REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
DECEMBER 11, 2018
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

PRESENT:
Commissioners Anthony Dawson; Kevin Diaz; Stephen Garcia; Evelise Ribeiro (entered - 7:50 p.m.); Gregory Smith; and Donald Walker

Chief Anthony Campbell (exited - 6:43 p.m.): Department of Police Service
Assistant Chief Racheal Cain: Department of Police Service
Lieutenant David Zanelli: Department of Police Service
Sergeant Betsy Segui: Department of Police Service
Ramona Davis: Administrative Assistant

Michael Wolak, Esquire: Senior Assistant Corporation Counsel

Gerald Antunes: Board of Alders
Clare Dignan: New Haven Register
Daniel Hunt: New Haven Public Schools
Miguel Pittman, Sr.: Community and Police Relations Task Force

OPEN SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 6:11 p.m., Anthony Dawson, Chair, presiding.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Discussions and Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of November 13, 2018.

** Commissioner Garcia moved Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of November 13, 2018
** Commissioner Smith seconded
Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Smith and Walker
Abstained: Commissioner Garcia
** Motion passed (4-0-1)

INTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT
Lieutenant David Zanelli

Closed Complaints
■ No. 069-18-C: Mr. Yousef alleged that Sgt. Kendall was rude and unhelpful to him when he asked Sgt. Kendall information about an arrestee’s bond. Internal Affairs spoke with Mr. Yousef who stated that he only wanted Sgt. Kendall’s supervisor to speak with her about the incident. The complaint was given to the Patrol Division for follow-up. During her interview with Shift Commander, Lt. Torquati, Sgt. Kendall explained that Mr. Yousef incorrectly completed bail bond documentation. Mr. Yousef admitted to his mistakes and appeared to have been insulted
by the errors which were pointed to him by Sgt. Kendall. This was unfounded. A certified letter was sent.

■ No. 050-18-C: Ms. Gonzalez alleged that Officer Vega was rude and lacked concern for her safety when he investigated an incident in which she was found to be the victim of domestic violence. The complaint was given to the Patrol Division for follow-up. The complaint was investigated by Officer Vega’s District Manager, Lt. Healy, which showed that Officer Vega made appropriate on-site arrest of the perpetrator involved in Ms. Gonzalez’s incident. Ms. Gonzalez did not wish to pursue a formal complaint in her conversation with Lt. Healy. Lt. Healy counseled Officer Vega on better ways to handle domestic violence-related incidents. A certified letter was sent. Summary action was taken for this case.

■ No. 057-18-C: The complainant, Jessica Cimino, alleged that Officers B. Hawley and J. Murcko were insensitive to her as they questioned her about her assault complaint at Starbucks. The suspect, in her complaint, was ultimately located by the officers on scene and arrested. Her complaint was referred to the Patrol Division and investigated by Downtown District Manager, Sgt. Sean Maher. Ms. Cimino did not respond to Sgt. Maher’s phone call or certified mail. Body-worn camera footage was reviewed which showed that the officers made an appropriate on-site arrest. Officers were counseled/reminded about the importance of showing empathy to crime victims while on scene. This was unfounded. A certified letter was sent.

■ No. 039-18-C: Mr. Michael Hendrickson made a complaint against Officer Castellano. Mr. Hendrickson alleged that he was assaulted and robbed, and that the officers refused to take his report. This complaint was forwarded to the Patrol Division and investigated by Hill District Manager, Lt. Minardi, which revealed that a report was written but some information needed to be added. A supplemental report was written by the officer and Mr. Hendrickson indicated that he was satisfied with the results and did not wish to pursue his complaint further. The disposition was summary action taken. A certified letter was sent.

■ No. 073-18-I: Chief Campbell ordered an investigation into whether any General Orders were violated by Sgt. Jimmy Evarts by instructing officers not to take enforcement action on an individual who drove intoxicated while he was being shot at. An investigation was conducted by Shift Commander Lt. Gartner who determined that Sgt. Evarts did not violate any General Orders in this specific situation since extenuating circumstances existed, noting General Order 12.02, Traffic Enforcement. He was exonerated.

