

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

**Thursday, January 9, 2025 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: Sharon Dornfeld, Chairperson
Issy Caporale, Secretary
Marcie Coffin
John Frey
Ralph Money

Also Present: Chief Jeff Kreitz
Major Nick Fowler

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by Chairperson Dornfeld

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Dornfeld requested a motion to accept the minutes of the December 12, 2024 Police Commission Meeting. Commissioner Frey made a motion and Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.

All in Favor

**Minutes of December 12, 2024 Police Commission Meeting
accepted as written.**

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

A. Voicemail

There was no voicemail for the month of December.

B. Written Correspondence

There was no written correspondence for the month of December.

4. NEW BUSINESS**A. State Project 0170-3747-Pavement Markings and Sign Upgrades at Highway-Railway Grade Crossing on Metro-North and Amtrak Lines**

Chief Kreitz presented a letter he received from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT). The tentative plans are to remove and install pavement markings and signs and selective vegetation trimming at the Metro-North and Amtrak railroads. The proposed project locations for Ridgefield are Portland Avenue and Depot Road. The improvements will be in compliance with national standards to help reduce the potential for vehicle-train crashes. If this State Project 0170-3747 is agreed upon, the tentative construction date would be in 2026. Chief Kreitz stated he has no issues with the proposed project.

5. OLD BUSINESS**A. Hiring Update**

Chief Kreitz stated that Probationary Police Officer William Almonte graduated from the Police Academy on Wednesday, January 8. Two conditional offers will be made to fill department vacancies to the next two highest candidates from the list. Swearing in Probationary Police Officer Kevin O'Connor will be on January 22.

B. Public Safety Building Update

Commissioner Money made a motion stating that "the Police Commission unanimously supports the proposed new Public Safety Facility and urges all Town residents to support the new building to keep Ridgefield safe now – and in the future". Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously

6. CHIEF'S REPORT**A. Traffic/Sign Report**

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

Re: January 2025 Sign Report

Sign Repair/Maintenance:

As part of the CT Department of Transportation Signing and Pavement Marking Improvement Projects, the following signs were either installed or replaced:

- A number of Stop Ahead warning signs and Stop signs were installed at the intersection of Governor Street/East Ridge Road and Grove Street/Old Quarry Road.
- Installed a Stop sign at Harrison Court/Sleepy Hollow Road.
- Installed and repaired the Pedestrian signs on Prospect Street in front of the Prospector Theater.
- Installed 2 "T" intersection signs at Florida Road/Cooper Hill Extension.
- Replaced the Stop sign at Scott's Ridge Road/Blue Ridge Road.
- All of the solar powered speed signs were removed and stored for the winter.

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 December 2024

Training Attended:

Dec. 10: Officer Olivares and Officer Clark attended Use of Force (209) training at POSTC.

Dec. 16: Captain Raines attended Fitness Instructor training at POSTC.

P/R Events:

December: Several tours of HQ were given throughout the month and the remainder of Ride-To School details were completed for all of the gift certificate recipients.

Dec. 5: Captain Raines and Officer McMahon accepted an Accreditation certificate for the department achieving Tier I and Tier II Accreditation status at POSTC.

Upcoming Events:

Ofc. William Almonte will be graduating from the CT police academy with the 383rd Session on January 8th.

A total of 8 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 reported the total number of incidents for the month of December 2024 was 1,552. He highlighted some of the statistics for the month.

7. Union Participation

None.

8. Executive Session

A. Discussion of Chief's Goals for 2025.

Commissioner Caporale made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:43pm. Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously

The Police Commission returned to Public Session at 7:53pm. No votes were taken.

Commissioner Money made a motion to adjourn at 7:55pm. Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Issy Caporale
Police Commission Secretary