

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
HONORABLE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2020**

Zoom Meeting:

<https://www.bridgeportct.gov/policecommission>

The meeting was called to order at **6:06 p.m.**

Item #1

Roll call of Commissioners:

Lyons, Cruz, Quarles, Roach, Farrow-6:24 pm, Cuminotto, and Diaz-6:30 pm.

Also present: Chief Armando J. Perez, Assistant Chief Rebeca Garcia, Sergeant Bradford Seely, Sergeant Joel Carley, Sergeant Adam Rozum, and Reverend Manuel Garcia.

Item #2

a. The pledge of allegiance was observed.

b. A moment of silence was observed for Officer Chester Zukowski who passed away on May 10, 2020.

c. A moment of silence was observed for Officer Michael J. Radozyski who passed away on May 5, 2020.

d. A moment of silence was observed for Officer Thomas F. Jordan who passed away on April 10, 2020.

e. On a motion by Commissioner Lyons and seconded by Commissioner Cruz, the board unanimously voted to approve the minutes listed as item **2e**.

f. On a motion by Commissioner Quarles and seconded by Commissioner Cuminotto, the board unanimously voted to approve the minutes listed as item **2f**.

Item #3

Reports:

a. **Chief:** Chief Armando J. Perez presented the following to the board: COVID-19 and current events have resulted in greater challenges for the department, but all members have been extremely tolerant and respectful during these difficult times. Crime in the City is down, and ShotSpotter activations have increased, several weapons have been taken off the street recently and \$40,000 dollars' worth of drugs during a recent arrest and seizure. Chief Perez, Assistant Chief Garcia, Reverend Carl McCluster, Commissioner James Rovella, Bridgeport Generation Now, Reverend Cass Shaw, and several Law Enforcement Chiefs and agencies met to discuss allowing the public access to police policies and procedures, which has been recently implemented in the Bridgeport Police Department, as well as a moratorium on acquiring military equipment for the next 90 days, Chief Perez and Garcia will be meeting with the Bridgeport City Council on 06/17/2020 to discuss Chief Ramsey's report and other relevant issues concerning Policies, Body/Dash Cam, etc. **Assistant Chief:** A.C. Rebeca Garcia presented the

following to the board: The Use of Force Policy in the BPD and all policies will be accessible on-line and to the public. The public can make comments and recommendations for all policies posted on the website. The BPD Use of Force Policy mirrors the State of Connecticut POSTC standard and Connecticut General Statutes. In 2018, 91% of department members were trained in de-escalation techniques. Officers are also trained in Police Officer Wellness and the BPD Class-41 was the first recruit class in the State to be trained in this area. Other classes that are taught at the academy and in-service level classes include Police and The Public and Diversity Training. A.C. Garcia stressed a goal of moving the department forward, sharpen tools, and get to know the community and continue to follow guidelines set forth by POSTC standards. POSTC standards allows the BPD to have a fully functioning police academy to train not only Bridgeport recruits but police recruits from surrounding cities and towns. A.C. Garcia reports that she and Chief Perez will be presenting a report to the City Council on June 17, 2020 discussing the details of the report submitted by Chief Charles Ramsey, how to implement the recommendations and update on current Policies and Procedures in the BPD. A.C. Garcia also discussed the BPD policy on Demonstrations and Crowd Control and the importance of roll call training for police officers, after action reports, and stressed the importance of commending all officers on their professionalism during times when demonstrations and protests are occurring in the City.

- b. **Union:** Sergeant Brad Seely presented the following to the board: New Union President since Sergeant Paris retired in April, and stated he has 19 years with the BPD. The BPD members have faced extremely difficult times since COVID-19, especially in the area of wearing PPE, unable to take time off from work for two months, and some officers had direct exposures to COVID-19. The BPD membership have up to date training and the department maintains a high standard in “Use of Force” policies and procedures. Sgt. Seely stated that he meets weekly with all the Chiefs and would like an open and continuous dialog to work together with the Police Commission.

Executive Session: None

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

Public Session:

- c. **Clerk:** The board was noticed on the following OIA Cases: 18I-151, 18I-174, and 17I-206.
- d. **Special Reports:** The Department Clerk will obtain dates and a location for the continuation of OIA Case 17I-200.

Item #4

New Businesses:

- a. Reverend Manuel Garcia, Vice President of Third Stone Ridge Co-Op, addressed the board regarding the installation or move of a Bus Stop to Soundview Avenue. Reverend Garcia expressed the following concerns if the Bus Stop is approved for installation at the new location: Major safety concern

for children attending Hallen School and removing several parking spaces for area residents to utilize. Currently, the location of the Bus Stop is in a safe and secure location and lastly Reverend Garcia is asking why is GBT asking for an additional Bus Stop in the area of Soundview? Reverend Garcia consulted with Mr. Steven Nelson, President of Second Stone Ridge Co-Op, and he stated he is opposed to the new bus stop. On a motion by Commissioner Farrow and seconded by Commissioner Cruz, the board unanimously voted to table this matter until next month's meeting in July. The board is asking for a reason why the GBT is asking for an additional Bus stop and will have a final vote on this matter at the July meeting.

Item #5 **Old Business: None**

Item #6 **Correspondence: None**

Item #7 **Letters of Appreciation: None**

Item #8 **Widow's Pension: None**

Item #9 **Other Scheduled Matters a:**

a-i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi, vii, viii, ix, x, xi, xii, and xiii: On a motion by Commissioner Cuminotto and seconded by Commissioner Cruz, the board unanimously voted to combine and approve items: **9a-i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi, vii, viii, ix, x, xi, xii, and xiii.**

a-xiv, xv, xvi, xviii, xix, xx, xxi, xxii, and xxiii: On a motion by Commissioner Cuminotto and seconded by Commissioner Cruz, the board unanimously voted to combine and approve items: **9a-xiv, xv, xvi, xviii, xix, xx, xxi, xxii, and xxiii.**

a-xvii: On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Quarles, the board unanimously voted to table this matter until next meeting in July.

Other Scheduled Matters b:

b-i, ii, iii, and iv: On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Cuminotto, the board unanimously voted to combine and deny the request of the traffic engineer and approve the installation of handicapped parking signs for items: **9b-i, ii, iii, and iv.**

b-v: On a motion by Commissioner Quarles and seconded by Commissioner Diaz, the board unanimously voted to deny the request of the traffic engineer and approve the installation of a "Multi-Way Stop" sign and "Crosswalk" at Barnum Avenue and Hallett Street.

b-vi: On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Farrow, the board unanimously voted to table this matter until the next meeting in July.

b-vii: Noted

b-viii, ix, and xi: On a motion by Commissioner Cuminotto and seconded by Commissioner Cruz, the board unanimously voted to uphold the recommendations of the traffic engineer and deny the requests.

b-x: On a motion by Commissioner Quarles and seconded by Commissioner Cruz, the board unanimously voted to deny the request of the traffic engineer and approve the installation of a "School Zone" for item **9b-x**.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Quarles, the board unanimously voted to adjourn at **7:21 p.m.**

NO/