer Dragoi on May 23, 2018 in order to determine whether Officer Dragoi who responded to an assault acted professionally and within policy when he interacted with an individual he located at or near a crime scene. Internal Affairs later received a written complaint regarding this incident from Rodney Mitchell. Investigators reviewed the body-worn camera footage and determined that Officer Dragoi lacked courtesy and respect when he interacted with a potential witness to a crime. A certified letter was sent to the complainant. The matter was closed as sustained on August 9, 2018.

■ Commissioner Smith asked about where this particular case goes from there. Lieutenant Dell replied that he was sent Chief Campbell for discipline.

■ Commissioner Smith asked if this action taken was the same with Officer Aviles and Lieutenant Dell replied correct.

■ Lieutenant Dell stated that Taser usage report shows that Taser usage is up at the Department at 19. The use of OC and baton are trending down. Lieutenant Dell said the data shows an increase because the Department has changed the way it keeps track of the reporting.

PERSONNEL MATTERS
Assistant Chief Herbert Johnson

Consideration and action regarding the rehiring of Detective Kyle Malloy.

Following discussions, the Board voted as follows:
** Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Reinstate Detective Kyle Malloy
** Commissioner Smith seconded
** Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
** Motion passed (5-0-0)

Detective Malloy was congratulated and welcomed back to the New Haven Police Department.

**CHIEF’S REPORT**
Chief Anthony Campbell

- Chief Campbell stated that he and the Finance Committee the previous night with the Board of Alders and laid the groundwork for helping the Board to understand what a realistic number for overtime is for the Department on a weekly basis and what’s really needed for the Department to operate.
- This meeting also brought the Department one step closer to receiving four live scan machines which the Department will be leasing. The Department is going to try to generate revenue. One of the ways of achieving this goal is by taking over the fingerprinting downstairs for civilians. These live scan machines will be directly hooked so that the fingerprinting can be done sent out right way in order to achieve a quick turnaround. The plan is to do fingerprinting four days a week.
- It is estimated that this will generate about $150,000 a year. If fingerprinting is done more than four days a week, it would be even more. The lease of the four machines at $27,000 a year will be paid. It’s a six-year lease which is why the Board of Alders are involved and they seemed very open to this.
- The overtime numbers have been high but they are leveling off and going down.
- For a long time, the Department had been guarding Tyekqua Nesbitt but it has not been for naught. In light of the death of Tremaine Poole the Department has backed off and no longer have a detail out there. It cost the Department about $15,000 a week. Based on the information the Department received, it was absolutely necessary to avoid additional injuries if not deaths.
- This fact combined with the fact that the Department is down 111 officers has really driven the overtime very high in addition to summertime as well as vacations. The Department is dealing with these factors.
- The Department is looking forward to the academy class which is on course to begin on September 17th, 2018. It will be a diverse group. The backgrounds have been progressing nicely much in part to some of the people present in the conference room.
- Chief Campbell credited both Assistant Chief Reyes and Assistant Chief Casanova. They have stepped in to take over for Assistant Chief Cain in her absence while she is attending the FBI Academy. They have implemented some changes that have sped up the process and made it as efficient as possible.
- Chief Campbell thanked the Board for attending all the weekly meetings to get the personnel through after having put it on pause for about sixty days, the investigation.
- The Department will be having a tabletop exercise next week on August 21st, 2018, a fire training academy. It is a culmination of the Department’s interdepartmental collaboration with the school system, fire department, all emergency services to talk about its response to a major event at any of the schools.
The Department will participate in the administrative aspect of the tabletop. And then there will be an actual exercise involving a lot of the departments as well as other departments.

The Department’s PAL Golf Tournament is scheduled for October 1st, 2018. Assistant Chief Johnson has been working diligently on that. He, unfortunately, will not be attending the tournament as that will be first day at the FBI National Academy.

Year-to-date statistics regarding homicide is 8 compared to five last 5 at this time last year. Number of persons shot are roughly on par with last year. There have been 36 this year compared to 33 at the same time last year. Shoots fired are way down. There were 54 this year versus 83 this time last year.

The Department, in an effort to boost morale, had some officers work on a lip sync challenge which has been circulating. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. The Department may do another one which will involve a larger Department. Chief Wider stated that out of the seven or eight has has seen he thought the Department’s was the best and especially with the music by Michael Jackson and the community being involved.

Even the alders last night at the meeting took time to comment about how much they appreciate the video and that the Department should do more things like that to boost morale and retain people.

Because of the shortages the Department is facing, all promotions have been put on hold. There may be a small promotion in December because so many people from the Detective Bureau have retired and are scheduled to retire. The Department is down to 51.

Assistant Chief Johnson chimed in by saying that there are eight detectives eligible for retirement. It appears that four officers may leave in December or January.

Chief Campbell said the Department might replace the four leaving in December until the academy class is through. Unfortunately, when promotions are done, it always seems to be pulling from Patrol and this is where the numbers are way down.

