

**TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT
POLICE COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

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Minutes: The Police Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Special Meeting on Wednesday, January 25th, 2023 via a Zoom meeting. The meeting minutes are as followed.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Madame-Chair, Rhonda Caldwell
Commissioner, Elaine Dove
Commissioner, Daniel Dunn
Commissioner, Frank Ladore
Commissioner, Vaughn Willis

Staff in Attendance:

Liana Paglia, Substitute Commission Clerk

Others in Attendance:

Acting Chief of Police, Timothy Wydra

1. Call to order/ Roll Call

Madame-Chair, Rhonda Caldwell, called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM. A roll call was conducted by the substitute Commission Clerk, Liana Paglia. Commissioners Elaine Dove, Daniel Dunn, Frank Ladore, and Vaughn Willis were present. Acting Chief of Police Timothy Wydra was also present.

2. Approval of meeting minutes of December 14, 2022 Regular and January 4, 2023 Special Police Commission meeting.

Commissioner Daniel Dunn made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Frank Ladore. All were in favor.

3. Public comments on agenda action items.

- a. Two members of the public were present, and Madame-Chair Rhonda Caldwell opened the floor several times for comment. As neither member of the public chose to speak, the floor was closed.

4. Correspondences

- a. Citizen Commendation form from Alex Chipkin acknowledging Officer Louisangel Valdavinos for his service on December 9, 2022 at the Citizen Ride Along event.

5. Report of the Chairwoman- N/A

6. Department Report

- a. Monthly Report and Statistical Data- (in back-up materials)
 - i. Acting Chief of Police, Mr. Wydra, noted that Hamden PD currently contains 14 sworn female officers, which represents 15% of the workforce, which is above the national average. Commissioner Elaine Dove inquired about the total open cases (pg 15) and if that total includes carry-over from prior months. Acting Chief Wydra confirmed that the total includes carry-over. Commissioner Vaughn Willis inquired about the number of vacancies, which Acting Chief Wydra confirmed is currently 11. Commissioner Daniel Dunn inquired if officers are paid to appear at certain local events. Acting Chief Wydra confirmed that compensation depends on the event, but typically no, as many of the events are attended during the officer's work day.
- b. Jacqueline Beirne, SPCP Council Chairwoman- Strengthening Police and Community Partnerships (SPCP) Organization monthly report
 - i. Ms. Beirne explained that the SPCP issued a survey over three separate listening sessions at various TOH events, and the overall sentiment amongst community members is that they are increasingly comfortable with routine officers conducting patrol and that it leads to more effective use of de-escalation and diffusion tactics, and aids in building relationships with the community. Commissioner Daniel Dunn noted the small sample size for the survey. While Ms. Beirne agreed that the small sample size is not 100% effective, participation in such a survey has to be voluntary, and the SPCP is hopeful that community involvement in future listening sessions, and therefore surveys will increase.

7. New Business

- a. Approval of the Police Commission 2023 Meeting Calendar

Commissioner Elaine Dove made a motion to approve the 2023 Meeting Calendar, which was seconded by Commissioner Vaughn Willis. All were in favor.

8. Old Business

Commissioner Daniel Dunn made a motion to table the items, which was seconded by Commissioner Frank Ladore. The motion failed, as the ensuing discussion noted that already tabled items could not be retabled. Commissioner Dunn withdrew the motion. Commissioner Vaughn Willis made a motion to untable the items, which was seconded by Commissioner Elaine Dove. Commissioner Daniel Dunn abstained from the vote, but the remaining commissioners were in favor, so the motion carried. A discussion then ensued regarding the following items:

- a. (Current) Prisoner Management Policy Number: 026-001, Searching and Transporting Passengers, Effective April 30, 2012

- b.** (New) Prisoner Management Policy Number: 026-001, Searching and Transporting Passengers. Effective (TBD)
- c.** Summary of Current Prisoner Management Policy to Newly Updated Prisoner Management Policy
- d.** Camera Systems, Body Worn and In Car, General Orders, Policy Number: 032-001
- e.** Policy number 004-014 “Employee Mental Wellness Checks and Periodic Drug Screening” (New Policy)
- f.** Policy number 004-006 “Critical Incident and Peer Support (EAP) Program” (Modified Policy)
- g.** Policy number 024- 010 “Pursuit of Motor Vehicles and Emergency Operations” (modified policy)
- h.** Policy number 032-001 “Body Worn and In-car Camera System” (modified policy)
- i.** Body Camera Usage & Policy (discussion)

Acting Chief Wydra explained that the majority of the above policies are post model policies, in response to statutory changes. Others were modified or introduced directly by Hamden PD.

Madame-chair announced that the discussion on the above items was closed and a vote would now be held on all items. All commissioners voted yay, with the exception of Commissioner Daniel Dunn, who voted nay. The vote carried.

- 9. Adjournment:** At 6:28 pm, Commissioner Daniel Dunn made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Vaughn Willis. All were in favor.