

**MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING  
of  
Thursday, July 12, 2018**

**Commissioners Present:** Charles Knoche, Chairman  
George Kain, Secretary  
Marianne Coffin  
Joseph Savino  
**Absent:** Stephen Saloom  
**Also Present:** Major Stephen Brown

These minutes are an overview of the meeting; not a verbatim text.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Knoche.

**Agenda Item #1 – Agenda Review**

Chairman Knoche asked the Commissioners if anyone had any adjustments to the agenda; there were none.

Chairman Knoche stated that there would be an Executive Session for personnel matters following the Public Session.

**Agenda Item #2 Minutes**

Chairman Knoche requested a motion to accept the minutes of the June 14, 2018 Police Commission meeting. Commissioner Kain motioned to accept; Commissioner Savino seconded the motion.

**All in favor**

**Minutes of June 14, 2018 accepted as written.**

**Agenda Item #3a Commission Voice Mail**

Commissioner Kain stated that he had a new voice mail message from a resident requesting motorist warning signage alerting them of pedestrians on Farmingville Road where she had an incident while walking with her child in the stroller by Farmingville Road/Norrans Ridge Drive.

Major Brown stated that he will direct Traffic Sign Officer Caswell to review the area for appropriate signage and report back to the Commission at their next meeting.

**Agenda Item #3b Commission Written Correspondence**

**Town Joint Meeting Request**

Chairman Knoche stated that he received a letter from First Selectman Marconi requesting the Police Commissioners' attendance at a police/fire department facility study meeting on either August 27<sup>th</sup> or August 29<sup>th</sup>. The Commissioners discussed this request and agreed that they would prefer to delay this meeting until Chief Roche could be in attendance and part of the discussion. Commissioner Kain will draft a letter in response to First

Selectman Marconi's request.

Chairman Knoche received a thank you letter from the 77 Sunset Lane Condominium Association for their help and support in resolving a parking issue at their development.

#### **Agenda Item #4 Chief's Report**

##### **Correspondence**

Major Brown reported that he received an email from a resident thanking Officer DiFalco and SRO Luis for their counsel and support with an incident that occurred at the high school. The email concluded with the statement that "quality personnel make up a quality unit and Ridgefield Police Department is certainly as high quality as it comes".

Major Brown reported that he received a letter from a resident commenting on Det. Ryan's courteous handling of drivers during the parade detour at Main Street/King Lane and assisting them with alternate directions so they could get to their destination at the Memorial Day Parade.

He also commented that when an American flag came down Main Street, Det. Ryan stopped and saluted with reverence – "she is a definite asset to the Ridgefield Police Department".

##### **Racial Profiling**

Major Brown reported to the Commission that he received a draft copy of the results of further investigation of the initial racial profiling report citing Ridgefield as an offender.

After reviewing the factors involved, it was noted that most of the violations occurred on the Route 7/Route 35 corridor where the Department has the highest level of motor vehicle enforcement. It was noted that 70% of the drivers stopped were not Ridgefield residents and taking into account the population in the surrounding areas, these roads have a relatively higher proportion of non-resident minority drivers traveling on them. Also noted was the fact that the nature of the Department stops was focused on safety-related violations; particularly speed and cell phone violations. In the speed-related stops, Officers made the determination to stop the driver using speed enforcement technology.

The report concluded that after a full review, the disparities do not appear excessive in nature.

##### **Training Report**

- Dispatcher Caporale attended Domestic Violence Intervention for the Telecommunicator in Meriden.
- P.O. Caswell attended Practical Skills Day at POSTC.
- SRO Daly attended the National Association of School Resource Officers

- Conference (NASRO) in Reno, Nevada.
- Lt. Raines and P.O. Ladue attended Speed Measuring Device Operator training at POSTC.

#### Community Policing / Public Relations

- PO Gjodesen conducted a tour of Headquarters to students from Ridgefield Academy.
- Major Brown, Lt. Gates and P.O. Geller attended the Special Olympics dinner at Parks and Recreation.
- Many Officers attended a luncheon at the Prospector Theater.
- Major Brown, Captain Terzian, Captain Kreitz, Lt. Gates, Sgt. Clarke, Sgt. Gogola, Det. Romero, Det. DuBord, SRO Giglio and Disp. Supv. Browning participated in the Special Olympics Torch Run.
- Det. Dardis attended the Ridgefield Youth Commission mural dedication.
- Sgt. Durling threw out the first pitch at a Ridgefield Youth Baseball Championship Series game.
- SRO Luis attended the Ridgefield Alternative High School graduation.
- SRO Luis attended the Ridgefield High School graduation.
- A total of six (6) car seats were installed/checked during the month of June.