The plan is to get another class through in November, 2018.

Lieutenant Dell delivered the good news that the Department might be able to get a few extra spots in October to send some officers up to POST. In December there might be about six to possibly ten spots at POST. The Department will endeavor to send as many as possible to POST.

Twenty-eight people will leave now plus 22 more in December, almost 50 people.

With the contract will be in arbitration in November, December. This is a signal for those anticipating retirement to go. Lots of officers are looking for jobs.

The chiefs will have a meeting when Assistant Chief Cain returns to plan the restructuring of the Department.

Officer Pecino had submitted a request for reimbursement. Everyone has that information.

Commissioner Smith asked if he had considered continuous recruitment.

Chief Campbell responded by saying that he had. One of the complications with the city is that the Department can do continuous recruitment, but a test cannot be given while there is an active list. Until the active list is exhausted, the Department cannot put another list in effect.

The plan is to start active recruiting in September.

Commissioner Smith asked if there was a plan to “empty the building.”

The Chiefs has spoken about this. However, it’s a question of what the Department can go without.

Narcotics Enforcement has been reduced significantly by five people. There are other possibilities.
Commissioner Walker inquired as to whether the policy of not having two active lists is by statute.

Chief Campbell responded that it was by the city’s human resource.

Attorney Foster stated that it was by charter.

Chief Campbell stated the Department has made several attempts to have a separate test for laterals. The way it’s set up with Human Resources there’s only one job description for a police officer. Job descriptions such as police officer new entry and police officer lateral are non-existent.

Commissioner Ribeiro thanked the chief and his staff for the video being done at the public housing with the youth in the community. It was excellent to get the youth involved.

Commissioner Ribeiro thanked the chief and his staff for participating in the Back-to-School Fair for Housing Authority. She was unable to attend but got word that the Department attended in full force and brought every unit in the Department and outdid the fire department. The kids enjoyed it. She further spoke about the importance of police officers engaging with the community and the children given the climate across the nation.

Commissioner Walker added that the Department did a tremendous with the PAL Camp.

Chief Campbell stated that he was very proud of what Assistant Chief Johnson and Sergeant Rose did taking over that camp. It was great.

Commissioner Dawson stated that Mrs. Poole reached out to him as a commissioner in addition to Assistant Chief Johnson and Lieutenant Runlett. Five officers attended the funeral. Mrs. Poole was a grieving mother concerned about what could possibly go on with the situation, but she did not condone what her sick son did. She wanted the Department to know these are the things the Board has to make decisions around. When grieving mothers reach out to the Department, they have to be support them. He commended the officers for what they did the day before and Mrs. Poole does too.

Chief Campbell thanked the Board.

Commissioner Ribeiro asked about sergeant promotions. Chief Campbell responded that is one put on hold. There are currently four sergeant opening. The Department got approved to increase the number of sergeants by three. Sergeant McNeill retiring on August 18th, 2018 will bump the number up to eight.

From an overtime standpoint, there are no issues from the sergeants in Patrol. There may be two sergeant promotions in December so four detectives and two sergeants. Then there will be on hold because that will be six more officers being pulled from Patrol. The highest number of overtime is patrol officers.

Commissioner Ribeiro asked if the eligibility list expires this year. Chief Campbell responded by saying that the list expires in March of 2019.

Chief Campbell hopes that by the second week of January the Department is made aware of who is going to leave. Then the Chief will know what numbers to work with. That will inform on the number of people to promote. The Sergeants’ List is active until March, 2019 and the Lieutenants’ List is active until May of 2019. All promotions are intertwined.

Commissioner Smith asked if the list was extended. Chief Campbell replied that it was. Every nine months or so after the first year, he is asked if he wants to extend the expiration of the lists and he always says yes.

Commissioner Smith asked how many lieutenants will be promoted. Chief Campbell replied that the Department is down two currently. Lieutenants Minardi and Hosey can retire. The Department may be in a position of possibly promoting four at that time.
PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ms. AnneMarie Rivera-Berrio is attending the meeting for the first time. A neighbor asked her to attend the meeting tonight. She resides at the Peat Meadow area. She stated that she mentors children in the community and is a teacher by profession. She attended the National Night for Hamden and New Haven. Hamden Police Department was in attendance. They had the canines. And it was as big thing. She attended New Haven as she had done in the past only to discover none of that this year. It is very important because the children she took there were very involved and are interested in law enforcement. Food for thought for upcoming years.
- Commissioner Dawson said the Department is kind of stretched thin this year.
- Ms. Rivera-Berrios stated that she resides at East Shore, the Peat Meadow area. There have been meetings in the community. There is a big discrepancy in regards to Lighthouse and everything from Townsend Avenue by the bridge and over. So all of the streets that are by Home Depot tend to get left out.
- She further stated that lately the lieutenant assigned to the area has been doing a good job with kind of changing that behavior. It is important as the area has had an increase of illegal activities around the Peat Meadow Park such as drug dealing. It appears to be moving from Fair Haven up.
- She has been residing in the area for over ten years and has been an advocate for her community for a long time. She further stated that three vehicles were stolen right in front of her house on Chester Street in one year. She has had to put cameras around her home and this should not be so.
- She requested that patrol continue. Peat Meadow Park is very dark and has a lot of dumping. It is starting to just get out of control. Prostitution and all that is starting to move that way. We want to continue to keep up the area.
- Chief Campbell asked if the lieutenants are working with her. She replied that he has been but it’s been a little slow. She understands the Department has a lot on their plate. A neighbor informed her that she saw patrol officers on bikes one day but she has not seen them back. There needs to be consistent patrol.
- She was thanked for coming before the Board.

