

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
HONORABLE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
HELD TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

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, Roach, Farrow, Cuminotto, and Diaz.

Also present: Chief Rebeca Garcia, Sergeant Joel Carley, Sergeant Adam Rozum, Sergeant Brad Seely, Mr. Jon Urquidi, Mr. Richard Vaczek, Councilmember Maria Pereira, Ms. Barbara Verner, Ms. Mary Goss, Ms. Michelle Small, Ms. Adriana Aristy, and Ms. Helen Olga Losak.

Item #2 **a. None**

b. A moment of silence was observed for retired Officer Daniel Garcia who passed away on August 31, 2021.

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

Item #3 **Reports:**

a. Chief: Chief Rebeca Garcia presented the following to the board: The department recently became accredited by POSTC. The department has received a \$195,000.00 inter-jurisdictional grant that will address juveniles and the uptick in stolen motor vehicles. The Chief is working closely with Juvenile Probation to put in place a Juvenile Outreach program that will focus on work with juveniles and their parents. A recruit class will be starting at the training academy in November. The Chief will be hosting a class called Dedication to Community (DTC) at Sacred Heart University on January 25, 2022, from 8am to 4pm. The class will focus on building community and police relations. The Chief invited the board to participate in this class and Commissioner Diaz asked to attend. The Chief sponsored a community event on September 25 with several agencies that provide information and resources to residents of Bridgeport. The Chief continues to address the dirt bike and tractor trailer issues. Commissioner Lyons thanked the Chief for her efforts in addressing the tractor trailer issue. He asked the Chief to address the SHU off campus housing issue pertaining to loud parties on the weekends with over 200 students attending these events. The Chief continues to address this issue with specific details assigned to address quality of life and student safety in an around the SHU campus.

b. Union: Sergeant Seely presented the following to the board: The Gerald T. DiJoseph Memorial Golf Tournament held on September 14, 2021, was very successful and Sgt. Seely thanked everyone who volunteered and contributed to the effort. The union will be donating a scholarship to one student from each of the three area high schools. In October the union will be dedicating two plaques to the memory of retired Officer Terrence Flood and retired Detective Daniel

Domkowski who passed away due to complications from injuries sustained on the job. Sgt. Seely reports the department is down 80 officers and would like to see more officers recognized for their efforts during this difficult. He reports that officers are under increased stress. Commissioner Cruz and Farrow thanked all police officers for their efforts and expressed concern for officer wellness. EAP, peer support, and the PTSD Bill are in place to assist officers in need of support. Commissioners Farrow stated he would like to continue discussions in the future related to Officer wellness, etc.

Executive Session: None

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

Public Session:

- d. **Clerk:** The board was noticed of OIA Case Number: 18I-130 and 18I-60. Barros hearings are scheduled for OIA Case Number: 17I-206 on October 12, 14, 21, 26, and 28, 2021.

Special Reports:

Item #4

New Business:

- a. Mr. Richard Vaczek addressed the board regarding traffic concerns on Anton Street. The board has requested to have Mr. Vaczek's original traffic request sent back to the traffic engineer for another review and alternative recommendations.
- b. Councilmember Pereira, Ms. Barbara Verner, Ms. Mary Goss, Ms. Michelle Small, Ms. Adriana Aristy, and Ms. Helen Olga Losak addressed the board regarding the installation of a handicapped parking sign request at 77 Louisiana Avenue. On a motion by Commissioner Lyons and seconded by Commissioner Diaz, the board unanimously voted to deny the request of the traffic engineer and approve the installation of a handicapped parking sign at 77 Louisiana Avenue. This sign will be installed on Minnesota Avenue which is the rear entrance/exit of 77 Louisiana Avenue.

Item #5

Old Business:

- a. Mr. Jon Urquidi, City Engineer, addressed the board regarding the "Speed Hump" policy. This policy will be reviewed for approval at the next board meeting in October.

Item #6

Correspondence: None

Item #7

Letters of Appreciation:

- a. Noted

Item #8

Widow's Pension: None

Item #9

Other Scheduled Matters a:

i, ii, iii, iv, v, viii, ix xi, and xii: On a motion by Commissioner Diaz and seconded by Commissioner Farrow, the board unanimously voted to approve **item 9a-i, ii, iii, iv, v, viii, ix, xi, and xii.**

vi, vii and x: NO ACTION REQUIRED.

iii, iv, v, and vi: On a motion by Commissioner Diaz and seconded by Commissioner Cruz, the board unanimously voted to approve **items 9a-iii, iv, v, and vi.**

Other Scheduled Matters b:

i: On a motion by Commissioner Lyons and seconded by Commissioner Diaz, the board unanimously voted to deny the request of the traffic engineer and approve this request.

ii: On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Cuminotto, the board unanimously voted to uphold the recommendation of the traffic engineer and deny this request.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Commissioner Diaz seconded by Commissioner Cruz, the board unanimously voted to adjourn at **7:53 p.m.**

NO/