



Town of Waterford, Connecticut, Police Commission Meeting Agenda

Training Room at the Waterford Police Department

3/14/2022 5:00 pm

Zoom Access: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83939951316>

Meeting ID: 839 3995 1316 Passcode: 100289

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kd4zXIIY8Z> +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Call to order and establish quorum:

Pledge of Allegiance:

Public input:

Acceptance of minutes:

Correspondence:

- a. Note of Thanks from Chief Rich of the Ledyard Police Department in regards to Community Engagement Officer Fredricks
- b. Email from Ted Olynciw in reference to short term property rentals

Traffic Commission Review:

Chief's report:

- a. K9 Reports for February
- b. Investigative Services and Youth Reports for February
- c. Training Report for February
- d. Records Report for February
- e. Community Service Officer Report for February
- f. Patrol Report for February
- g. Animal Control Report for February
- h. Community Engagement Report for February

Old Business:

New Business:

- a. Traffic sign proposal at Race Rock Road and Windward Way
- b. Officer development efforts
- c. Letters of Recognition presentation by Waterford Police Department Awards Committee



MINUTES
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
February 14, 2022
Zoom Meeting ID: 895 6998 9286

PRESENT: Chairman M. Gelinas, Commissioner J. Dimmock, T. Sheridan Vice Chairman,
C. Gamble Secretary, R. Brule Commissioner

ABSENT:

PUBLIC: Susan Driscoll, Mary Childs

DEPARTMENT: Interim Chief M. Balestracci, Sgt. D. Ferland, J Nickerson, LT T. Silva, P Epps,
M Devine, E Fredricks, CSO Andrew Reed, Sgt. P Flanagan, N. Surdo

LEGAL COUNCIL: Attorney E Duggan

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH QUORUM:

Chairman Gelinas called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the General Meeting Room of the Waterford Police Department. A Quorum was established.

MOTION: made by Commissioner Sheridan to move the meritorious award and Introduction of Intern Aizhane Glenn, and Comfort Dog Hodges listed under New Business to the first item on the agenda, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brule, the motion passes.

- a. Patrick Epps was presented with the Officer of the year award.
- b. Intern Aizhane Glenn, who is a student at Mitchell College was introduced to the Commissioners.
- c. Comfort dog Hodges was Introduced by his handle Eric Fredricks.

MOTION: made by Commissioner Sheridan and seconded by Commissioner Gamble to accept the minutes from the January meeting, the motion passed.

CHIEF'S REPORT

- a. K-9 Reports
January Reports were received.
- b. Investigative Services & Youth Report
January Reports were received.
- c. Training Report
January Report was received, Training Officer Surdo stated that we have 2 or 3 Candidates that went through the Chiefs interview process and are ready to be interviewed by the Commission.
A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Dimmock and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sheridan to set a Special meeting for the purpose of Interviewing Candidates on Thursday February 17, 2022 at 1630 hours at the Waterford Police Department. Motion **PASSED** unanimously.
- d. Records Report
January Report was received
- e. CSO Report
January Report was received
- f. Patrol Report
January Report was received
- g. Animal Control Report
January Report was received
- h. Community Engagement Officer Report
January Report received

OLD BUSINESS:

Crash Data was sent to the Commissioners emails over the last month and they were able to review. Commissioner Sheridan was concerned with Route 85 and asked about the feasibility of turning lanes. Officer Nickerson explained the process of it being a state road and that most of the accidents on that road are at intersections where there are traffic lights and a good portion are rear-end collisions.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. State of CT Local Traffic Authority Update: Interim Chief Balestracci presented the form for the Commissioners to update their contact information.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Dimmock and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sheridan to name Interim Chief Balestracci as the Local Traffic Authority Representative. The motion was voted on and **PASSED** Unanimously.

- b. The Inter-local agreement draft with Ledyard Police Special Response team was discussed and it was agreed to forward the Document to the Town's Attorney for review.
- c. A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Brule and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gamble to enter into executive session, along with Attorney Eileen Duggan and, when appropriate, and separately, Officer Mark Devine, Lieutenant Timothy Silva, and Interim Chief Marc Balestracci, pursuant to 1-200 (6)(A), for the purpose of discussing the appointment process of Chief of Police, meeting with new internal candidates and meeting with the Interim Chief to discuss his job performance. The **MOTION** was voted on and **PASSED** unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Began 5:54 PM

RETURN TO PUBLIC MEETING: 7:24 pm, no motions or votes were taken during executive session.

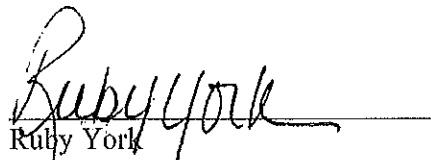
Chairman Gelinas stated:

Pursuant to the process adopted at the Board of Police Commissioners meeting held on January 10, 2022, The Board of Police Commissioners may decide to open the position to the consideration of outside candidates. For purposes of efficiency and the ability to run a full process, the decision on whether to appoint an internal candidate as the Chief of Police without further steps, or to open the position to outside candidates will be made no later than March 1, 2022.

MOTION: made by Commissioner Dimmock to hold a special Meeting on Thursday February 24, 2022 at 4 pm for the purpose of discussion on the process of the hiring for the Chief of Police, the Motion was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sheridan. The motion was voted on and **PASSED** unanimously.

MOTION: made by Commissioner Sheridan and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gamble to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 PM. **PASSED** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:


Ruby York
Recording Secretary



RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT

2022 FEB 18 AM 10:03

TOWN CLERK

SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 17, 2022 4:30p.m.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82815983072>
Meeting ID: 828 1598 3072
Passcode: 034554

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82815983072>; +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

PRESENT: Commissioner James Dimmock (via Zoom), Commissioner Mark Gelinas,
Commissioner Chris Gamble and First Selectman Robert Brule

ABSENT: Commissioner Thomas Sheridan

DEPARTMENT: Interim Chief Marc Balestracci, Administrative Sergeant David Ferland, Training
Officer Nicolas Surdo, Secretary Jennifer Anderson

CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH QUORUM:

Chairman Gelinas called the special meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. in the General Meeting Room of the Waterford Police Department. A Quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

PUBLIC INPUT: No public input.

MOTION made by Commissioner Dimmock and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gamble to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of conducting Police Officer candidate interviews at 4:37 p.m. Interim Chief Marc Balestracci was included in the executive session. **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 5:43 p.m. There were no motions made or actions taken while in Executive Session.

Commissioner Gelinas thanked the three candidates for their participation in the process and advised that it was a difficult decision as they did so well.