RETIREMENTS (for Board information only)
Sergeant Carlos Maldonado, Eff. - July 29, 2018
Detective Michael Wuchek, Eff. - August 18, 2018
Sergeant Terrence McNeil, Eff. - August 18, 2018

RESIGNATIONS (for Board information only)
There was none.

RECRUITMENT/SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT
There was none.

EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE REPORT
There was none.
FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Dawson stated that the Board will incorporate Chief Campbell’s comments about the meeting with the Board of Alders regarding the Department’s budget. He further stated he has some ideas about how to generate more income. He has spoken with the chief about them. He will speak with the Board later.

OTHER BUSINESS
Officer Eric Pesino - Reimbursement for Boots and Gloves

Following discussions, the Board voted as follows:

** Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Approve Officer Pesino’s Request for Reimbursement for Boots and Gloves not to Exceed $250
** Commissioner Garcia seconded
Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
** Motion passed (5-0-0)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

** Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Enter Executive Session for Internal Affairs Reports
** Commissioner Smith seconded
Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
** Motion passed (5-0-0)

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:47 p.m.

** Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Exit Executive Session
** Commissioner Smith seconded
Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
** Motion passed (5-0-0)

The Board exited Executive Session at 7:20 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

** Commissioner Garcia moved to Enter Executive Session to Discuss Personnel Matters
** Commissioner Walker seconded
Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
** Motion passed (5-0-0)

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:31 p.m.

** Commissioner Garcia moved to Exit Executive Session
** Commissioner Walker seconded
Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
**
Motion passed (5-0-0)

The Board exited Executive Session at 9:12 p.m.

**PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Discussion and action on the recommendation to remove the following candidates from Eligibility List #17-28:

Conley Monk          Joseph Dinatale
Nicholas Pazsak       Jonathan Elterich
Justine Harpe         Tyree Blackwell
Maurice Randall       Christopher Caccomo
Christopher Noble     Jean Louisgene

** Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Remove Conley Monk from Civil Service List #17-28
**
Commissioner Garcia seconded
Voting for: Commissioner Garcia
Voting against: Commissioners Dawson, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
**
Motion failed (1-4-0)

** Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Remove Nicholas Pazsak from Civil Service List #17-28
**
Commissioner Smith seconded
Voting against: Commissioners Dawson, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
**
Motion failed (0-5-0)

** Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Remove Justin Harpe from Civil Service List #17-28
**
Commissioner Garcia seconded
Voting for: Commissioner Garcia
Voting against: Commissioners Dawson, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
**
Motion failed (1-4-0)

** Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Remove Maurice Randall from Civil Service List #17-28
**
Commissioner Garcia seconded
Voting against: Commissioners Dawson, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
**
Motion failed (0-5-0)

** Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Remove Christopher Noble from Civil Service List #17-28
**
Commissioner Garcia seconded
Voting for: Commissioner Garcia
Voting against: Commissioners Dawson, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
** Motion failed (1-4-0)

** Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Remove Joseph Dinatale from Civil Service List #17-28
** Commissioner Garcia seconded
Voting against: Commissioners Dawson, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
** Motion failed (0-5-0)

** Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Remove Jonathan Elterich from Civil Service List #17-28
** Commissioner Smith seconded
Voting against: Commissioners Dawson, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
** Motion failed (0-5-0)

** Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Remove Tyree Blackwell from Civil Service List #17-28
** Commissioner Smith seconded
Voting against: Commissioners Dawson, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
** Motion failed (0-5-0)

** Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Remove Christopher Caccomo from Civil Service List #17-28
** Commissioner Garcia seconded
Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
** Motion passed (5-0-0)

** Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Remove Jean Louisgene from Civil Service List #17-28
** Commissioner Garcia seconded
Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Garcia, Ribeiro and Walker
Voting against: Commissioner Smith
** Motion passed (4-1-0)

** Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting
** Commissioner Garcia seconded
Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
** Motion passed (5-0-0)

The Board scheduled a special meeting for interviews on August 21st at 6:00 p.m.

The next Board meeting is September 11, 2018.
The Board adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sotonye Otunba-Payne