■ No. 047-18-C: The complainant is Mr. Joseph Dominick against Assistant Chief Reyes, Officers Moran and P. Vitale. Mr. Dominick alleged that Officers Moran and Paul Vitale arrested him for domestic violence charges without allowing him to give his account of the incident, that they did not interview a witness at the scene, that they stole money/jewelry from inside his vehicle, and that Assistant Chief Reyes abused his position of power by sending officers to investigate a possible domestic violence incident involving Mr. Dominick and his wife. Mr. Dominick ultimately withdrew his complaint against all the officers. Body-worn camera footage showed that the officers acted appropriately during the investigation of the incident which led up to Mr. Dominick’s arrest. A certified letter was sent.
No. 052-18-C: The complainant is Ms. Brittney Spears against Officer Rafael Mendez. Ms. Spears alleged that Officer Mendez did not conduct a speedy and thorough investigation into her vandalism complaint which resulted in her vehicle being damaged a second time. The complaint was given to the Patrol Division for further investigation. Their investigation revealed that Officer Mendez failed to investigate Ms. Spears’ complaint in a timely manner. In addition, Officer Mendez did not communicate adequately with Ms. Spears that he submitted an arrest warrant to the State’s Attorney Office for further review regarding her incident. Ms. Spears was made aware of the results of her complaint against Officer Mendez. She stated that she did not want to pursue it further. The complaint was sustained. A certified letter was sent.

No. 062-18-I: Chief Campbell ordered an internal investigation of Officers Cedeno, Nesto and Landucci to determine if they were neglectful of their duties and failed to act during a suspicious vehicle stop investigation. An internal investigation was conducted, including a review of body-worn camera footage, which confirmed that the officers did not properly investigate a suspicious vehicle stop which resulted in their discovery of a sexual assault. Officer Cedeno was found in violation of six General Orders. Officer Landucci was found in violation of five General Orders. And Officer Nesto was found in violation of three General Orders. This was sustained on all three.

No. 070-18-I: The complaints were against Officers Rinaldi, Gregorcyk, Huelsman and Rivellini. Chief Campbell ordered an investigation into possible misconduct at the PAL Golf Tournament. Misconduct by any of the officers mentioned were not corroborated by any witnesses or video evidence and would have taken place during off-duty time. This was unfounded.

No. 065-18-I: Chief Campbell ordered an investigation into the off-duty criminal arrest of Officer R. Walker. It was determined that Officer Walker was arrested on June 2, 2018 by the Trumbull Police Department and pled guilty to family violence charges. This was sustained.

No. 030-18-I: This complaint is against Officers Nesto, Motzer and Brangi. Chief Campbell ordered an investigation into the arrest of Mr. Jerome Richardson to determine if his arrest was lawful and if the force used by the officers during the arrest was excessive. Body-worn camera footage showed Mr. Richardson persistently interfering with the officers as they performed their lawful duties on the New Haven Green, even after being warned about his behavior. During the incident that lead up to his arrest, officers informed Mr. Richardson that he was again interfering and causing a safety issue by being disruptive in close proximity to where the officers were issuing an infraction. As he was being escorted from the scene, Mr. Richardson struck Officer Hinton’s hand. Mr. Richardson was then physically brought to the ground by the officers and arrested. The force used was deemed appropriate. Mr. Richardson left the Office of Internal Affairs prior to giving a full statement after he was shown the body-worn camera footage. The disposition is exonerated. A certified letter was sent.

