



Keith Chapman
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 Cedar Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Police Department



Stephen Clark
Chief of Police

MINUTES
POLICE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Zoom Meeting
7:00 P.M.
September 8, 2021

In Attendance: Chief Clark
Mary Houle
Todd Russell
Patricia Mahoney
Rev. Melanie Enfield
Nancy Baxter
Jorgina Gionfriddo

Stephen Clark
Town Clerk
2021 SEP 17 PM 3:18
RECEIVED FOR RECORD
IN NEWINGTON, CT

Called to Order at 7:05 PM

I. UPDATE ON DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

A. Staffing

The department currently has 4 vacancies with a possible 4 additional vacancies by the end of the year. The department continues to struggle in finding qualified applicants. One recruit officer is schedule to graduate the police academy in November.

C. Calls for Service January 1, 2021 to August 31, 2021 compared to same period last year. Total calls were 15,583. Car Breaks continue to be a serious issue.

- Burglary 148**
- Larceny 388**
- Car Breaks 299**
- Stolen Cars 39**
- Pistol Permits 408**
- Sexual Assaults 20**
- Traffic Stop Attempt- Failure to Stop 42**
- Traffic Stops 1336**

D. Activities

Due to an increase in COVID-19 cases the department has cancelled all community outreach programs. National Night Out and the department golf tournament have been cancelled.

II. RACE RELATIONS FOCUS GROUP

Discussed planning for the focus group and whether to have the group meet face to face or via zoom due to COVID. It was decided to wait several weeks before deciding on how to conduct the focus group. PCC members will work at selecting participants.

III. BODY WORN CAMERA UPDATE

The department recently signed an agreement with WatchGuard for leasing body worn cameras. The lease is for 5 years at a cost of \$208,000. Each officer, including the Chief or Police and command staff, will be issued a body camera.

IV. JUDICIAL BRANCH – NEW TAKE INTO CUSTODY PROCEDURES

Officers arresting juveniles now have the ability to get a criminal history check by contacting Juvenile Probation. The information obtained from Juvenile Probation can be provided to a Judge, who is responsible for issuing a Take into Custody Order for detention. The new procedure will greatly assist Judges when deciding to place a juvenile in detention.

V. DEPARTMENT TRAINING

The department provides officers with additional training above the state mandated training that is required and department in-service training that is done annually. The department provides officers with on-line training from PoliceOne Academy. Topics covered include Constitutional Law, Liability Issues in Use of Force, Procedural Justice, Applications of the Fourth Amendment in Search and Seizure, Anti-Bias Training for Law Enforcement, Civil Rights, Community Policing, Use of Force, and de-escalation.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Member of the public discussed the importance of officers recognizing PTSD and responding appropriately. 19 department officers are currently trained in crisis intervention.

VII. MEMBER COMMENT

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Stephen Clark