

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

July 13, 2022 MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

A regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners was held on Wednesday July 13, 2022 @ 4:30 pm in the Police Commissions Conference Room, 100 Reef Road, Fairfield, Connecticut 06824

Members Present: Commissioners: Chair Ron Pine, Secretary Peter Ambrose, Charlene Lebo, James Millington, Jack Stone, Joe Cafferelli and Kevin Kiley

From the Public: Amy Barrett, Richard Dix, Clay Risher, Nax Rex.

Chief Kalamaras, Deputy Chief Keith Broderick, Captain Granata, Lt. Irizarry, Captain Peter Koval

The regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners: called to order by Chairman Ron Pine @ at 4:30 pm.

1. The Pledge of Allegiance – recited.

2. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes June 8 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the June 8, 2022 regular meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Cafferelli. Motion unanimously passed.

Recognition of Officer Walter Burke for being chosen as *Officer of the Quarter* for the period of July 15th, 2022 to October 14th, 2022. Officer Burke's selection for this prestigious award was based on his excellent personality, attitude, fitness & appearance, initiative, and job proficiency.

- Cpt. Edward Weihe congratulated Officer Walter Burke who could not be present on being Office of the Quarter for the period of July 15th 2022 to October 14th 2022. His hard work and dedication reflects great credit upon himself and the Fairfield agency and the police profession as a whole. Will arrange to present to Officer Burke tomorrow morning when he is on duty.

Presentation of the Chief's Recognition Medal to Officer Daniel Chase and Officer Nicholas Ardizzone for demonstrating a consistent level of noteworthy performance and garnering a minimum of five Supervisor Recognition Reports within the past year. Officer Chase and Officer Ardizzone's dedication and loyalty

to the law enforcement profession, sincerity of purpose, and above-average effort make these two officers most deserving of this honor.

- Chief Kalamaras presented Officer Nicholas Ardizzone with the Chief's recognition medal. Chief thanked Officer Ardizzone for his contribution to the Fairfield Police Department and their mission to serve and protect the Town of Fairfield.
- Chief also recognized Officer Dan Chase who has all the same traits, and received more than 5 write ups from his supervisors in the last year and also received the Chief's Recognition Medal. Will give the award to him during his shift.
- Recognition that Officer Daniel Loris has completed his probationary period and recommend that he be approved as an active and good-standing member of the Fairfield Police Department.

Commissioner Ambrose made a motion to approve Office Daniel Loris as an active member of the Fairfield Police Department. Second by Commissioner Stone. Motion unanimously passed.

- Recognition that Officer Dimitar Sadiev has completed his probationary period and recommend that he be approved as an active and good-standing member of the Fairfield Police Department.

Commissioner Ambrose made a motion to approve Officer Dimitar Sadiev as an active member of the Fairfield Police Department. Second by Commissioner Lebo. Motion unanimously carried.

1) **Traffic Surveys:**

SURVEY #1 LOCATION: Villa Avenue at Lewis Drive

NATURE OF REQUEST: (Tabled From 5/11/22 Meeting)

Install Two (2) "Stop" signs on Villa Avenue at Lewis Drive - East bound "Stop" sign in front of Teddy Bear Corner (273 Villa Avenue) and west.

BY WHOM: Amy Barrett and Richard Dix

RECOMMENDATION: Villa Ave at Lewis Drive- Install MUTCD approved Horizontal Alignment signs (W1-10e) but with offset lines on Villa Ave, west of Nichols and Villa Ave east of Lewis Drive to warn traffic of upcoming intersections. Investigate Stop sign request by performing Engineering Study, speeds, volumes, sight distance and crash data. Stop signs must meet MUTCD warrants. Installing stop signs, may cause increase in rear end accidents but could reduce other types, hence recommend study.

Captain Peter Koval noted Town Engineer Bill Hurley did not think that without a study, approving stop signs would be recommended at this time.

No data to support to putting a stop sign there, and town engineer actually thought it would increase traffic back up from Eastbound Villa Ave into Bridgeport.

That is part of why the Engineering Study was recommended to evaluate the intersection. Lewis Drive coming out to Villa Ave is a tough left hand turn to make and feels that is what he recommends by those Horizontal Alignment signs; town engineer thinks that would be a temporary solution for now until a further study could be done.