Lieutenant Zanelli stated that included in the commissioners’ packages were the use-of-force data for their review. There has been a little increase in Taser deployment and use of force. Again, that is because the Department has a check and balancing system in place now. The data is true and accurate.
Chief’s Report
Chief Anthony Campbell

- Chief Campbell stated the Department’s crime statistics are holding steady at nine homicides, two of which are self-defense cases. Both are under review by the State’s Attorney’s Office.
- Non-fatal shooting victims are down, 48 compared to 57 the same time last year. Confirmed shots fired are down, 98 compared to 131 at the same time last year.
- Across the board, robberies, burglaries were also down. There’s been a significant reduction in crime.
- Over the last month an overtime commission has been working closely with Mr. Sean Matteson as well as of the leadership of the Board of Alders, and it seems to be working. Chief Reyes along with the other assistant chiefs and Chief Campbell have put a new overtime policy into effect. It has resulted in a reduction in overtime of approximately $49,000 in the first week.
- The Department’s overtime numbers are in the 120,000-dollar range. The goal is to maintain under $150,000. It is the expected that the number will be even lower this week.
- There were quite a few cases that Chief Campbell initiated. Five disciplinary meetings have been scheduled for this week. On December 18th, 2018 four disciplinary meetings have been scheduled.
- Chief Campbell stated he would have a report for the Board after the disciplinary hearings regarding the disciplines given in those sustained cases.
- There are 28 recruits at the Academy. They are in week 13. Overall, they are doing well.
- Chief Campbell was notified in the morning that one of the recruits has the flu and has been put out by the doctor for nine days. Unfortunately, POST requirements are that if more than 40 hours is missed, the recruit cannot continue. This recruit would in all likelihood have to continue with the next session.
- A new recruit class will begin this Friday at the Milford Academy with five recruits. And at the end of the month the Department will be adding four additional recruits at POST.
- Commissioner Smith asked if all the recruits completed the Cooper Test. Chief Campbell responded by stating that all those beginning on Friday, December 14th, 2018 will.
- Commissioner Smith asked if the Department lost any recruits. Chief Campbell stated that none were lost. The ones going to POST at the end of the month have to do the Cooper Test.
- Assistant Chief Johnson is in his last week of training at the FBI Academy. He will graduate on Friday, December 14, 2018. He will be returning to the Department on Tuesday, December 18, 2018.
- Chief Campbell stated he has limited the amount of training for officers due to the fiscal situation the city is in. Officers are still allowed to go for typical training at POST. They are only charged about $50 for that training. But any of the extended trainings such as SMIP has been put on hold as they are far more expensive.
- Contract negotiations are still in binding arbitration. A number of meetings are still scheduled. The hope is that it will come to an end soon. Mayor Harp has been very helpful in listening to the concerns of the Department. She’s been kept up to date on a weekly basis regarding the Departments numbers such as resignations and those are being sought by other law enforcement agencies.
- The Department is working on its budget submission for the next fiscal year. That will be submitted within the next month. It usually goes before the Board in March so that it can be
completed by June. Ms. Epstein has been exceptional. She has really helped to close the gap on some of the things that were missing by anticipating the Department’s needs in terms of the budget. She is absolutely phenomenal.

- Promotions have been put on hold. He would like to see how many people leave the Department over the next month into the New Year. Based on that, promotions will be scheduled at the end of January. All will be kept informed. It will be held at City Hall in the Atrium.

- The promotional ceremony will be a small one involving a few lieutenants, sergeants and a couple of detectives. There is a limit on the size of the promotions from the active lists due to the shortages the Department is experiencing.

- Commissioner Garcia asked if there were any problems with Detention. Chief Campbell responded by saying there were no problems. The Department has actually reduced the number of officers on shifts at Detention as it is running pretty smoothly. The biggest issue is that it drains the number of officers that can be put on the streets.

- Commissioner Walker stated that there is a possibility of a bill being introduced in the legislature for reimbursement for training expenses when officers leave early. There is a going to be a short window of opportunity. The bill is going to get introduced when the legislature first goes into session early in January. Some information is going to be needed desperately. If the information doesn’t get to them in time, that bill is not going to go through. Commissioner Walker further stated that Chief Campbell will be contacted for more information within a very short time frame. The idea is to possibly have a sliding scale. The longer you stay the less amount is paid back.

- Chief Campbell asked if there was going to be a cap. POST presently allows reimbursement up to a point. There is a break point.

- Commissioner Walker stated that he was not sure. Details have to be worked out. The Department is getting hammered with officers leaving early.