MOTION: Commissioner Dimmock made a motion to extend a conditional offer of employment to candidate Julio Sierra, while maintaining a ranked list of the other candidates for one year. This ranked list will allow the department to move to the next candidate should the current position or another position become available during that time. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gamble. **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Remaining candidates:

1. Alexander Hunt

No longer considered in the hiring process: Chris Goudarzy

MOTION: made by Commissioner Dimmock and **SECONDED** by Chairman Gelinis to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:


Jennifer Anderson
Recording Secretary



**SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

Town of Waterford, Connecticut Police Commission Special Meeting

Training Room at the Waterford Police Department

02/24/2022 4:00 PM

Zoom Access

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86834616740>

Meeting ID: 868 3461 6740

Passcode: 068620

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kc4FPW1r67>; +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

PRESENT: Commissioner James Dimmock Commissioner Mark Gelinas, Commissioner Chris Gamble, Commissioner Thomas Sheridan, First Selectman Robert Brule and Eileen Dugan

ABSENT: N/A

DEPARTMENT: Interim Chief Marc Balestracci, Lt. Timothy Silva, Lt. Nicole VanOverloop, Officer Mark Devine and Secretary Jennifer Anderson

CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH QUORUM:

Chairman Gelinas called the special meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. in the General Meeting Room of the Waterford Police Department. A Quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

PUBLIC INPUT: No public input.

MOTION made by Commissioner Sheridan and **SECONDED** by First Selectman Robert Brule to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Chief of Police position at 4:05 p.m. **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 4:49 p.m. There were no motions made or actions taken while in Executive Session.

Commissioner Gelinas thanked the three candidates for their participation in the process and advised that it was a difficult decision as they all did so well.

MOTION: First Selectman Brule made a motion to appoint Interim Chief of Police Marc Balestracci to Chief of Police. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gamble. **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

STATEMENT:

The Board of Police Commissioners congratulates Marc Balestracci upon his appointment as Chief of Police. While the board of Police Commissioners had the ability to open the appointment process to candidates from outside the department, upon careful consideration of what Interim Chief Balestracci brings to the Department, we have declined to do so.

Interim Chief Balestracci has worked his way from Patrolman, to Sergeant, Lieutenant, Interim Chief and now Chief and we believe he will continue to serve the Town of Waterford well. We expect that Interim Chief Balestracci will ensure the continuance of the many positive aspects of our department, such as its reputation in the law enforcement community, its culture of teamwork and camaraderie, and its emphasis on community engagement. We also expect that he will critically analyze the Department's compliance with the overarching requirement to treat all with fairness and equality in an era where relationships between the public and police are complex, and can change quickly. Members of the Board of Police Commissioners have had the opportunity, over about 4 months, to observe and speak with Interim Chief Balestracci, and to learn more about his intentions if appointed Chief. During this time, we have understood Interim Chief Balestracci to be an extremely knowledgeable officer and supervisor, to be at the forefront of the Department's efforts to enhance community engagement (such as his recent pursuit of a comfort K9) and to create a more diverse Department from the ground up, and to be simply a fine person.

As there has been a significant reduction in the number of candidates locally, statewide and nationally applying to become a Police Officer, regardless of ethnicity or gender, the Department has taken several proactive steps, either created or furthered by Interim Chief Balestracci, to promote diversity in applicants. These steps include, but are not limited to, recruiting at 3 colleges in Eastern Connecticut, meeting with Ms. Jean Jordan of the New London NAACP to improve relationships with that organization, implementing intern programs at both the college and high school levels to increase interest in law enforcement, development of a free seminar to assist candidates with their application and interviewing skills and the recent hiring of two Hispanic Community Service Officers. We fully expect that Interim Chief Balestracci not only will keep us updated on these existing efforts, but also will work with the Department to identify or develop additional ways to cast a broad net to attract diverse candidates.

The Board of Police Commissioners values the existing culture and reputation of our Department, and values the need to infuse our Department with more diverse personnel. These values are not mutually exclusive, and, in fact, each complements the other. We've identified Interim Chief Balestracci as the person who will further all of these values. As an internal candidate, he knows what makes the Department tick and what makes it special. As an internal candidate, he knows the very difficulties that the Department has faced in attracting candidates in general, and candidates of diverse background, who are then able to pass the rigorous vetting process. As an internal candidate, he knows the local and state resources available to aid in attracting diverse candidates, and he recognizes the need to continue identifying and pursuing new opportunities. We thank Chief Balestracci, and wish him, the members of the Department and all the future members of the Department, well.

MOTION: made by Commissioner Sheridan and **SECONDED** by Chairman Dimmock to adjourn the meeting at 4:54 p.m. **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:


Jennifer Anderson
Recording Secretary

Marc Balestracci

From: John Rich <chief.rich@ledyardct.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 3:30 PM
To: Marc Balestracci
Cc: Mike McKinney
Subject: Note of Thanks--Officer Fredricks

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization.

Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe.

Chief,

Just a note of thanks for the presence of Officer Eric Fredricks and K9 Hodges at LPD this morning for our debriefing on yesterday's tragic fatal crash on Route 117.

The support of your department is greatly appreciated, and Officer Fredricks is a great representative of Waterford Police Department. Please pass along my comments to him and your staff.

Sincerely,

Chief John Rich

JOHN J. RICH
CHIEF OF POLICE

LEDYARD POLICE DEPARTMENT
737 COLONEL LEDYARD HIGHWAY
LEDYARD, CT 06339

OFFICE (860) 464-6400
FAX (860) 464-1272



Marc Balestracci

From: Ted Olynciw <tedolynciw@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2022 7:28 PM
To: markgelinas@yahoo.com
Cc: Jim Dimmock; gamblec@mac.net; rsheridan@chambererect.com; Brian Rolfe; Marc Balestracci; MICHAEL ROCCHETTI; Arthur Dean; Abby Piersall
Subject: Short term rental aka airBnB
Attachments: Scan_20220225.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization.

Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe.

Mr. Mark Gelinas, Chairman
Waterford Police Commission
41 Avery Lane
Waterford, CT 06385

Dear Mr. Gelinas,

At 9 Waterview Drive there is an "airbnb" or "short term rental", which started operating in August 2021, and is causing havoc in the entire neighborhood including those on Twin Lakes Drive. Unlike other smaller airbnbs this property is advertised at \$2000 per day and has accommodations for 16 guests. The home is only a rental and the owner does not live there. These are some of the problems we are experiencing :

Grayhound tour buses dropping off guests on this narrow cul-de-sac street
Camera crews with trucks of equipment clogging the street
When the outside pool is being used neighbors can hear profanities clearly from the guests
Cars fill up both sides of the street not allowing mail delivered or garbage pick-up.
Guests walking freely on neighbors property
A guest walking on the back deck of a neighbor's home and taking photos.
Load music well after midnight
Speeding on the cul-de sac

This is what we have done so far.