Public Comment: Amy Barrett 306 Villa Ave gave a hand out to the Commission and went over it in great detail the nature of the request since it was tabled from the 5-11-2022 meeting. Miss Barrett used other examples in town where stop signs were approved with same issue as Nichols and Villa, a blind intersection.

Chair Ron Pine did appreciate the information given to them, but he thinks that they were going to go with the recommendation from the Police Dept. Miss, Barrett did request that a complete street checklist to be used in conjunction with the Engineering Study.

Commissioner Ambrose made a motion to accept the recommendation that is before them and with respect to the placement of the two stop signs they must meet MUTCD warrants. Further a motion that the engineering study continue with Mr. Hurley looking into this issue further, to see if further enforcement measures that need to be taken. Second by Commissioner Lebo. Motion unanimously carried.

SURVEY #2 LOCATION: Old Post Road Up to Congress Street and Back (New Bike Route)

NATURE OF REQUEST: (Tabled From 5/11/22 Meeting) - *Nate Rex replaced Karen Secrist - Additional Map & Instructions Attached To create a new bike route and connect a couple of the existing bike routes already established. It is the Bike/Pedestrian Committees belief that we need to continue to add routes throughout Fairfield to continue to promote "Share the Road" and encourage cars and bikers and pedestrians to respect each other. - Please see attached sheet for road routes.

BY WHOM: Nate Rex* (Member of Bike/Pedestrian Committee)

RECOMMENDATIONS: Streets not wide enough to designate bike route with edge lines. Confirm type of bike route- ones with decal signs and a few warning

signs (share the road, keep 3 ft away, etc.) and pavement markings (sharrows near key intersections or curves) or extensive markings and signage? Recommend low key bike route- 18 miles long with occasional signs and markings to alert motorists of cyclists on roadway.

Captain Koval and Town Engineer Bill Hurley drove the bike route and thought the lanes were way too narrow to put a designated bike route on the sides, especially the Greenfield Hill area. Bill did recommend putting some markings indicating what looks like a bicyclist on the road, to make people more aware. Some additional signage but not designated lanes.

Commissioner Stone and Commissioner Ambrose totally in agreement that the lanes are too narrow.

From the Public. Nate Rex/member of the Fairfield Bike and Pedestrian Committee. Nate came forward and noted their vision for this route aligns closely with the recommendations. Nate did note that the bike and pedestrian committee have been given a mandate to increase the visibility of cycling in the community and make cycling safer.

Commissioner Millington made a motion to accept the Police's Dept recommendation. Second by Commissioner Ambrose who read out the recommendation as above. Motion carried unanimously.

SURVEY #3 LOCATION: 5151 Park Avenue - Sacred Heart Main Campus - Dormitory Expansion **NATURE OF REQUEST:** Traffic Evaluation - Submission to OSTA - Request for Administrative Decision Approval on the ongoing expansion of the Sacred Heart Main Campus specifically dormitory expansion, a Recreation Center and Office/Maintenance Buildings, all fronting generally on Jefferson Street. The dormitory expansion will maintain the two existing access drives to Jefferson Street, which previously served the Jewish Nursing Home.

BY WHOM: Michael A. Galante - Hardesty & Hanover, LLC

RECOMMENDATIONS: Main Campus Dorms- Survey team seems ok with OSTA application however major concern for sight distance pulling out of the westerly driveway. New wall may pose issue. Engineer notified Applicant Traffic Consultant to investigate improvements. Recommend tabling until safety matter is resolved.

Commissioner Stone and Cpt. Koval noted wall safety concern. If Police Dept knew before wall was built, could have worked with University regarding safety issues but a little late now as a lot of money spent on wall not moving now. Commissioner Millington made a motion to recommend tabling until safety matter is resolved. Second by Commissioner Lebo. Motion carried unanimously

SURVEY #4 LOCATION: 3135 Easton Turnpike (Exit Driveway) Sacred Heart West Campus

NATURE OF REQUEST: Add a left turn green arrow to the traffic control signal which will assist vehicles that are exiting the west campus and turning left on Easton Turnpike to do so safely.

BY WHOM: Ed Green

RECOMMENDATIONS: Refer to State for further investigation. SHU recently performed study at intersection and submitted info to the state this week.