- Commissioner Garcia asked if the Department is being reimbursed by the agency hiring the Department’s trained officers. Commissioner Walker stated yes, but it’s so small compared to the investment in training. Commissioner Walker stated that the law has to change in order to be reimbursed fully.

- Commissioner Walker further stated that he would make all efforts to find out the exactly what information will be needed. Chief Campbell stated that he would put the materials together.

- Commissioner Garcia asked about the range. Chief Campbell responded by saying there are no issues with the range whatsoever.

- Commissioner Garcia asked if other law enforcement agencies are using the shooting range. If so, is the range regulated or overseen. Chief Campbell responded by saying there have been requests by other law enforcement agencies. One of the goals is to rent the range out when not being utilized by the Department. Corporation Counsel stated that right now that plan is not feasible. Presently, no outside agencies can rent the range. It’s only being used by the New Haven Police Department.

- Commissioner Garcia asked if one of the reasons was insurance. Chief Campbell stated there were a couple of reasons. Chief Casanova worked with Corporation Counsel on that for a couple of weeks and was informed that presently renting the range is not doable.

- Commissioner Smith added that in terms of liability, a waiver could be signed. Chief Campbell stated he thought so as well.
Attorney Wolak stated he was not familiar with this issue.

Chief Campbell stated that this sounded like a good idea given the expense as it requires only specific ammunitions. The filtration system costs money to maintain presently. Also, the plan sounded good as it would bring in a stream of revenue.

Commissioner Garcia asked about the frequency of firearms retraining per year. Commissioner Campbell stated once a year. It requires a certain number of hours every three years. The Department rolls them through once a year. The Department does its own training.

Commissioner Garcia further asked where the 100 or so law enforcement agencies in the state were conducting their training. Chief Campbell stated that it depends. Some of them go to outside ranges.

Chief Campbell further stated that because the indoor range cannot accommodate rifle training, the Department will have to pay for outside range training now. Chief Casanova informed Chief Campbell rifle that training will cost the Department anywhere from $70,000 to $100,000. There are approximately 28 patrol rifle officers who have to requalify quarterly.

Commissioner Garcia asked about the possibility of outfitting the indoor range to accommodate this training. Chief Campbell said the indoor range cannot withstand that rounds inside because of their power.

Overcoming the obstacles to renting out the indoor range would be great. It is a state-of-the-art facility.

Commissioner Dawson said the Board will write a letter to Corporation Counsel to have discussions about renting the indoor range as there are other agencies such as the Yale University Police Department and Yale New Haven Hospital paying outside sources to get its training. The money should be coming back into the city.

Commissioner Diaz asked about communications center being taken over by the Department. Chief Campbell responded by saying he has had discussions with the mayor who informed him she would give it some thought. The city had given that position up for cost-savings reasons. The Department wants the position back from a management standpoint and also from a discipline standpoint. The public make complaints and the Department has no authority to discipline accordingly. It will be good since they are using the COLLECT system which the Department oversees. He added that were there to be any issues regarding the COLLECT system, he is accountable even though it is not a division he oversees.

Commissioner Walker asked about the cost involved with the transfer. Chief Campbell stated it would basically be transferring them as a line item to the Department. There could be civilians but a police officer would oversee it just in the same way the Department took over Detention. In order to raise the bar, training standards and protocols would be put in place. Discipline would be within the purview of the Department. There are no major costs.

Commissioner Dawson stated that Mayor Harp spoke this week about lateral transfers and asked Chief Campbell could share with the Board what he knew. Chief Campbell stated that he informed the mayor of the need to focus efforts on lateral transfers because the Department is losing a lot of people, of course, due to the front-end pay that officers earn. However, when you look at the top pay which occurs after four years, the Department is competitive with other law enforcement agencies. There are other people who want to come from other agencies because they recognize the New Haven Police Department is rife with opportunities that smaller agencies do not have. Most police departments in the country range anywhere from 30 to 50 officers. With a department as large as this there are specialized units such as the narcotics unit, SWAT team, intelligence unit, family service unit, etc. There are lots of opportunities for advancement.
Within three years an officer can take the detective’s examination and within four years an officer can take a sergeant’s examination.

