

**TOWN OF WINDSOR
HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2019
TOWN HALL – LUDLOW ROOM**

APPROVED MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Nuchette Black-Burke (via phone) called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. with Councilor James Govoni and Deputy Mayor Terranova present. Town Manager Peter Souza, Police Chief Don Melanson and Captain Andy Power were also present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. DISCUSSION OF FY 19 QUARTERLY TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT DATA AND SPEEDING CONCERNS

Town Manager Souza and Donald Melanson, Chief of Police, provided an overview of the FY 19 enforcement efforts as well as trends from FY 2019. Chief Melanson gave an overview of the subject as follows:

In the latest release (June 2019) of the Traffic Stop Data Analysis and Findings for 2017, Windsor's traffic stop data did not indicate statistically significant racial and/or ethnic disparities. In addition, Windsor was identified as having one of the highest rates of traffic stops for municipalities in the state (ranked 5th). This is in concert with our efforts to reduce speed and improve traffic safety throughout town.

Below are a few highlights from overall traffic stop information for FY 19:

- A total of 12,095 traffic stops were made between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. This is 10.7% greater than the 10,928 stops made in FY 18.
- Windsor residents accounted for 32.1% of the 12,095 traffic stops made, which is consistent with the previous fiscal year.
- Officers searched 230 vehicles, or 1.9% of the total number of stops.
- 81.8% of traffic stops were for violations such as red light, speeding, cell phone, and seat belt. 17.9% of stops were for equipment violations such as failure to display registration plates or defect lights. These percentages are similar to those for the full FY 18 period.

As reported in the past, speeding is one of the most common complaints or call for service the police department receives. All officers are expected to conduct traffic enforcement activities in addition to responding to a wide range of calls for service throughout their shift. There are two officers assigned as a traffic unit and their primary duties relate to traffic enforcement.

We are continuing to work on specific neighborhood traffic concerns and have a multi-disciplinary staff team that meets regularly to review traffic data such as volumes, speed, vehicle type as well as time of day. This information helps in making decisions regarding deploying limited patrol resources in an efficient and effective manner.

Deputy Mayor Terranova asked about the 'veil of darkness' test. Chief Melanson responded that the State wide study still uses that test as part of their analysis. The Windsor Police Department has not been identified as having an issue with this metric in any of the state wide reports.

Councilor Govoni asked if there is officer diversity within the new officers hired in past several years. Chief Melanson responded that since 2016, 45% of those hired are either black or Hispanic. Currently overall, 21% of our officers are female. 31% of our officers are either black or Hispanic.

4. DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION OF LICENSE PLATE READER TECHNOLOGY

Donald Melanson, Chief of Police, gave an overview of the item stating that this past spring, the Police Department received grant funds to purchase license plate reader (LPR) technology to provide added capabilities while our officers are on patrol. The department is in the process of having the LPR units installed on two marked patrol vehicles, one for deployment in the northern half of town and one in the southern half of town.

LPR technology brings with it the topic or concern of privacy that the Police Department takes seriously. The Police Department has entered into an agreement with the CT State Police (CSP) to utilize their LPR database to work with our LPR systems. With this agreement, our Police Department will not store or retain any LPR data on site. CSP purges stored data from the LPR system 90 days after it has been stored. Purging data after 90 days alleviates many of the concerns regarding privacy that are related to LPR systems. The LPR system, along with access to all law enforcement databases, has safeguards in place to ensure the system is used appropriately with strict oversight and accountability.

The LPR system will assist the Police Department to address current crime trends such as vehicle burglaries and stolen vehicles, often committed by juveniles, and with narcotics and drug investigations.

Councilor Govoni asked about the technology and how quickly the plate gets read. Chief Melanson stated it takes about 1-2 seconds.

Deputy Mayor Terranova asked how many other towns have this technology. Chief Melanson and Captain Power responded a growing number of towns have this tool in place, including West Harford, Wethersfield and Bristol.

Councilor Black-Burke inquired as to how the units will be used. Chief Melanson said the technology will be installed on marked patrol vehicles and one will be deployed as part of regular patrol districts in the northern half of town and one in the southern half of town. The plan is not to randomly drive through private parking lots scanning plates.

Councilor Black-Burke asked how the department plans to communicate use of this new tool with the public. Town Manager stated in the course of the next 30 to 45 days prior to formally deploying the LPR units, the Police Department will be using various avenues for public education. These will include public access television, various social media platforms, print media and the town's website.

5. DISCUSSION OF CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM AND EMBEDDED CLINICIAN PROGRAM

Town Manager Souza provided an overview of the program and outlined the following points:

In FY18 the department responded to 332 calls with persons experiencing mental health emergencies or calls categorized as involving an emotionally disturbed or suicidal person. Of the 332 mental health reports submitted by officers in FY18, 163 have required individuals to be transported to a local hospital as the individual was in crisis and presented themselves as a danger to themselves or others.

In FY19, the department responded to 356 such calls for service. Of the 356 mental health reports submitted by officers in FY19, 110 have required the individual to be transported to the hospital for care and treatment.

Working 20 hours a week, the embedded clinician receives case reports from officers who respond to mental health crisis calls for review and follow-up. The clinician also provides follow-up visits with high risk individuals and those who have had repeated police contact. These follow-up visits provide an avenue of support for these individuals. In turn, this continued contact and follow up can help to reduce the frequency these individuals experience a crisis, reducing demands on police services. Often the follow-up visits have been with a police officer allowing officers to build a rapport with the resident and gain additional insights from working with the clinician.

Councilors Govoni and Black-Burke stated they both support this program.

Deputy Mayor Terranova added she likes the fact that Community Health Resources will continue as the contractor.

6. STAFF REPORTS

Town Manager Souza highlighted the successful National Night Out event as well as the three Neighborhood Block Parties sponsored by the Police Department and Youth Services division of Recreation Department.

It was reported that the Radio System project is on schedule. The school's radio system will be up and running at the end of the month for the start of school. We recently received

frequency licenses from the FCC for the town-wide system. This allows final engineering and system assembly to begin this fall. Project completion and testing is expected in spring 2020.

Town Manager Souza stated the Public Building Commission is interviewing the apparent responsive low bidder for the police station project during the week of August 26th. Base bids for construction have come in essentially at the architect's estimate. Contract award is expected in early September.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) January 28, 2019

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Terranova, seconded by Councilor Govoni to approve the unapproved minutes of the January 28, 2019 meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 3-0-0

8. ADJOURMENT

MOVED by Councilor Govoni, seconded by Deputy Mayor Terranova, to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Motion Passed 3-0-0

Respectfully submitted by,

Peter Souza
Town Manager