1. Brought to the attention of the Director of Planning, Abby Piersall, back in October and she will be putting this on the P & Z agenda this Feb. or March.
2. Met with the Town Planner, Mark Wujtewicz and Zoning Compliance Officer, Jill Pisechko and was told
that there are presently no regulations concerning short term rentals.
Their temporary recommendations until a new zoning regulation is adopted are:

A. Ask Public Works to put up PARKING FOR RESIDENTS ONLY signs on both sides of the street.

This requires a recommendation by the Police Dept.

B. Notify the police whenever there are disruptive instances.

3. The Moderator of the RTM has placed this item into the Public Works, Planning & Development Standing

Committee which met on 2/22/22.

We realize that it will take many months before a resolution and possibly a new zoning regulation is in place.

We are looking to your Commission to assist us in this matter which would greatly help us in the short term:

1. To place this on your agenda at the earliest possible meeting date.
2. That you bring this matter to the attention of the Police Department with your recommendations.
3. Request that the Police Dept. ask the Public Works Dept. to install PARKING FOR RESIDENTS ONLY signs on Waterview Drive as recommended by the Town Planner and Zoning Compliance Officer.
4. Kindly notify me of your meeting time and date when this item will be on your agenda so that my neighbors and I can be there to answer questions.

It may not be necessary for us to come before you with this request. The Police Chief, Mr. Balestracci,

just became aware of this situation and it may be only a matter of you speaking with the Chief about him asking the Public Works Director to install the signs.

Thanks

Ted Olynciw, RTM Rep. 2nd District

62 Twin Lakes Drive

Waterford, CT 06385

Cell: 860-912-2075

cc. airbnb ad

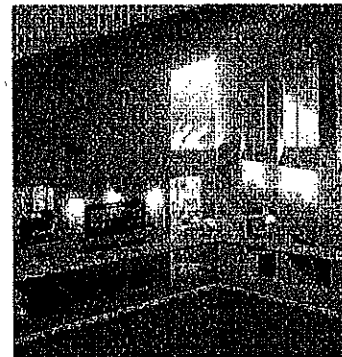
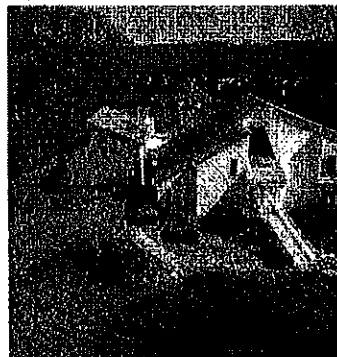
neighborhood petition

email to Abby Piersall

Waterfront oasis with a pool and sauna near NYC!

★ 5.0 (13 reviews) · Superhost · [Waterford, Connecticut, United States](#)

[Share](#) [Save](#)



[Show all photos](#)

Entire residential home hosted by Rush Hour

16 guests · 5 bedrooms · 9 beds · 6.5 baths



Entire home

You'll have the house to yourself.



Enhanced Clean

This Host committed to Airbnb's 5-step enhanced cleaning process. [Show more](#)



Self check-in

Check yourself in with the smartlock.



Great location

92% of recent guests gave the location a 5-star rating.

\$2,000 / night

★ 5.0 (13 reviews)

CHECK-IN
Add date

CHECKOUT
Add date

GUESTS
1 guest



[Check availability](#)

[Report this listing](#)

(The revised petition draft of November 10, 2021)

This petition is our collective group of Twin Lakes subdivision home owners and residents for the concerns of the zoning laws violation by the property owner of 9 Waterview Drive, renting single-family residential property to unrelated large groups of people on the regular base as a business operation, and urge Waterford Officials and the Town Zoning Board to take swift actions to address the issue by defending the town zoning regulations and protecting majority home owners and residents' interests in a timely manner.

Twin Lakes subdivision of Waterford in Connecticut has been a quiet and well established single- family residential community since its incorporated in 1986. The multi-ethical neighbors in this residential community are always kindly and courteously over the years with the tradition of respecting each other and with acting responsibly. In this neighborhood, one can see the kids ride the bike on the street after the school and the people walk by smiling and waving at one another. But the peaceful atmosphere has been changed tremendously since the late April of this year when the property of 9 Waterview Drive sold to the new owner, Shahriar Rahman of Queens, New York. As a surprise to everyone, the new owner makes the property become an Airbnb business adventure (see the advertisement of Airbnb.com website: https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/49881587?adults=10&location=waterford%2C%20CT&previous_page_section_name=1001&federated_search_id_8c8cc11f-a6f1-4969-9c74-365430612cfc&guests=1 and rent for \$2,000/night.) Since then, the property has been rented to many large unrelated groups during the summer and beyond, and we, the neighbors, experienced the film crew's cars blocked mailboxes and driveways, as well as the large tour bus running up down the street. Many of the families with young children even posted the sign "SLOW! Children at Play" on the curbsides to warn the vehicles from New York and Boston. In addition, many of us also disturbed by the excessive noise come cross the lake during the day and night (sometimes even in the midnight hours), due to the large group pool parties on the property, and by seeing

strangers who walked and invaded on neighbors' property without the permission. Some neighbors even called the new owner's real estate agent to complaints. As a result, there are quite a lot of concerns and complains. After discussed the situation with our attorney William McCoy, who send a letter to the owner of 9 Waterview Drive property in September regarding to the level of noise and obnoxious behavior on the property, as well as the issue of Waterford town's zoning regulations and the violation of restrictive covenants for the subdivision. Unfortunately, the new owner of the property failed to response and the letter was ignored.

During the course of last many months, we have met many the neighbors, the property owners and residents of Twin Lakes subdivision, and listened to their complaints and concerns. We also reached to the Representatives Ted Olynciw, living at our subdivision, and Baird Welch-Collins to inform the Town Zoning Board to express the concerns of our neighbors in Twin Lakes subdivision that the single-family home in our area is skirting the zoning laws and regulations by renting to large group of unrelated people, or groups, for short term rental. As tax paying citizens and responsible home owner residents of Waterford, we feel our interests are being violated and our concerns are being ignored. We implore the town officials to enforce the zoning laws in the owner of 9 Waterview Drive, or any other residential property owners are prevented from carrying on rental which violate the zoning laws and ignore the town regulations.

Therefore, we urge Waterford officials and the Town Zoning Board, as well as the town representatives to address the issue by taking swift actions to vigorously enforce the town existing zoning regulations and to protect majority home owners and residents' interests accordingly. It is our sincerely hope that this petition will reinstate the peace and harmony to our residential neighborhood of Twin Lake subdivision.