- The reality is when you are working at the New Haven Police Department, you are experiencing everything which is the reason people get into policing.
- Presently, the only time the Department can take a lateral is only when the there is hiring for entry-level positions.
- The lateral program which most departments have is a program which allows certified police officers to transfer based on their experience. With three or four years’ experience, for example, they can come in at the Department’s pay scale and have all the benefits and experience the opportunities that the Department offers.
- That is what the Department is working on. However, the challenge is that there exists only one job description which is police officer.
- The Department has been working with Corporation Counsel, Labor Relations, Human Resources, Civil Service to determine if a new job description is necessary such as certified police officer, lateral or should it be left as one job description and then break it out when it comes to the budgetary statistics such as 20 slots for laterals, all falling under the umbrella of police officer.
- A lateral transfer would cut down, time-wise, training from five months or so to four to five weeks. They can be out on the streets in no time. There is a possibility of attracting anywhere from 15 to 20 officers a year. Given the loss of officers this will be a good option for the Department to have.
- It takes anywhere from nine months or more to get a new recruit up and fully running.
- Commissioner Walker asked if the transfers will maintain their ranks. Chief Campbell said the transfers are only for officers.
- Commissioner Dawson stated that it could also be retiring officers without the age eligibility who do not want to get out of police work. Chief Campbell agreed.
- Commissioner Dawson stated that in some of those instances, the Department does not need to take care of their insurance. Chief Campbell agreed and said that is because retirees already have insurance.

**CORPORATION COUNSEL REPORT**
(In Executive Session.)

**RETIREMENTS (for Board information only)**
Officer Jason Salgado, eff. - December 7, 2018

**RESIGNATIONS (for Board information only)**
There were none.

**RECRUITMENT/SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT**
There was none.

**EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE REPORT**
There was none.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**
There were none.

OTHER BUSINESS
Officer Evan Kelly - Reimbursement for Damaged Sneakers.

Discussion and Approval:

** Commissioner Smith moved to Approve the Reimbursement for Damaged Sneakers **

** Commissioner Diaz seconded **

Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Smith and Walker

** Motion passed (5-0-0) **

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mr. Rodney Williams complained about the manner in which the New Haven Police Department’s Internal Affairs has been handling incidents in the community.
- Mr. Williams spoke about sitting on the task force with several gentlemen in the boardroom.
- Mr. Williams spoke about an incident that occurred on a private property. He spoke about a sergeant who asked him who Leroy Williams was. He then proceeded to tell the sergeant that Leroy Williams is the chair of the task force that Mayor Harp put together. He further asked the sergeant if he had any knowledge of the task force. The sergeant responded that he did not know anything about a task force (that had been around for two years).
- Mr. Williams stated he was appearing before the Board because he had been trying to figure out how it is community policing and building a relationship between the police department and the community and the department has a seasoned officer without knowledge of the task force. He said he did not understand it.
- He told the sergeant that he was glad that they had the body-worn cameras because it is one of the things the task force fought for.
- He did get a copy of the body-worn camera footage. The footage showed that he asked the officers before him about the task force. None of them knew about it.
- He asked why an officer decided to go to a regular business establishment on private property and tow a vehicle off of the private property without a warrant.
- Guns were pulled on me.
- He further stated that when officers came onto a private property at a job site he was working on, he was asked, are you Rodney Williams? Mr. Williams stated that he responded, yes, I am.
- Mr. Williams further stated that he tried to reach Andrea to no avail as this occurred on the weekend of the Democratic Convention. He also called Chief Campbell and got no response.
- He asked if the Officer had Lt. Sharp’s phone number. The officer told him he did not have it.
- The officer asked for id. He then proceeded to ask the officer for his supervisor. Another officer informed him it would take ten minutes for a supervisor to arrive.
- Mr. Williams proceeded around the site which is about twelve acres. When he returned, the gate was blocked.
- Mr. Williams asked the officer if there was a reason the gate was blocked. The officer responded that the gate was blocked because they were not finished with him. He went to talk to Leroy Williams. He looked to the left only to be looking down the barrel of a gun.
He was told to get out of the vehicle.

