

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
HONORABLE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022  
Zoom Meeting:  
<https://www.bridgeportct.gov/policecommission>**

The meeting was called to order at **6:04 p.m.**

Item #1 **Roll call of Commissioners:**

Lyons, Cruz, Roach, Farrow, Cuminotto, Diaz, and Williams.

**Also present:** Chief Rebeca Garcia, Lieutenant Adam Rozum, Councilmember Mary McBride-Lee, Councilmember Matthew McCarthy, Councilmember Maria Pereira, Councilmember Michele Small, Attorney Darnell Crossland, Ms. Shantell Fields, and Ms. Alexis Farrow.

Item #2 **a. None**

**b.** On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Williams, the board unanimously voted to approve item **2b**.

**c.** On a motion by Commissioners Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Williams, the board unanimously voted to approve item **2c**.

Item #3 **Reports:**

**a. Chief:** Chief Rebeca Garcia presented the following to the board: The Chief updated the board regarding the recent Dedication to Community training conducted by Mr. Quintin Williams with community members and local police departments attending. The training focused on bridging the gap between the community and police officers. The Chief attended COPE training on February 13, 2022, which brings awareness to the opioid crisis. Liberation Program partnered with COPE for this training and announced the hiring of two, twenty-four a day personnel that will work directly with social workers and the police department. The police department will be working closely with 11 local schools providing training to children regarding the dangers of fentanyl, vaping, and marijuana. There is a shortage of 100 police officers in the department and more retirements are expected. The Chief is actively working on a recruitment campaign. The Chief will be providing CIT training to officers who will then work closely with social workers and the community. The Chief has submitted the police department budget proposal. There are currently 12 openings for detectives and the Chief has requested to promote 5 police officers to the rank of detective. The Chief also indicated that there will be an additional 5 retirements of detectives by April 2022.

**b. Union:** None

**Executive Session:**

On a motion by Commissioner Diaz and seconded by Commissioner Cruz, the board unanimously voted to go into executive session with Chief Garcia at **6:18 p.m.** to discuss personnel matters.

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- c. **OIA:** A monthly report by the OIC of Internal Affairs was submitted to the board.

**Public Session: 6:56 p.m.** Noted

- d. **Clerk:**

- a. Barros hearings are scheduled for March 22, and March 24, 2022, for OIA Case Number: 18I-130 and 18I-151.

- b. Notification of OIA Case Number: 19I-046.

**Special Reports:** Introduction of Councilmember Mary McBride-Lee and Councilmember Matthew McCarthy appointed as Council liaisons to the Board of Police Commissioners.

Item #4

**New Business:**

- a. Councilmember Maria Pereira, Councilmember Michele Small, Attorney Darnell Crossland, Ms. Shantell Fields, Ms. Alexis Farrow, and Ms. Dorothy Washington addressed the board regarding the conduct of the BPD related to the suspicious and untimely deaths of Lauren Smith-Fields and Brenda Lee Rawls.

Item #5

**Old Business:** None

Item #6

**Correspondence:**

- a. Noted

Item #7

**Letters of Appreciation:**

- a. Noted

Item #8

**Widow's Pension:** None

Item #9

**Other Scheduled Matters a:**

**i, ii, iii:** On a motion by Commissioner Diaz and seconded by Commissioner Williams, the board unanimously voted to combine and approve **items 9a-i, ii, iii.**

**vi:** Noted

**Other Scheduled Matters b:**

**i:** On a motion by Commissioner Diaz, seconded by Commissioner Cuminotto, and opposed by Commissioner Cruz, the board voted to uphold the recommendation of the City Engineer and deny **item 9b-i.**

**ii:** On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Farrow, the board unanimously voted to table **item 9b-ii.** Commissioner Cruz will conduct a follow-up regarding this matter.

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**iii:** On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Farrow, the board unanimously voted to uphold the recommendation of the City Engineer and deny **item 9b-iii**.

**iv.** On a motion by Commissioner Farrow and seconded by Commissioner Diaz, the board unanimously voted to uphold the recommendation of the City Engineer and deny **item 9b-iv**.

**v.** On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Farrow, the board unanimously voted to deny the recommendation of the City Engineer and approve installation of **item 9b-v**.

**Adjournment:** On a motion by Commissioner Diaz and seconded by Commissioner Cuminotto, the board unanimously voted to adjourn at **8:14 p.m.**

NO/