Artie Dean/ Petition of Twin Lakes Subdivision neighbors re: 9 Waterview Drive airbnb

From: Arthur Dean (artiedean1974@gmail.com)
 To: bmccoy@helleremccoy.com
 Cc: tedolynciw@yahoo.com; hj27546@yahoo.com; artiedean1974@gmail.com; cprimus@yahoo.com
 Date: Sunday, November 21, 2021, 07:29 PM EST

Dear Attorney McCoy,

Bellow is a copy of our signed Petition and a printed list of names. We ask that you continue your efforts with the town regarding concerns that threaten the Twin Lakes Subdivision of Waterford CT.
 The original is in my possession and it is likely that other interested parties will want to sign.

This petition, signed by 43 homeowners, from 29 households in the Twin Lakes Subdivision, is to address the issue of zoning violations at 9 Waterview Dr marketed and rented as an airbnb to large unrelated groups, since being purchased by Shahriar Rahman of Queens, New York, in April of 2021.

Our Concerns:

The Twin Lakes subdivision of Waterford is a quiet residential community that was incorporated in 1976. The peace and quiet of this residential area negatively impacted by this business activity advertised at \$2000/night, often catering to large, unrelated groups. This summer it was rented to a team male cars lining both sides of our street, blocking driveways and mailboxes. It was also rented several times to large groups who partied, used profanities, yelled their outdoor pool. Because of the unique arrangement of houses around two small lakes, the sound from their property emanates over the water and through the trees. People driving cars recklessly to and from the property are also an issue as there are many small children who live and play on the street.

The Twin Lakes subdivision has language in their deeds which states, "No noxious or offensive trade or activity shall be carried on upon any lot nor thereon which may be or become an annoyance or a nuisance to the neighborhood."

As concerned neighbors we have met several times regarding our complaints. Our lawyer, William McCoy, tells us that rentals to large unrelated groups are under current Waterford zoning regulations. When attorney McCoy sent letters regarding this issue to Mr. Rahman, the owner of 9 Waterview, he did not respond.

We have met with Ted Olynciw, our town representative, and contacted Baird Welch-Collins to inform them of our concerns. We want the town to protect the peace of our neighborhood and enforce the zoning laws to prevent large unrelated groups from using

9 Waterview Drive for short term rentals. As tax paying citizens and voters we ask that town officials act quickly as this issue is particularly important to us. This summer begins large groups will again gather at 9 Waterview Dr disturbing the residential nature and peace of our community.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the Twin Lakes Subdivision Neighborhood,

Arthur Dean
 Eugene Chin

Twin Lakes Subdivision Neighborhood Petition Signatory List

(as of November 20, 2021)

Arthur & Barbara Dean	7 Waterview Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Yu Chin & Hong Jiang	3 Waterview Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Yutao Wang & Xia Wu	5 Waterview Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Tien-Chay & Yuhpyng Chen	8 Waterview Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Leslie Orenstein	4 Waterview Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Austin Grgurich	6 Waterview Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Wendy, Andy & Chris Espinal	2 Waterview Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Carol Mariani	10 Waterview Drive, Waterford, CT 06385

Patricio Molina	12 Waterview Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Hong Wang & Jing Yang	57 Twin Lakes Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Patrick Sullivan	55 Twin Lakes Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Roger & Sally Ruggeri	53 Twin Lakes Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Luisa Ferrelra	44 Twin Lakes Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Alan Angel	52 Twin Lakes Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
James Labrecque	56 Twin Lakes Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Susan Hendricks	59 Twin Lakes Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Yunke Guo	61 Twin Lakes Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Theodore & Eileen Olynciw	62 Twin Lakes Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Daniel & Jo-Ann Del Grosso	49 Twin Lakes Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Corinna Fleischmann	51 Twin Lakes Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Javier Vallejos & Amr Elmeki	68 Twin Lakes Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Charles & Romana Primus	58 Twin Lakes Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Basma Sallam	67 Twin Lakes Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Jeff & Laura Denison	54 Twin Lakes Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Yolanda Velez	46 Twin Lakes Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Howard Eswards	60 Twin lakes Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Jason Lovell	50 Twin Lakes Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Sara Redlinski	48 Twin Lakes Drive, Waterford, CT 06385
Ben & Sheryl Peterson	30 Pond Edge Drive, Waterford, CT 06385

3/3

AIRBNB

From: Ted Olynciw (tedolynciw@yahoo.com)

To: apiersall@waterfordct.org

Cc: rbrule@waterfordct.org; beth@sabillalaw.com; artiedean1974@gmail.com; wastreasurer152@outlook.com; susan_driscoll@sbcglobal.net

Date: Saturday, October 9, 2021, 03:46 PM EDT

Dear Abby,

We have a problem!

I had a meeting with Mark Wujtewicz and Jill Pisechko this week regarding AirBNBs at 11 Waterview Drive or anywhere in our Town.

The owner is not living there and is leasing out this property as an Air BNB. See attached flyer, which appears in the internet, which offers space for 16 overnight guests.

In past months this property has been rented out and has caused much disturbance within the neighborhood including cars blocking driveways, cars blocking mail service, guests walking onto other neighbor's properties and loud noises.

Also attached is a copy of a letter from Attorney McCoy to the owner dated 9/16/21, requesting a phone call to discuss this matter.

During the meeting with Mark & Jill several temporary options were discussed , but not decided, including:

1. Asking Public Works to put up NO PARKING SIGNS on both sides of the street, or
2. Asking Public Works to put up PARKING FOR RESIDENTS ONLY signs
3. Notify the Police Dept. when ever the level of noise or obnoxious behavior is observed.

Items 1 or 2 can only be ordered by the First Selectmen or some other authority but not the residents.

I realize that there are currently no ordinances or regulations or even any plans to control the activity at the AirBNBs.

This is a very serious situation and I hope your office will do something to protect the private enjoyment of our residents.

Thank you,
Ted Olynciw
62 Twin Lakes Drive
Waterford, CT 06385
RTM REP. second district



Scan_20211009 (4).pdf
322.9kB

WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAFFIC REPORT

• February 2022 •

Traffic Complaints:

The Traffic Officer (TO) received 1 request for a new sign, 1 report of abandoned motor vehicles and 1 complaint for speeding on Route 32. One concerned citizen complained about the traffic back up at the Quaker Hill School during pick up times. The situation was not deemed dangerous and is similar to issues all of the local schools are facing.

Portable Speed Signs:

The Solar powered speed display signs were moved to Bloomingdale Road and Gallup Hill. They will be in place for approximately 6 weeks as per engineering guidance. Received 2 more phone calls regarding the appreciation of these devices.

