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A regular meeting of the Stamford Police Commission was held on Monday, March 3 2014 at 5:00pm at Stamford Police Headquarters.

Present at the meeting were Commissioners Abbazia, Figueroa, Palmer and Thomas. Chief Fontneau, Assistant Chiefs Matheny and Shaw, Lt. Barcello, Sgts. Devanney and Pinto, Clemon Williams from HR, Captain Erickson, SPA President Todd Lobraico, SPA Attorney Kevin Grecco, Sgt Gioielli, Officers Somody, Boeger, D. Rodriguez and Rondano. Captains Bretthauer. Conklin, Lombardo, McElligott, Mullin, Tomlin and Wuennemann.

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Abbazia at 5:05pm

Review of Minutes

Commissioner Thomas made a MOTION to accept the minutes from the previous meeting and seconded by Commissioner Palmer. All in favor.

Good Conduct by Officers:

Assistant Chief Shaw mentioned Officer Stempien who works in the Property Crime Unit. Officer Stempien received a letter from a citizen of Riverside, CT thanking him for doing a wonderful job finding her wedding rings that were lost in the parking lot of Donut Delight.

Assistant Chief Matheny mentioned a letter of commendation from Lt. Noto for Sgt. Moran, Officers J. O'Meara, McManus Rakoczy and the HNT Unit that on Saturday, February 22nd at approximately 8pm there was an armed robbery reported at Robec on Canal Street. The Officers know the neighborhood and when they received the description of the suspect they had a good idea of who it was. The suspect had barricaded himself in his apartment and attempted suicide by cutting his wrists. HNT was able to get the suspect out of the apartment and into custody without incident.

Comments from the Public

None

Administration and Operating

Chief Fontneau stated that we currently have 13 officers on long term IOD status and are working closely with them to get them back to work. We are working on our Facebook and getting information out on the media web site. Our Training Division is up and running in the Southend Community Center. Our SRT Team just got back from training with the Secret Service. Had an incident at WHS of inappropriate behavior by a 72 year old substitute teacher. Our COPS Grant was turned down because our crime rates are down. We are having a Gun Buyback on March 29th and will be held at the Westside Substation. We had 11 new Officers begin on the street on January 11th. The Commission will be interviewing candidates for 3 new Police Officer positions.

Crime Stats for the year: Crime down 3.5%, Violent Crime up 3% which are 5 incidents, Property Crime down by 4.6%. Stamford is now the 16th safest city out of 269 cities in the nation that reported data. We are the 3rd safest city out of 28 cities in our region.

Commissioner Abbazia would like a report to see the stats monthly in addition to oral reporting. Commissioner Abbazia would like to review the budget at the next meeting.

Assistant Chief Matheny reported that for the month of February we had 11,630 calls for service which is a decrease from the previous month. We average between 10-11,000 calls for service each month. We made 254 arrests, performed 921 school programed patrols and 3,680 Motor Vehicle Stops. Stopped 222 suspicious people. The Traffic and Safety Unit worked 20 days and wrote 315 summonses and towed 43 cars. They also closed out 2 fatal accidents from the end of last year and conducted some roll call training on crash protocol.

Assistant Chief Shaw reported an unfortunate incident on Morgan Street of a nurse who was stealing prescription drugs from the hospital and was in a bad place and tried to commit suicide. The Officers arrived when she was beginning her suicide attempt and saved her. She is on her way to recovery. We had an aggravated assault of a 62 year old SHS teacher on Prospect Street. This was broad daylight and some students were walking by and they picked up the victim and slammed him into the ground. Youth Division, BCI and Patrol got together and initiated 3 arrests who were students of Stamford Academy. We are working with the Administration at Stamford Academy to get a better handle on things.

Personnel Issues

Captain Erickson's Grievance #2013-05. Captain Erickson was asked if she would like an Executive Session or a Public Session. She opted to have a public session. All interviewees were sworn in and Captain Lombardo, Captain Bretthauer and Assistant Chief Shaw were interviewed by both parties. Chief Fontneau was also interviewed. Attorney Grecco gave his summarization from the SPAs position and Mr. Williams gave his from the City's position. After hearing both sides the Commission agreed to defer to Chief Fontneau's authority and denied the grievance.

Old/New Business:

The Commission will hold a Special Meeting on March 20, 2014 at 4:00pm to interview 8 candidates for the three open positions. Each interview will be 15 minutes in length.

Police Commissioner Palmer asked the other Commissioners to contribute personally to an ad in the book for a scholarship fund.

Commissioner Thomas made a MOTION to recommend Commissioner Palmer as Vice Chair for the Police Commission. Commissioner Figueroa seconded. All were in favor.

Commissioner Abbazia asked about Kronos regarding the Police Department and how it would fit into the payroll system for the PD.

Commissioner Thomas made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 6:39pm. Commissioner Palmer seconded.

Submitted,

Timothy Abbazia

Timothy Abbazia
Chairman

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