

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
HONORABLE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021
Zoom Meeting:
<https://www.bridgeportct.gov/policecommission>**

The meeting was called to order at **6:02 p.m.**

Item #1 **Roll call of Commissioners:**
Lyons, Cruz, Roach, Farrow, and Diaz. **Also present:** Chief Rebeca Garcia,
Deputy Chief James Baraja, Captain Lonnie Blackwell, Lieutenant Manuel Cotto,
Sergeant Brad Seely, Sergeant Joel Carley, and Sergeant Adam Rozum.

- Item #2 a. None
- b. A moment of silence was observed for retired Detective John Costanzo who passed away on January 23, 2021.
- c. A moment of silence was observed for retired Sergeant Joseph Hajducky who passed away on January 30, 2021.
- d. On a motion by Commissioner Diaz and seconded by Commissioner Cruz, the board unanimously voted to approve item **2d.**

Item #3 **Reports:**

a. **Chief:** Chief Rebeca Garcia presented the following to the board: An accident with a juvenile and a Quad was just reported, and the Chief indicated that she is working on strategies to address this issue. She will be discussing this matter with command staff at a meeting on 02-17-21. A location to store confiscated dirt bikes and quads is being researched. Violent crime is down but robberies have increased recently. The Chief has the following crime strategies in place: Strategic Enforcement Detail assigned to hotspot areas to curtail crime, weekly partnership meeting with State and local law enforcement agencies/task forces, weekly command staff meetings via zoom to discuss crime patterns. The Chief reports there has been an uptick in robberies but also increased recoveries of stolen motor vehicles that have been stolen outside of Bridgeport. The Chief advises the community to be aware of your immediate surroundings when exiting a motor vehicle, do not leave car FOB in vehicle and do not leave vehicle running while unattended which could result in the vehicle being stolen. The Chief is updating the department website which will include policies and a resource for the community. The Chief is planning a community zoom meeting the end of March which will include governmental partners/agencies. The recruit class of sixteen will graduate in May 2021. Recruitment effort will begin shortly with an entry level police exam this summer. The Chief has directed the detective bureau to address increased robberies in the City. Commissioners Lyons discussed the increase in Tractor Trailers parked for long periods of time on Main Street and the North End. The Chief addressed this issue on 02-15-21 with the Traffic Division and advised Commissioner Lyons to call the EOC call center to document the problem and location. Commissioner Diaz discussed an increase in robberies at 2710 North Avenue, a garage space on the Bridgeport/Fairfield Line on Mountain

Grove Street. Commissioner Diaz also thanked the police department for assistance at a recent funeral.

Union:

b. Sergeant Brad Seely presented the following to the board: Thanked the commissioners for their constant recognition of police officers who recently passed away. Sergeant Seely requests a special meeting in executive session with the board to discuss Item 5c. He states there was no communication with labor and management regarding Item 5c which was not pre-approved or discussed and may include possible officer rights and HIPAA violations. Sergeant Seely is requesting Item 5c be tabled and a special meeting called for a later date.

Executive Session: None

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

Public Session:

d. Clerk:

- a. Pending Barros Hearings to be scheduled in March and April.

Special Reports: None

Item #4

New Business:

a. Captain Lonnie Blackwell addressed the board regarding new programs and partnerships that are being initiated by the Community Services Division: Project Life Savers addresses cognitive issues in adults and children and has a high success rate in finding missing adults and children. Startup costs for this program is \$4100.00 and Community Services officers have begun fund raising efforts. Other local police departments use this program with success. Officer Carlos Carmo is meeting with Councilmembers in an information session to address community issues. Two Community Services officers have been assigned to address abandoned autos and quality of life issues on the East side and will collaborate with constituents and Public Facilities to address issues. Kids in Crisis addresses numerous issues with children/teenagers and is being headed by Sergeant Marlon Campo. The Community Services division applied for a Grant with Hall Neighborhood House. This Grant will work with children/young adults from 13-19 years of age and will address and teach police law and life skills. A monthly Food Pantry is in development and will be held at the Community Services division on Sylvan Avenue. Community Services is working with Kenny Jackson to provide free haircuts to 15 children/youths who will work closely with officers in CS. P.O. Carmo is establishing a Neighborhood Block Watch Program and will be reaching out to Councilmembers and community members interested in starting this program in their neighborhoods. Sergeant Campo is establishing a program that will direct Community Services officers to ShotSpotter activation locations who will speak with

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residents and business owners. As COVID restrictions decrease, Fingerprinting opportunities will be offered to the public and community. The School Resource Officers attended a State Red meeting with State legislators. The SRO's will be addressing quality of life issues in the City and will be focusing on abandoned autos, tractor trailers, littering, etc. Chief Garcia offered the use of a Social Worker who could assist CS with several of the new programs and initiatives. Commissioner Cruz and Farrow thanked Captain Blackwell for the CS report and asked him to return and provide updates to the board on activities and programs. Both Commissioners also emphasized the increased littering concerns in all locations in the City.

Item #5

Old Business:

a. On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Diaz, the board unanimously voted to approve item **5a**.

b. On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Lyons, the board unanimously voted to approve item **5b**.

c. On a motion by Commissioner Lyons and seconded by Commissioner Cruz, the board unanimously voted to table item **5c** and reconvene in a special meeting at a later date to discuss this matter.

Item #6

Correspondence: None

Item #7

Letters of Appreciation: None

Item #8

Widow's Pension:

a. A request from Mrs. Patricia Hajducky to receive a widow's pension effective immediately (Pension Plan-A).

Item #9

Other Scheduled Matters a:

i: On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Farrow, the board unanimously voted to approve this item as a referral to OSTA to review this request and consider installation of a traffic signal.

Other Scheduled Matters b:

i: On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Farrow, the board unanimously voted to approve the recommendation of the City Engineer's office and deny this request.

Adjournment: On a motion by Commissioner Farrow and seconded by Commissioner Cruz, the board unanimously voted to adjourn at **7:11 p.m.**

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS FOR PENSION PLAN "A" MEMBER:

Lyons, Cruz, Roach, Farrow, and Diaz.

1: On a motion by Commissioner Lyons and seconded by Commissioner Diaz, the board unanimously voted to approve the request of Mrs. Patricia Hajducky to receive a widow's pension (Plan-A), effective immediately.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Commissioner Farrow and seconded by Commissioner Diaz, the board unanimously voted to adjourn at **7:15 p.m.**

NO/