Construction Projects:

Final plans of last building (Community center) of the Willetts Ave apartment complex were received for review.

Display Trailers

Final approval and purchase orders were granted and the two trailers have been ordered. The production /delivery lead time is 6-8 weeks. TO will utilize these trailers for road races, traffic enforcement messages, road closure and other major events within the town.

DUI Grant

Officers began enforcement shifts for the 2022 DUI Grant, starting with Super Bowl Sunday (unfortunately weather prohibited large scale enforcement). The shifts will coincide with major holidays during the calendar year and the town will be fully reimbursed through the State DOT.

Waterford Police

K9 Usage

February 2022

Officer Epps



K9 Neo

Usage Date	Description	WPD Case #
2/10/2022	On the stated date at approximately 1426 hours, I was dispatched to the report of a male slumped over the wheel in the parking lot of 117 Boston Post. Upon arrival, officer had to wake the male. Through our investigation, officers were able to locate narcotics on the person. Neo was deployed for an exterior and interior search of the vehicle. K9 Neo showed alert behavior in the center console area however did not show a positive indication for the presence of narcotics. The vehicle was searched and no further contraband was located.	2022-00227
2/17/2022	On the stated date at approximately 1405 hours, I was dispatched to Best Buy, 913 Hartford Turnpike for the report of an attempted shoplifting. The caller advised the suspect entered a vehicle and exited their parking lot. I was able to locate the vehicle in the Target parking lot along with the operator. I conducted a pat down of the operator and locate a glass smoking pipe which is commonly used when smoking "crack" cocaine. Neo was deployed for an exterior and interior search of the vehicle and no further contraband was located.	2022-00274
2/24/2022	On the stated date at approximately 0853 hours, I responded to East Lyme High School, 30 Chesterfield Road in East Lyme. Neo participated in a narcotics search of a classroom that included backpacks. K9 Neo did not show an alert behavior for the presence of narcotics.	CAD# 2022-4347
2/26/2022	On the stated date at approximately 1005 hours, I conducted a motor vehicle stop. The operator of the	2022-00332

	vehicle had two active PRAWN arrest warrants out of this agency. I had the operator exit the vehicle and during a search incident to arrest located a glass smoking pipe in his front pocket which I know is used to smoke "crack" cocaine. K9 Neo was deployed for an exterior and interior search of the vehicle. K9 Neo showed alert behavior towards the back region of the front passenger seat of the vehicle. I conducted a search of the vehicle and behind the vehicle I located a cigarette box containing a small plastic bag that contained a white rock like substance. The substance was later field tested and it tested positive for the presence of cocaine.	
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Waterford Police
K9 Usage
February 2022

Officer
Genung



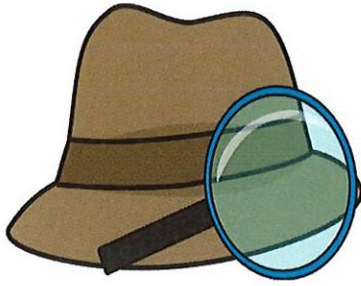
K9 Ozzy

Usage Date	Description	WPD Case #
2/3/22	K9 Ozzy was deployed for an exterior search of a vehicle stopped for motor vehicle charges after leaving a residence known for narcotics activity. K9 Ozzy did not show any alert behavior and an interior search was not conducted.	CAD#: 2022-0002718
2/12/22	K9 Ozzy was requested to the scene of a domestic violence incident to track a suspect whom had fled on foot. Shortly after our arrival the suspect returned to the residence without incident.	Case#: 2022-000243
2/20/22	I responded to the scene of a reported burglary in progress where the caller stated she observed three males outside her house and one allegedly approached her side door. K9 Ozzy was deployed on an area search of the property and did not show any tracking/alert behavior. After speaking with the caller, it was determined that she has a history and hallucinations and was working with her doctor to correct the issue.	CAD#: 2022-004015
2/24/22	K9 Ozzy was requested to East Lyme High School to assist the East Lyme Police Department K9 Unit with	CAD#: 2022-0004347

	a school search in response to a recent uptick in narcotics activity at the school. No narcotics were located as a result of the search.	
2/27/22	A caller reported observing two males wearing all black and walking through backyards and one was wearing a backpack. I responded to the scene and located one male behind a residence and detained him. The second male was not located and the male I located did not have a backpack. K9 Ozzy was deployed for an article search of the area and did not locate a backpack.	Case#: 2022-00343

February 2022 Usages: 5

Total 2022 Usages: 10



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Investigative Services Division



February 2022

During the month of February 2022 Investigative Services Division was assigned or assisted with 14 new cases.

Current Active Investigations (17 Cases):

(These numbers include assist's to the Patrol Division)

Homicide—1

Check Fraud—1

Sex Assault—4

Burglary—3

Larceny—2

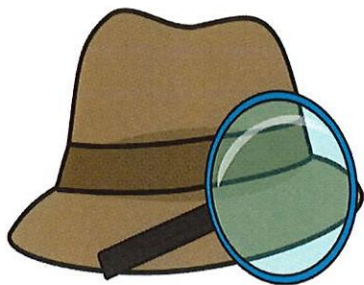
Untimely—2

Robbery—1

Pistol Permits—3

Year to Date Statistical Report

Case Numbers	Amount Investigated	Recovered - Seized	Search Warrants	Sex Assaults	Arrests
11	0	0	0	5	4
Ex-Parte's	Auto Theft	Burglary	Unattended Deaths	Robbery	Background Checks
0	0	0	0	0	0



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Investigative Services Division



February 2022

February 2022 Arrests:

On August 30, 2021, Det. Carroll began investigating a reported sexual assault that occurred within the Town of Waterford. The investigation involved several interviews and required significant State Lab testing and culminated with the arrest of Erick Delacruz on February 9, 2022 for Sexual Assault in the Fourth Degree.

Det. Bonkowski began a sexual assault investigation that involved a juvenile victim and a juvenile suspect. On February 10, 2022 the juvenile suspect was issued a summons for Sexual Assault in the Fourth Degree.

In April 2021, Patrol Officers responded to a "snatch and grab" style larceny from a Jewelry Store in Crystal Mall. Det. O'Connell responded and was able to lift a latent fingerprint from a surface at the store. This latent print was compared to known samples and a suspect was identified. Det. O'Connell was able to use that match to further identify and connect the suspect to the larceny. The suspect, Angelo Floyd was arrested on February 16, 2022 for Larceny in the Third Degree.

Task Force Officer Report:

During the month of February 2022 SNTF East conducted three Search Warrants in Eastern CT that lead to 5 arrests.

