

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF  
THE HONORABLE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023**

**Members of the public and media, please type in the following link into your web browser to access our YouTube channel where you may view the Bridgeport Board of Police Commissioners meeting:**

<https://www.youtube.com/@bridgeportpolice9071/streams>

This meeting was called to order at **6:00 P.M.**

**1. Roll Call of Commissioners: Williams, Cruz, Lyons, Roach, Farrow, Diaz**

Also in attendance: Lieutenant Stacey Lyons, Chief Roderick Porter, Deputy Chief James Baraja, Captain John Cummings, Detective Laura Azevedo-Rasuk, Council Member Enida Martinez

- a. Pledge of Allegiance – none (no flag on Zoom)
- b. On a motion by Commissioner Lyons and seconded by Commissioner Cruz, the Board unanimously voted to approve item 1b.
- c. On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Williams, the Board unanimously voted to approve item 1c.
- d. On a motion by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner Cruz, the Board unanimously voted to approve item 1d.
- e. On a motion by Commissioner Lyons and seconded by Commissioner Cruz, the Board unanimously voted to approve item 1e.

**2. Reports:**

- a. **Chief of Police** – Chief Roderick Porter presented the following to the Board: Chief Porter reported that crime statistics continue to trend down and that, though overall crime statistics is up 6%, that violent crime statistics are down. Chief Porter stated that in 2024 he will continue to push for community engagement and hiring efforts. Chief Porter stated we hired forty-three (43) officers in 2023. Chief Porter stated he is hoping to put in a new class in early to mid-2024. Chief Porter mentioned that at the beginning of 2024 the lateral transfer program should be in full effect and that his long-term goal is to have a walking detail. Chief Porter stated in 2024 the city will be hiring civilian staff to take over positions that are currently being filled by police officers. Chief Porter stated that he is looking into changing the schedule / squads to have the department be more efficient. Chief Porter listed the following as long-term goals for the Police Department: look into building a new Police Department to give the community a professional Police Department to be proud of and to help retain officers; look to build a shooting range for

the Department; to purchase a van for the traffic department; to create a storage facility for vehicles being held for evidence; promotional exams. The Chief stated that he and the mayor would like to investigate "red light cameras". Chief Porter stated that he realizes that he must manage the reality of the manpower issue and he needs to be responsible for how he manages the Police Department. Commissioner Cruz asked how ShotSpotter is tracked and Chief Porter explained what ShotSpotter is and that ShotSpotter activation is not included in the shooting statistics. Commissioner Cruz asked how the Fusion Center is staffed. Chief Porter stated that there are officers in the Fusion Center and that he is looking to civilianize some spots. Chief Porter stated that he feels crime is up 6% because the burglaries are up 30% and felony larcenies are up 18% but, in comparison, the robberies are down 22%. Commissioner Williams asked the Chief if there will be a study before implementing the "red light cameras". Chief Porter explained that a study will be conducted to see where the cameras would have a high impact and what the effect on the community will be. Chief Porter explained that ultimately a police officer will review the video before a ticket will be issued from the "red light camera". Commissioner Williams asked to clarify what the shooting range on Stratford Ave. is. Chief Porter explained that it is a private range and that the Police Department does currently rent that range. Chief Porter acknowledged Commissioner Williams ports to clarify that the range on Stratford Ave. is private and that doing a cost analysis to rent a range could be beneficial. Chief Porter stated that the range will also help train the officers better. Chief Williams asked Chief Porter if the overtime is still high. Chief Porter stated that we are at the same pace as last year, but the majority of overtime is to backfill vacancies in cars. Chief Porter stated that he is working on separating special events from the general overtime number. Chief Porter stated that the City is looking for a dedicated fiscal person to help the Department be more cost effective and efficient. Commissioner Roach asked Chief Porter about limiting the number of officers who put in for overtime for more time than worked. Chief Porter stated that he is being as responsible as possible with the use of the City's money.

Captain Cummings addressed the Board about the parking of tractor trailers. Captain Cummings stated that officers are enforcing the \$130.00 fine for overnight parking of a vehicle over 10,000 pounds. Captain Cummings stated that hopefully the City can come to a long-term solution to with the parking of the tractor trailers. Captain Cummings stated that if a trailer is deemed a hazard, the officers have it moved. Chief Porter stated that the Department does want to work with the trailer owners and that the Department is also working on the issue of abandoned boats throughout the City.

- b. Union – None**
- c. Internal Affairs – None**
- d. Clerks Report –**
  - i. One (1) Second Step Hearing scheduled for January 18, 2024.**

- ii. One (1) Barros Hearing scheduled for January 18, 2024.

**3. New Business:**

- a. Council Member Enida Martinez addressed the Board as the City Council liaison. Council Member Martinez stated that she appreciates the effectiveness of Captain Cummings and the Departments handling of the tractor trailer and abandoned boats issue. Council Member Martinez spoke of a city tow company who wishes to be on the city tow list. Council Member Martinez stated that this company is up to date with a Bill, 2010r-0385 (October 2010) and that he does not need to show workers compensation due to it being a personally owned business. Council Member Martinez stated that this business does have a site plan and that, though he has to address zoning issues, according to CGS 14-54 that is not the case. Council Member Martinez is requesting that the Board honors a temporary provision, pending compliance. Council Member Martinez stated that her concern is that the towing list and regulations have not been updated and that she does not want to see a minority business kept off the list due to these issues. Commissioner Roach stated that he agrees that there is a need to increase the tow list and to offer opportunity. Commissioner Roach stated that the applicant does need to go in front of the Zoning Board of Appeals and fix other issues with the application, as well as provide payment. Commissioner Roach suggested that the Board approves the application with provisions. Commissioner Cruz asked to clarify Commissioner's Roach's suggestion and the discrepancies on the application. Commissioner Williams initially requested to table this request due to her concern with the list of items still necessary to complete. Commissioner Roach explained that the Board is just a small part of the process for this company. Commissioner Williams stated that the stipulations to this motion need to be listed to put forth a motion. Commissioner Roach detailed the items that need to be taken care of as the following: Approval from the Zoning Board of Appeals, providing a site plan, passing an on-site inspection, providing workers compensation insurance, providing clear copies of the driver's licenses, and providing the annual payment. On a motion by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner Lyons, the Board unanimously votes to approve the tow application pending the completion of the listed stipulations.
- b. Detective Laura Azevedo-Rasuk addresses the Board to change policy G.O. 5.05 Family Violence Investigations so that it matches state law. On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Diaz, the Board voted unanimously to approve item 3b.

**4. Old Business:**

- a. On a motion by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner Lyons, the Board unanimously voted not to approve the recommendation of the Traffic Engineer and to approve the request for the sign installation.

**5. Correspondence: None**

6. **Letter of Appreciation:**

- a. Noted

7. **Widows Pension:** None

8. **City Engineer's Recommendation:**

a. **Request of the City Engineer's Office to approve the following traffic requests:**

i- viii. On a motion by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner Farrow, the Board voted unanimously to combine all the traffic items and approve.

a) **Request of the City Engineer's Office not to approve the following traffic requests:**

- i. On a motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Farrow the Board voted to approve item 8bi. Commissioner Williams voted to oppose item 8bi.
- ii. On a motion by Commissioner Diaz and seconded by Commissioner Lyons the Board unanimously voted to table item 8aii pending a letter from the landlord.

**Adjournment:** On motion by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Williams, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at **7:17 hours**.

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