Chief Kalamaras gave some historical knowledge to the commission. Ongoing issue for the past year and half.

Commissioner Millington made a motion to deny the request and refer to the State for further investigation. Second by Commissioner Ambrose. Motion carried unanimously.

SURVEY #5 LOCATION: Brookside Drive and Pansy Road

NATURE OF REQUEST: There is a 4-Way stop at this intersection that is extremely problematic. Not sure if a light could be installed at intersection, electric speed indicators placed intermittently along both Pansy Road and Brookside Drive. Place speed bumps along both road ways.

BY WHOM: Clay Risher

RECOMMENDATIONS: Preliminary site investigation doesn't warrant a traffic signal (\$300K). Recommend reviewing crash data. Also recommend safety improvements- install three new stop signs, provide red delineator posts for 3 main approaches. Could add pavement marking STOP prior to stop bar.

Cpt. Koval reiterates recommendations. Commissioner Stone added Brookside really has become a major cut through area to avoid the intersection of Black Rock Turnpike and Stilson road.

Commissioner Millington made a motion that they install three premium stop signs and provide red delineator posts for three main approaches for safety improvements. Second by Commissioner Stone.

From the Public: Clay Risher 213 Brookside Drive. Provided pics to Cpt. Koval.

SURVEY #6 LOCATION: 111 Melville Avenue at Driveway

NATURE OF REQUEST: Requesting "No Parking" sign be placed before both before and after my driveway at 111 Melville Avenue on my side of the street restricting parking. When there are special events at Tunxis Hill Park such as recent weekend baseball games, cars park along Melville Avenue on both side of my driveway rendering it impossible for me to look up or down the street to check for oncoming traffic. I cannot safely exit my driveway without calling the police for assistance or asking passing pedestrian to stand in the middle of the street and block traffic. An unsafe practice.

BY WHOM: Marjorie Morresi

RECOMMENDATIONS: No parking between signs for downhill Curve to 20 feet min past driveway. (May have to confirm exact location)

Commissioner Millington made a motion to accept the recommendation. Second by Chair Ron Pine. Motion carried unanimously.

SURVEY #7 LOCATION: 130 Melville Avenue between 2nd Street

NATURE OF REQUEST: Request "No Parking' on the northbound and southbound sides of Melville Avenue and on the Northern side of 3rd Street - See Attached photos.

BY WHOM: Dr. Max Albanese

RECOMMENDATIONS: No parking between signs 20 feet from 130 driveway to where curve ends. (may have to confirm exact location)

Commissioner Millington made a motion to accept the recommendation. Second by Commissioner Stone. Motion unanimously carried.

SURVEY #8 LOCATION: New England Avenue at Meadow Street

NATURE OF REQUEST: Request to install "No Parking Here To Corner" at least 80 ft. from the intersection.

BY WHOM: Jeremy Blum

RECOMMENDATIONS: Engineering or Zoning to notify Nursery not to possess/store materials on sidewalk. Going SB/WB, No parking here to corner, approx. 40 feet from meadow St intersection. Also, for SB/WB approach install W2-1 intersection sign just prior to underpass.

Commissioner Millington made a motion to approve the recommendation. Second by Commissioner Cafferelli. Motion unanimously carried.

- **Old Business:** None.

New Business:

- To consider a request by Carla Miklos, Executive Director of Operation Hope and Rob Greenbaum for a “Panhandling is Unsafe” sign to be posted in select areas of Fairfield.

Chief spoke briefly regarding the panhandling at different locations throughout the town. Carla offered to pay for sign. After discussion by the commission:

Commissioner Stone made a motion to table this request. Second by Commissioner Cafferelli. Motion unanimously carried.

Monthly Report. Distributed and discussed by to Commission.

Commissioner Stone made a motion to add to the agenda to appoint Fr. Cipriani as Chaplin for a term of three years. Second by Commissioner Lebo. Motion carried.

Lt. Paris spoke briefly noting Police did not have an official Chaplin appointed by the Commission since Fr. Allen retired. Lt. Paris also read a letter from the Bishop.

Commissioner Lebo made a motion to accept Fr. Cipriani as Police Chaplin for a term of three years. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: At 5:45pm, Commissioner Millington made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Stone. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Jude Fitzgerald/Recording Secretary