Large amounts of Fentanyl, Cocaine, Crack Cocaine, Methamphetamine and several guns were seized during these search and seizure warrants.

They also assisted in two operations leading to two individuals with active warrants taken into custody.

One of the current cases is being paused before executing the Search Warrants due to the supplier being identified.



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Youth Office Activity Report



February 2022

During the month of February SRO Lane and interim SRO Sylvestre completed several community and school-related tasks:

SRO Dan Lane (by date):

2/2/22—Incident at Friendship school/CLMS concert at WHS

02/03/22—Tik Tok Zoom meeting/CLMS Boys basketball game

02/07/22—Mental Health team meeting/CLMS girls basketball game

02/08/22—CLMS concert at WHS/Teach social media safety for 6th grade/Taser training

02/10/22- Student issue 7th grade WPD/Home visit /Youth Promise QH/CLMS concert at WHS

02/11/22—Teach social media safety for 6th grade

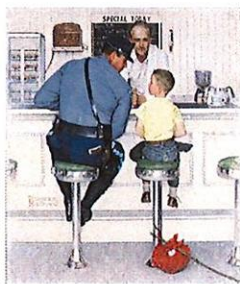
02/15/22—Youth Promise QH

02/16/22—Social media

02/23/22— Threatening case/Home visit for WHS

02/24/22—Youth Promise QH/CLMS girls playoff game

02/28/22– Mental health team meeting/Parent meeting phone issue/Parent meeting social media issue/CLMS girls basketball championship game



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Youth Office Activity Report



February 2022

SRO Megan Sylvestre (by date):

2/1/22: Social media complaint involving Grasso Student. Contact made with Grasso SRO. Handled within their school.

Missing student. Located at his house by his mother.

Unified Basketball Game

2/2/22: Inciting a fight, school discipline

Physical fight, school discipline

2/8/22: Review cameras for incident during passing time

2/9/22: Home visit

Uncooperative student

2/11/22: Review cameras for damage to property in old gym

Verbal fight, school discipline

2/14/22: Meeting with parents in regards to issues with a student

Uncooperative student refusing to leave classroom and office. Student spent time in ESS until ready to go back to class

Suspicious incident at Pleasure Beach Boat Launch that occurred on 2/12/22 and was reported by students today

2/15/22: Review cameras for shoving incident involving two male students. Students were joking around. Handled via school discipline.

Uncooperative students

Uncooperative students

Student complaint regarding issues with another student. Was looking for advice on what to do, advice given.

Student complaint about possible abuse at home, overheard by a teacher. Spoke to the student with their guidance counselor, the story was something that happened several years ago. No present issues.

2/16/22: Breach of peace arrest for threatening statement

2/24/22: Working lockdown drill

Issue among students who were verbally fighting and wanted to physically fight each other. Mediation was completed no physical fighting occurred. All students agreed not to fight.

Breach of peace arrest for incident that occurred in Main Office

02/28/22: 10th grade students wanting to fight. Resolved by speaking with them.

10th grade students wanting to fight. School discipline and they were sent home for the day.

Follow-up with DCF

Assist patrol with search of two females at Stop & Shop.



Training Report February 2022



New Officer Updates

Hiring Process: Waterford Police Department has concluded its oral interviews and Chiefs Interviews. On Thursday, February 17, 2022 the Police Commission extended a Conditional Offer of Employment to Julio Sierra. Julio is scheduled for a polygraph and psychological evaluation in March and a background check is currently being conducted.

Recruit(s): Recruit Kyle McComic has been commuting to the Police Academy daily and has already successfully passed several state mandated exams. Recruit McComic will begin firearms training and skills day within the next months.

In-House Training(s): Chief Marc Balestracci and Evidence/ Court Officer Gilbert Maffeo put on a two-day Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) course. This course extends further into the impairment of drugged driving and teaches new concepts for detection and evaluation of different drug categories and the physiological effects they have on the human body. Officer John Bunce, Officer Chris Robinson and Officer Ryan Scarpa attended this course for the department.

Sworn members of the Waterford Police Department attended a one-hour electronic control weapon (ECW) annual operator refresher course in the training room. This training consists of a PowerPoint that elaborates on the state and town mandates/policies and deployed their ECW to ensure proficiency. Commissioner Gelinas attended the course and even deployed the ECW.

THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



Training Report February 2022



Officers Nicholas Genung and Noah Brown attended a five-day Crisis Intervention Training through the Connecticut Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement. The course prepares law enforcement with skills to assist people with mental illness, substance abuse, developmental disorders, among many more.

Detective Todd O'Connell, Detective Leigh Bonkowski, Detective Raymond Carroll and Investigator Taylor Zaldivar attended a one-day Death Investigations course put on by Spector Training. The course focused on anatomy of drug overdose, drownings, homicidal falls, baby and child deaths, among many more.



The Waterford Police Department Records Department Activity for February 2022

This activity reflects daily activity for the reporting month inclusive of; administrative and court paperwork or processing, contact with members of the public, and state or federal mandated reporting requirements.

Ticket/Written Warning Entries	Freedom of Information Requests	Motor Vehicle Accident Entries	Warrants (Entering or clearing)	Phone calls	Walk in Lobby Window	Background Check Requests
159	211	70	42	263	260	11

Protective Order Entries	Officer Tasking Requests	Case Erasures	State/Federal Report Entries	Supervisor Tasking Requests	DCF Requests
38	56	203	0	22	12

Court Request	Case Copies	Abstracts
42	5	335



CSO Monthly Statistical Report February 2022



Waterford Arrests

#

Adult	20
Juvenile	0
Total Processed	20

East Lyme Arrests

#

Adult	10
Juvenile	0
Total Processed	10

East Lyme Prisoner Meals

#

Total	4
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Fingerprints

#

Pistol Permits	12
Employment	17
Miscellaneous	7
Peddler / Precious Permits	0
Total Fingerprints	36

Firearms

#

Pistol Permits Issued	13
Firearms Transfers	24

Initial Complaints (3A's)