He said he has five or six vehicles. One day he came out of his house and noticed one of his trucks missing. He thought to himself perhaps he owed some taxes and that’s why. So he jumped into another vehicle. A couple of days went by and he decided to check in and pay off the outstanding taxes. He called up York and was informed they did not have it. He then called the City of New Haven and made inquiries and the city said it was never in the system. So he proceeded to report it stolen.

His vehicle was found with a popped ignition in Hamden with wires all over the place. Hamden Police Department found it in a chop shop. There were four vehicles in there. Three of the vehicles came back stolen. His did not come out stolen because he assumed it was towed for taxes. But when you look at the picture, the picture showed that the ignition was popped. And any cop with any common sense would realize, you know, it was stolen.

So he went back and forth with Hamden. He went to see the assistant chief of the Hamden Police Department and informed him of some basic policing that New Haven Police Department did not do. The Hamden Police Department convinced Wheelers to drop the tow-down as Wheelers was trying to charge a lot of money and it was not his fault. He got his vehicle back.

However, when you listen to the body-worn camera footage of the New Haven police officers saying his vehicle was stolen, the first thing they said is the vehicle is owned by Leroy Williams. The first officer to arrive at the scene asked if I was Rodney Williams but he did not see his id as he was waiting for a supervisor. The backup officer can be seen on the footage drawing his gun, running up to him and putting the gun on him. What was the use of force for?

So then when they asked who is the person who called it in although I owned the vehicle, they said the 17 was Rodney Williams. He was in the back of the car handcuffed. Rodney Williams was the person who called to say the vehicle was stolen. Rodney Williams is the owner of the vehicle. And Rodney Williams’ vehicle is registered. The other thing is Rodney Williams is on a private property and the signs are very clear saying no trespassing.

So according to the General Orders does an officer have the authority to tow a vehicle off of a private property without a warrant?

When the officer went to U-Haul to talk about it, the employee told the officer that his manager was not in and did not have the key and nothing could be done until Monday. The officer informed the U-Haul employee that he could go over there and have the vehicle towed.

So the officer should have let U-Haul deal with the incident on Monday and not permit towing off of private property.

They pulled a gun on him at the age of 53. He grew up in Newhallville and had never had a gun pulled on him in his life.

In the footages the officers and the sergeant can be heard saying, he is in the back and talking about knowing all these people. And the sergeant responded to the officers by saying, well, if he knew all these people, he would not be in the predicament he was in at the time.

But when the sergeant realized he did when Chief Campbell called him up, it was a different story.

In summary, there is no community policing in New Haven; it’s just street policing. One often hears stories but it is not until it happens to you that one begins to realize how real it is.

How can one speak of community policing and then officers are not apprised of the task force’s work? Is it that the members of the task force tried to build a bridge and the police department was not?
Mr. Williams thinks there ought to be refresher courses for police officers with different scenarios.

He asked the sergeant, if the vehicle was his and was not stolen and is registered to him, why was he handcuffed? He was informed that he was not under arrest but was being detained. He had a gun pointed at him. The footage is very clear.

Mr. Williams stated that he was in his vehicle with a .40-caliber weapon that he had a permit to carry. The officers did not even ask him if he had a gun on him. He informed the officers that he had a gun on him which he drew out of his back pocket.

The officers did not search his back pocket to get his permit and his id.

He spoke into the body-worn camera for a reason.

How does a sergeant sign off on a use of force without seeing the body-worn camera footage, like the story? I think that that’s a flaw. There was a delay in the recordings. Most people do not realize that the first minute of the interaction with police determines what happens. The recordings of him being asked if he was Rodney Williams does not appear in the footage. The sergeant said he was asked three times and game over. How is it a game when you are pulling a gun on somebody?

What was the conduct that warranted the use of force, pulling a gun on him?

