



TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT

POLICE COMMISSION

Hamden Government Center
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Hamden, Connecticut 06518

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Minutes: The Police Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 5:30 PM, in room 107C, Hamden High School. The following results:

Commissioners in Attendance:

Michael Iezzi, Chair
Cherlyn Poindexter
Larry Esposito

Staff in attendance:

Nancy Forvil, Substitute Clerk

Others in attendance:

Chief of Police, John Cappiello
Deputy Chief of Police John Sullivan
Attorney Charles Teirman

1. Call to order/ Roll Call:

Mr. Michael Iezzi, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. A roll call was conducted by the Commission Clerk, Nancy Forvil. Michael Iezzi, Chair, Cherlyn Poindexter, and Larry Esposito were present. Chief of Police, John Cappiello and Deputy Chief of Police John Sullivan were also present.

2. Approval of Minutes of meeting of January 8, 2020,

Commissioner Cherlyn Poindexter made a motion to approve the minutes of January 8, 2020. Larry Esposito seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Public comments on agenda action items

There were none

4. Correspondence-

The agenda and all correspondence have been uploaded on the Police Commission website for the public. Chief Cappiello mentioned that the correspondences included thank you letters for donations and escorts made to the Hamden Animal Control. There was also information on the Gun Buyback Program by the Hamden Police Department.

5. Department Report-

There has been an increase in major crimes and motor vehicle infractions compared to 2019. There were three new hires that were sworn in on January 9th and are currently participating in field training program for another week or so until graduation.

Question (Commissioner Cherlyn Poindexter) –

1. Where in the report does it indicate where in Hamden are the motor vehicle infractions? Is there a break down on where the infractions are located? (North, South East West)
2. Can we receive a break down on locations where people are getting motor vehicles tickets? I would like a break down on age, sex and race.

Response (Chief John Cappiello)-

1. The department will work on providing a chart that will outline where the infractions are located.
2. The State requires the department to track biographic information on all infractions. The data collected tracks age, race, sex and other biographic information. The department will look into providing this information.

6. Old Business-

There were none

7. New Business-

a) Review of 2020-2021 budget request for Police Department

Response (Chief John Cappiello) - I would like to maintain what was requested in the budget for this year. We are currently requesting for two part time Training Assistants at (19 hours) a week for to assist with accreditation. The department is in need of second IT professional to assist in the IT department. The department is seeking grants and funding to launch “Youth Court” which is a diversion program from juvenile court. Youth court would accommodate youth with behavioral issues on the high school level. Currently, New Haven has implemented “Youth Court” and has been successful in keeping youth out of juvenile court. I have personally witnessed “Youth Court” and I would like to make arrangements for the commissioners to experience “Youth Court” at the Federal Court in New Haven in the evenings. It is pretty amazing on what takes place and I hoping to get the funding for the program this budget year.

Response (Chief John Cappiello)-

1. Response from both Chief John Cappiello and Deputy Chief John Sullivan) Yes
2. Response (Deputy Chief John Sullivan) - There is an additional \$25.00 hourly for the use of a police cruiser if used.

b) Set date for disciplinary hearing for Officer Stephen Phipps

The date set for the disciplinary hearing for Officer Stephen Phipps is Thursday, February 27th, 4:30pm, Commissioner's Room, Hamden Police Department, 2900 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518

8. Chairman's Report

Attorney Teirnan Devon Eaton sought an injunction to enjoin the commission from moving forward with discipline related to officer Easton's conduct; the Judge granted the request relief enjoining the commission with any disciplinary proceedings. An appeal was filed by the town of Hamden, represented by Littler Mendelson, the case is currently on appeal with the hope to reverse the judge's decision in order to have a disciplinary hearing for Officer Stephen Phipps. The appellate court was scheduled to the 28th of February 2020 for a pre argument conference and that meeting will not result with a resolution. The case may move slowly in the system.

Response (Chief John Cappiello) - Officer Eaton is on unpaid status until his case is resolved.

Executive Session-

There were none

9. Review of Policies and Procedures- Review of the proposed pursuit policy has been uploaded for the public view. The town's policy mirrors the state policy. The Chairman would like to see the town's pursuit policy with further review and legal advice on the policy.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Esposito made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cherlyn Poindexter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 P.M.

Submitted by: _____
Nancy Forvil, Clerk