#

Total	15
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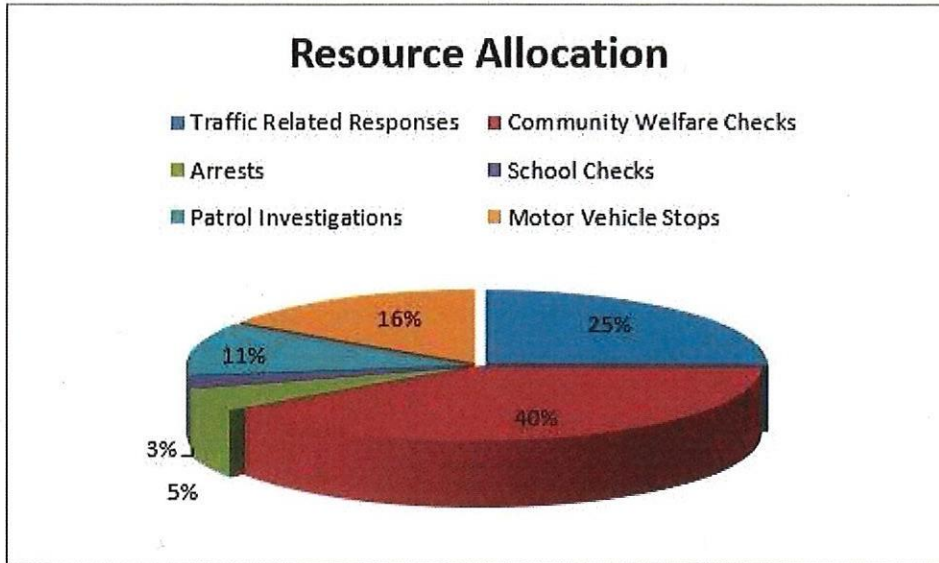
Patrol Report / CARes

Commissioners Activity Report:
February 2022

Town of Waterford

Volume 2022, Issue 2
"In the Community Interest"

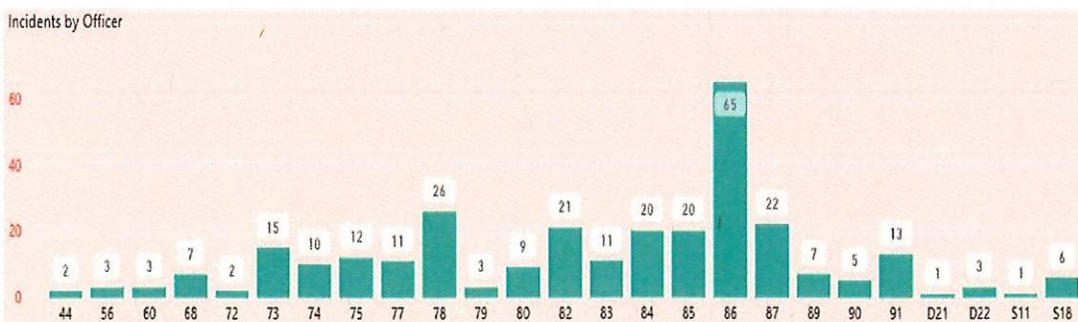
Highlights



The incidents with the highest use of patrol time this month are related to Community Welfare responses with these calls representing 40% of the call volume (9 % decrease from last month). Traffic Related Responses, at 25% of the call volume, were the second biggest use of patrol officers time. (similar from last month)

- **Community Welfare Checks**— These calls range from observed behavioral issues in public or private setting, inability to contact a resident, mental health emergencies, or requests for assistance from Community Mental Health Services. These types of calls can originate through a concerned third party, such as mobile outreach, a family member, or co-worker, or the postal carrier who notices mail backing up.
- **Traffic Related Responses**—These calls for service fall under traffic stops, targeted traffic enforcement, road hazards, reckless driving complaints, parking issues, and motor vehicle accident investigations.

The Below graph shows the number of traffic stops for each officer



Patrol Calls for Service Monthly Snap Shot:

Total Service Calls	1858
Case Numbers	190
Arrests	101
Juvenile Arrests	4
Larcenies	23
Arrest Warrants	13
Domestic Violence Investigations	10
Traffic Crash	54
DUI Investigations	7
Emotionally Disturbed Persons	26
School Checks	54
Motor Vehicle Stops	327
Written Warnings	42
Infractions	24
Verbal Warnings	204
Court Summons	28
NARCan Uses	0



Domestic Violence Arrest - Extradition

On 09/21/21 evening shift officers responded to a domestic disturbance on Clark Lane. Upon investigating the incident the officers learned that a female was assaulted by her ex-boyfriend and that during the assault he choked her to such an extent that she couldn't breathe and was in fear for her life. The female advised that the suspect fled prior to their arrival. Due to the inability to locate the suspect that night, an arrest warrant was obtained. On 01/22/22 the suspect was arrested in Vermont for an unrelated incident and also charged as being a fugitive from justice for this case. On 2/10/22 Waterford officers responded to Vermont and brought the suspect back to Connecticut where the arrest warrant was served and he was presented at the New London Superior Court.

Car vs Pedestrian

Evening shift officers responded to an evading motor vehicle accident in the parking lot of Wal-Mart. Officers arrived on scene and found two pedestrians had been pinned between a shopping cart and their vehicle when the offending vehicle backed up and slammed the cart into them. The two victims, one of which was eight months pregnant, were transported to the hospital for their injuries. Officers were able to obtain surveillance video of the suspect and a side profile photograph of the offending vehicle. Based upon information gathered during the investigation, Officer Barrows was able to positively identify and arrest the suspect on February 5, 2022.

Stalking Arrest

Starting in early January Patrol Officers were made aware reports involving a blue Dodge pickup truck with a cap that appeared to be following female joggers in the area of Niantic River Road. These reports were made after the fact the male could be immediately located. In February Officers received a timely report of harassment and located the vehicle. Midnight and Dayshift Officers were able to determine that male, Patrick Casimono, had a pattern of following and harassing at least one female jogger. Casimono was arrested for stalking. As a result of the arrest, the Patrol Supervisor assigned non-financial conditions of release to include staying away from the victim's residence. Later in February 2022, Casimono returned to the area of the victim's residence and was subsequently arrested for violating the conditions of release.



Monthly Report February 2022

	WATERFORD	EAST LYME
CALLS FOR SERVICE	41	25
AFTER HOURS CALL OUTS	1	0
ARRESTS	0	0
REPORTS PULLED:	1	0
DOG BITES	3	2
INFRACTIONS	1	0
WRITTEN WARNINGS	1	2
ANIMALS REDEEMED	4	6
ANIMALS ADOPTED	3	0
ANIMALS DOA	1	1
EUTHANIZED	0	0
ANIMALS PROCESSED TOTAL	7	7
TOTAL MONEY TAKEN IN	\$ 465.00	\$ 430.00
DONATIONS TAKEN IN	\$ 410.00	\$ 370.00

