

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

APPROVED

Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 7:00p.m.

**Town Hall Annex
66 Prospect Street**

Anyone requiring special accommodations due to disability is asked to contact Headquarters at 203-438-6531 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Commissioners Present: Sharon Dornfeld, Chairperson
John Frey
Ralph Money
Present by Phone: Issy Caporale, Secretary
Absent: Marcie Coffin

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 7:02pm by Chairperson Dornfeld.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Dornfeld requested a motion to accept the minutes of the June 12, 2025 Police Commission Meeting. Commissioner Frey made a motion and Commissioner Money seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Minutes of June 12, 2025 Police Commission Meeting accepted as written.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

A. Voicemail

Commissioner Caporale stated she received a voicemail from a resident from 40 Crescent Drive questioning why the speed bumps were removed. Upon further investigating, a homeowner put the speed bumps in themselves. Commissioner Caporale stated she will follow up as the speed bumps were not authorized. They have to be

approved by the traffic authority.

B. Written Correspondence

There was no written correspondence reported for the month of June.

4. OLD BUSINESS**A. Public Safety Building Update**

A meeting was held on July 10 with the working group. Chief Kreitz stated that the group discussed the new site plan. Chief Kreitz stated that they are hoping to bring the project to referendum in the Fall.

B. 29 Prospect Street Truck Exit onto Grove Street

Chief Kreitz and the Police Commission had the following questions and comments regarding the proposal:

Questions:

- Approximately how many trucks are expected to use this exit each day?
- During what times of day would the trucks be exiting
- Would this change increase the number of trucks traveling on Grove Street?
- Can the trucks safely make the left turn onto Grove Street from the proposed driveway in its current configuration?
- Would the Grove Street exit be monitored to ensure exit use only by large trucks for left turns? If so, how?
- Would the drive remain gated?

Comments:

- With the proposed public safety building planned for Old Quarry Road, there are concerns about increased truck traffic on Grove Street. However, if trucks are already using Grove Street, this change could reduce the amount of time they spend on it.
- Currently, tractor-trailers have difficulty navigating the turn onto Grove Street from Prospect Street.
- There is concern that, if approved, vehicles other than tractor-trailers may begin using the exit.

C. State Project 0170-3756

Chief Kreitz discussed the CTDOT plans to replace speed limit signs on local rural roads throughout Connecticut. The plan is to replace municipally owned and maintained post-mounted sheet aluminum speed limit signs with new, retroreflective signs which would have

compliance with current federal guidelines. The tentative plans are to be ready October 2025, with a starting date of December 2025. The roads that would be involved in Ridgefield are:

Bear Mountain Road, Benson Road, Berthier Place, Bridle Trail, Chestnut Hill Road, Evergreen Place, Finch Drive, Harding Drive, Hawthorne Hill Road, Hussar's Camp Place, Neds Lane, Neds Mountain Road, Old Stagecoach Road, Oreneca Road, Parley Road, Pheasant Drive, Pine Mountain Road, Ridgebury Road, Salem View Drive, Sarah Bishop Road and Twopence Road.

Chief Kreitz stated that he believes that this upgrade is not necessary on some the listed roads. He stated that he is going to contact the project manager from the CTDOT to discuss and request that Sgt. Caswell be present when the work is being performed.

5. NEW BUSINESS

The Police Commission advised there will be no meeting in August.

6. CHIEF'S REPORT

A. Traffic/Sign Report

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

Re: June 2025 Sign Report

Sign Repair/Maintenance:

- Installed 4 new Stop signs, reflectors and posts at Ridgebury Road/George Washington Highway.
- Repaired the Stop sign on Old Stagecoach Road.
- Replaced the 25 mph Speed Limit sign on Old Stagecoach Road.
- Removed the old Dead End sign on Dogwood Drive and relocated it to the street sign on Danbury Road.
- Replaced a Dead End sign on Washington Street.
- Repaired the Stop sign at Hawthorne Hill Road/Ridgebury Road.
- Repaired the Stop sign at High Ridge Avenue/King Lane.
- Replaced two 25 mph Speed Limit signs on Ridgebury Road.
- Installed 1 and replaced two 25 mph Speed Limit signs on Holmes Road.
- Installed a 25 mph Speed Limit sign on Madeline Drive.
- Replaced the No Thru Truck and 7 Ton Weight Limit signs on Ramapoo Road.

- Repaired the Road Ends sign on Fire Hill Road.
- Replaced Truck Grade sign on Continental Drive.
- Replaced the 25 mph Speed Limit sign on Adams Road.
- Replaced the 25 mph speed Limit sign on Jefferson Drive.
- Replaced the 25 mph Speed Limit sign on Great Hill Road.

Submitted a Municipal Encroachment application with the State DOT to install one of the solar speed signs on North Salem Road to monitor speed heading northbound towards the high school.

B. Training/PR Report

The following report was submitted by Capt. Brian Durling, Division of Professional Standards.

Ridgefield Police Department Training & Community Policing/Public Relations Report June 2025

Training Attended:

- June 2-6:** Ofc. Vasquez and Ofc. Pagliuco attended Methods of Instruction at the Police Academy in Meriden. Sgt. DiFalco conducted his student teaching at this class to be able to teach the class in the future.
- June 19-20:** Lt. Van Wattum attended Taser Instructor school at the Westport Police Department.
- June 24-26:** Det. Dardis and Ofc. Olivares attended Colt Armorer School At the Colt factory in Hartford.
- June 13:** Cpt. Raines and Cpt. Durling attended a training meeting for the Connecticut Law Enforcement for Addiction Recovery Initiative at the Stamford Police Department.

P/R Events:

- June:** The department hosted RHS inter Damien Hegarty for six weeks. Damien assisted with many tasks and participated in ride-alongs.

June 4: The department hosted our annual promotion and awards ceremony at the Lounsbury House.

June 6: Members of the department participated in the annual Special Olympics Torch Run.

Upcoming Events:

Officers will attend the Lounsbury House “Summerfest”, as well as the annual St. Mary’s Fair. Daniel Burke is scheduled to be sworn in during the month of July. The Junior Police Academy is scheduled for the third week of July.

A total of 24 Public Relations were performed during the month to include:

- Officers met with the staff and children at local houses of worship.
- Several car seat installations were performed
- Officers met with local businesses and spoke with employees
- Officers met with children from local day cares/preschools
- Officers met with residents and staff at Ballard Green
- Multiple Social Media posts were put out
- Several Rides to School

C. Department Stats

Chief Kreitz reported the total number of incidents for the month of June 2025 was 1,627. He highlighted some of the statistics for the month.

7. UNION PARTICIPATION

None.

**Commissioner Money made a motion to adjourn at 7:54pm.
Commissioner Frey seconded the motion.**

Motion carried unanimously,

Respectfully Submitted,

Issy Caporale
Police Commission Secretary