

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

**Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 7:00p.m.
Town Hall Annex
66 Prospect Street**

Anyone requiring special accommodations due to disability is asked to contact Headquarters at 438-6531 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Commissioners Present: Marianne Coffin
John Frey
Ralph Money

Absent: Sharon Dornfeld, Chairperson
Issy Caporale, Secretary

Also Present: Chief Jeff Kreitz

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Commissioner Frey.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Frey requested a motion to accept the minutes of the August 8, 2024 Police Commission Meeting. Commissioner Money made a motion and Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

All in Favor

**Minutes of the August 8, 2024 Police Commission Meeting
accepted as written.**

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrea Beebe, from Main Street, addressed her concerns about the lack of motorists following rules. Examples of this are the number of people going through stop signs, especially at the East Ridge Road/Governor Street intersection, going past school busses and not stopping for pedestrians in the crosswalk. Chief Kreitz stated the Patrol Division has been made aware and are patrolling these areas.

Andrea ended by stating that the police are doing a great job.

3. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

A. Voicemail

There was no voicemail received for the month of August.

B. Written Correspondence

There was no written correspondence received for the month of August.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. PBA Annual Fundraiser Letter

Chief Kreitz presented to the Police Commission the Annual Fundraiser letter from the Police Benevolent Association (P.B.A.). With minor modifications, Commissioner Coffin made a motion and Commissioner Money seconded the motion to approve the letter.

All in Favor

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Public Safety Building Update

Chief Kreitz stated that First Selectman Marconi, Director of Facilities Jake Muller, Fire Chief Jerry Myers and himself have presented the project to multiple groups during the past month.

6. CHIEF'S REPORT

A. Traffic/Sign Report

The following report was submitted by Sgt. Mark Caswell Sign Officer.

Re: August 2024 Sign Report

Sign Repair/Maintenance:

Repaired Pedestrian sign on Grove Street.

Replaced the Stop Sign on Barlow Mountain Road / North Street.

Installed a Dead-End sign on Seymour Lane.

Repair Intersection Ahead sign Ridgebury Road

Replaced the Stop Sign and 3 Way sign at Ivy Hill Road and Prospect Ridge.

Replaced the Stop Sign on Schoolhouse Road / Ridgebury Road.

Repaired the Stop Sign on Lynn Place / Barnum Place

Repaired the Stop Sign on Barrack Hill Road.

Replaced the Stop Sign at Stonewall Lane / Old Trolley Road.

Replaced the Stop Sign at Finch Drive / Chestnut Hill Road.

Replaced the Stop Sign at Ridgebury Road / Ledges Road

Replaced a Curve Sign on North Street.

Replaced the Curve Sign on Chestnut Hill Road.
Replaced the Stop Sign at Marshall Road / Peaceable Street.
Replaced a Stop Ahead Sign on Peaceable Street.
Replaced 2 Stop Signs at Peaceable Street / High Ridge Avenue.
Replaced the Stop Ahead Sign on Peaceable Road.
Replaced the Stop Sign at Market Street / East Ridge Road.
Replaced 3 of the ACT Theater signs.
Replaced the Stop Sign at Ramapoo Road / Mulberry Street.

Resident Concerns:

I received a request by Judd Zusel and Joe Costigan to survey the area of Tanglewood Court. They stated that the street has a significant downslope and as a result, delivery trucks and residents travel at very high speeds on this short cul-de-sac street. Both men stated that there are kids out playing and older people walking on the street and they fear that there might be a deadly accident someday. They also stated that the speed at which cars and delivery vehicles sometimes travel is absolutely a danger to the residents of this street. It's also dangerous for their families to pull out of their driveways. Both gentlemen feel that a speed bump is absolutely needed. I surveyed the road on 8/30 and found that a 25 MPH Speed Limit sign needs to be installed. I also put a request in with Town Highway to have a Dead-End placard be installed on the street sign to help advise motorists that it is not a through road. I also recommend that traffic details be performed periodically to enforce the speed limit. If they have a neighborhood group, they can also get the word out to drive more carefully. At this time speed bumps are not recommended.

Chief Kreitz discussed a program he referred to as "Slow Down Ridgefield" that he would like to implement in the spring. He stated that the purpose of the program is to reduce speeding on our roadways through awareness and community involvement. Chief Kreitz stated that signs would be made available to residents who wish to participate in the program.

Chief Kreitz stated that starting next month, a monthly stat report for our most frequent incidents will be posted on Facebook for public view.

B. TRAINING/PR REPORT

The following report was submitted by Capt. Jeff Raines, Division of Professional Standards.

Ridgefield Police Department Training & Community Policing/Public Relations Report August 2024

Training Attended:

- August 6:** School Resource Officer Seibert and Williams attended School Safety Summer training at WCSU.
- August 12-13:** Officer Olivares attended Firearms Instructor training at POSTC.
- August 19-20:** Officer Clark attended Firearms Instructor training at POSTC.
- August 20:** Captain Fowler, Captain Raines and Lieutenant Durling attended State mandated Data Reporting training at POSTC.
- August 27&30:** Officer Biros attended EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) training at Easton EMS.

P/R Events:

- August 7:** SRO Giglio, SRO Seibert, SRO Williams and SRO Vasquez participated in WFSB Chanel 3's "Back to School" PSA videos in Rocky Hill, CT.
- August 24:** Officer Kay participated in the 2024 CT Special Olympics Law Enforcement Dream Cruise in Farmington.

The PBA Safety Day is scheduled for September 8th, at the East Ridge Middle School. We encourage everyone to attend.

A total of 9 Public Relations were performed during the month(s) to include:

- Officers met with the staff and children at the Shir Shalom Temple.
- Several car seat installations were performed.
- Officers met with local businesses and spoke with employees.
- Multiple Social Media posts were put out in regards to Police Activities & Safety Messages.

C. DEPARTMENT STATS

Chief Kreitz stated the total number of incidents for the month of August 2024 was 1,540. He highlighted some of the statistics for the month.

7. Union Participation

None.

**Commissioner Money made a motion to adjourn at 7:50pm.
Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.**

Motion carried unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Coffin
Police Commissioner