The irony is the police are quick to pull a gun on someone like him, a person of color, while white mass murders are arrested in order to study them. White people do all kinds of stuff and very rarely do they get shot. Instead, law enforcement wants to capture them.

Commissioner Dawson asked if Mr. Williams had filed a complaint.

Mr. Williams responded that he did.

Chief Campbell called him before the incident was over and apologized. Internal Affairs started the investigation in April. He has not heard anything.

In all honesty, he could not come to the police department as he was traumatized to the point where he did not feel comfortable being around the police.

When he felt comfortable, he came to the department and got a copy of police report and requested a copy of the body-worn camera footage and the audio from dispatch. He then went to Internal Affairs to make some inquiries. He then made a formal complaint.

Presently, the personnel who was handling the case has retired. Somebody else is handling the investigation. The new officer called him saying he was not reachable. He ended up going to the police department as he works out of state a lot of times or in different parts of the state. Now, we are in December and this incident occurred in April.

He is before the Board to inquire about the process. He further stated that he thought Internal Affairs was there to right a wrong, if there was a wrong; and if there is no wrong, then there is nothing to do.

However, in this case, the General Order is clear you cannot tow off of a private property without a warrant.

Mr. Williams added that at the end of the day what he realized is that when you look like me, it could happen to you no matter who you are.

How can anyone say that the New Haven Police Department is way ahead of the curve and way advanced?

Commissioner Dawson stated that some commissioners have experienced what he experienced. He further stated that the Board will ask Chief Campbell and Internal Affairs to produce a report for the police commissioners.
Mr. Williams asked whether there should be a time frame for Internal Affairs investigations especially when there is use of force. He asked why his case was taking so long to come to a conclusion regarding what happened. How does a sergeant sign off on use of force without viewing the body-worn camera footage? In addition, a thorough investigation should encompass what led up to the use of force.

The question is: Should the officer have taken the path he chose to take? And the truth is he should not have. His action led to the incident spiraling into something it should not have.

Commissioner Dawson stated that a combination of things will inform the Board as to what is right and wrong regarding this incident. Commissioner Dawson asked for time to review the report. The Board will also take into consideration what Mr. Williams spoke about regarding educating the officers as well as the city about the task force.

He was thanked by the Board.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Discussion and action on the recommendation to remove the following candidates from Eligibility List #17-28E2:

Nicholas Abate
George Kochera
Michael Garceau
Bernard Vitti
Marcus Ratchford

EXECUTIVE SESSION

** Commissioner Diaz moved to Enter Executive Session for Personnel Matters, Pending Lawsuits and Claims and Preliminary Drafts and Notes
** Commissioner Smith seconded
** Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Smith and Walker
** Motion passed (5-0-0)

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:03 p.m.

The Board heard from Nicholas Abate, George Kochera and Michael Garceau.

** Commissioner Garcia moved to Exit Executive Session
** Commissioner Walker seconded
** Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
** Motion passed (6-0-0)

The Board exited Executive Session at 7:52 p.m.

The Board took a five-minute recess.
The candidates entered the boardroom.
Commissioner Garcia moved to Remove Nicholas Abate from Civil Service List #17-28E2
** Commissioner Ribeiro seconded
Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
Motion passed (6-0-0)

Commissioner Garcia moved to Remove George Kochera from Civil Service List #17-28E2
** Commissioner Diaz seconded
Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
Motion passed (6-0-0)

Commissioner Garcia moved to Remove Michael Garceau from Civil Service List #17-28E2
** Commissioner Diaz seconded
Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
Motion passed (6-0-0)

Commissioner Garcia moved to Remove Bernard Vitti from Civil Service List #17-28E2
** Commissioner Ribeiro seconded
Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
Motion passed (6-0-0)

Commissioner Garcia moved to Remove Marcus Ratchford from Civil Service List #17-28E2
** Commissioner Walker seconded
Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
Motion passed (6-0-0)

Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting
** Commissioner Smith seconded
Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
Motion passed (6-0-0)

The next regular Board meeting is January 8, 2019.
There is a Special Meeting is December 12, 2018
The Board adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sotonye Otunba-Payne