#### Department Statistics:

Major Brown highlighted the statistics for June 2018, a total of 1,557 incidents, to include: 86 Alarms, 20 Medical Assists, 15 Check Wellbeing calls, 11 Radar details, 330 motor vehicle enforcement violations, 4 Smart Trailer deployments and 55 Motor Vehicle Accidents. There were three (3) K-9 assists for the month of June.

#### 84 Governor Street and 62 Prospect Ridge Road

Major Brown stated that plans, submitted by Steve Zemo, have been forwarded to the Department regarding the 1) Proposed Age-Restricted Building with Affordable Housing at 84 Governor Street and 2) Proposed Age-Restricted Building with Affordable Housing at 62 Prospect Ridge Road. Major Brown stated that the plans will be at Headquarters if the Commissioners want to review them.

#### **Agenda Item #5 – No new business**

#### **Agenda Item #6a**

##### Fountain Traffic Light

No update from Rep. Frey.

**Agenda Item #6b – PBA Fundraiser Letter**

Major Brown presented the Commissioners with the submitted letter from the PBA for their annual fundraiser. Commissioner Kain approved the letter for mailing; Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

**All in Favor**

**PBA Fundraiser Letter for 2018 approved.**

**Agenda Item #6c – No Turn on Red**

No update at this time.

**Agenda Item #6d – St. Mary Crossing**

Waiting on State DOT.

**Agenda Item #6e – Rockwell Road**

Major Brown reported on the speeds on Rockwell Road noted as follows:

5/14 = 27mph, 5/31 = 19-22mph, 6/12 = 19-21mph.

At the request of the Commission, Major Brown will direct Traffic Sign Officer Caswell to check the feasibility of installing a *Stop Ahead* sign on Perry Road and update the Rockwell Road contact before September.

**Agenda Item #6f – Beaver Brook Road**

Major Brown reported that in response to the residents' request for a *No Thru Traffic* sign for 4-7pm Monday through Friday, he was advised that the State Traffic Administration would have to approve of such a sign and they do not approve of hourly restrictions as proposed and that such a sign is tough to enforce. They are very reluctant to install such a sign.

The Commissioners discussed several ideas for this area. They all agreed that even if the proposed sign was installed, we could not enforce it as we would have to have someone follow the vehicles going through to ascertain their route.

The Commissioners agreed that Major Brown will contact the State and request, in writing, their stand on no thru traffic signs. In the meantime, the Department will continue radar enforcement and speed trailer deployment. Commissioner Kain stated that he feels deeply for those on this road but the fact is that they are homeowners on a public road and could not have foreseen the growth ahead. He hopes we can find some sort of solution to this problem.

**August Meeting**

After reviewing current items and having no pressing issues, Commissioner Kain motioned to cancel the August meeting; seconded by Commissioner Savino. This can be changed if something presents itself before September.

**All in Favor**

**August Police Commission meeting cancelled.**

Commissioner Savino motioned to adjourn Public Session; seconded by Commissioner Kain.

**Public Session adjourned at 7:55pm.**

**Public Session commenced at 8:15pm.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Coffin to extend Chief Roche's contract for five years with no other changes; seconded by Commissioner Kain.

**Vote: In Favor – All**

**Chief Roche's contract extended for five years with no other changes.**

Commissioner Savino motioned to adjourn the Public Session; seconded by Commissioner Kain.

**Vote: In Favor – All**

**Public Session adjourned at 8:16pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

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George Kain  
Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE  
POLICE COMMISSION MEETING  
of  
Thursday, July 12, 2018**

**Commissioners Present:** Charles Knoche, Chairman  
George Kain, Secretary  
Marianne Coffin  
Joseph Savino  
**Absent:** Stephen Saloom  
**Also Present:** Major Stephen Brown

Executive Session commenced at 7:55pm.  
Executive Session adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,

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George Kain  
Secretary