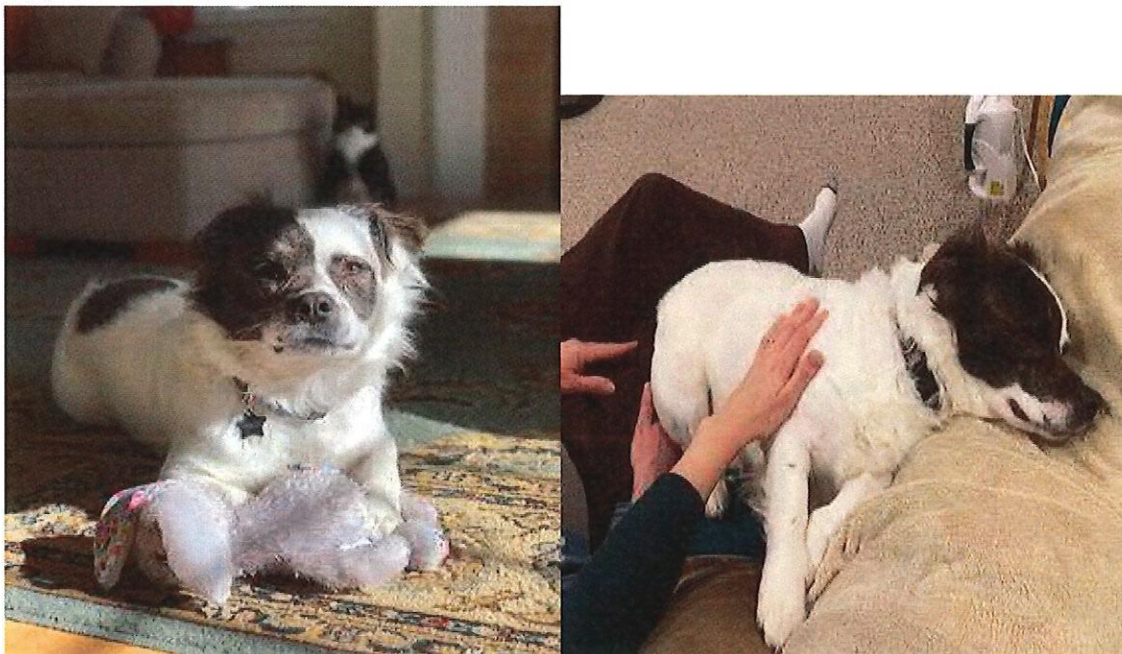
Animal Control Officer _____

- 1) Dog Penny from cruelty seizure was adopted out to a new home and is doing well.



- 2) AACO Ryan is currently working on an arrest warrant for a new London citizen who attempted to surrender their dog at the Connecticut Humane Society and then the New London Animal Control, both agencies declined to accept the dog as a sign over due to a bite history. The suspect then drove into Waterford and abandoned the dog, a violation of the animal cruelty statutes.
- 3) On 02/08/22 investigated a fatal dog V dog incident where three loose German Shepherds attacked and killed a smaller dog. The owner of the GSD's Kelly Benoit of 53 Old Norwich Road QH was issued infractions for roaming dogs and no dog licenses. Additionally, zoning blight officer was advised of the condition of the property due to junk, trash, unregistered vehicles and such so they can look into any zoning violations.

- 4) Dog, ARLO, seized in a cruelty arrest has been adopted and is doing wonderfully.





THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



Community Engagement Report February 2022

Domestic Violence Follow-ups: Conducted 6 follow-ups with domestic violence victims.

K-9 Officer Hodges: Introduction to all Town of Waterford Departments, New London Education, Waterford Juvenile Court, Waterford Police Commissioners, Waterford Police Chaplains, attendees at the Eastern CT Detective Meeting, GA-10 Superior Court and Greentree Manor. Made contact with customers at various retail stores. Interviews conducted with NBC CT, WFSB, CT East This Week and Waterford Times. Visited Southern Connecticut State University for K-9 Jules's swearing in and interacted with students. Made contact with WHS students during threatening incident. Conducted K-9 demos at Ledyard High School and Lillie B. Haynes School.

Officer Wellness: Conducted roll call trainings about Hodges's use for officer wellness. Assisted with incident debriefings for Ledyard Police Department, Old Mystic Fire Department/Stonington Police and Mashantucket Police Department. Spoke to officers at Crisis Intervention Training about officer wellness and service dog program. Visited Newport (RI) officers and dispatchers on my day off.



Recruiting/Internships: Intern Glenn shadowed day/evening shift patrol, dispatch, CSO Hunt and Court/Evidence Officer Maffeo. Glenn attended a WPD Commission Meeting. Intern Phillips shadowed dispatch, CSO Hunt, Admin Sgt. Ferland, Investigative Services, the Records Department and day shift patrol. Phillips toured the CT Police Academy. Spoke about how to apply to be a police officer at Mitchell College.

Assistance to Youth Officers: Conducted a presentation at Clark Lane Middle School staff meeting about Hodges and WPD programs. Participated as a member of the Juvenile Review Board. WHS Photography class took portraits of Hodges. Spoke about traffic stop safety to teen students at Rae's Driving School.

Interaction with Senior Services: Attended Waterford Senior Valentine's Lunch and Coffee with a Vet in Waterford and New London. Coordinated Fleece Blanket Drive with State Representative McCarty and assisted in that drop-off at all Waterford senior assisted living facilities. Participated in Informational Safety Meeting at Victoria Gardens.

Autism/Cognitive Issues Programs: Conducted an interview to update information for 1 Cognitive Issues Program registry. Made presentation to Lions Clubs International about Cognitive Issues Program with Chief Balestracci.

Sign Proposal

A request has been made by a resident to install a "Blind Person Area" sign, near the intersection of Race Rock Road and Windward Way. A visually impaired person resides in the area and crosses the intersection to reach to the beach.

The sign is a non-regulatory sign and is only used as a driver notification/warning. I have explained to the resident that there is no enforcement involving the sign and it does not provide any additional pedestrian right of way compared to other sections of the road.

A crosswalk is NOT recommended in the area per a conversation with UCONN traffic engineers. The Town has placed similar signs in other areas of the town in the past.

I recommend placing two signs, back to back on a single pole in the area for the greatest impact.





Marc Balestracci
Chief of Police

Waterford Police Department
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WATERFORD, CT 06385-2819



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Letter of Recognition

Officer John Bunce #46

Waterford Police Case #2021-02169

On Thursday December 23, 2021 members of the Waterford Police Department evening shift responded to a residence in town for a physical domestic disturbance. Officer Bunce, Officer Bushwack, Officer Genung, and Sergeant Farrior responded. The officers conducted an investigation which revealed that a female was reported to have been punched and knocked unconscious by her husband. The suspect was a previously convicted felon with an extensive history of domestic violence.

When the officers advised the suspect that he was going to be taken into custody he became extremely aggravated and uncooperative. The suspect, who was large in stature, began flexing his muscles and yelled to the officers to "draw on him." The suspect tried several times to goad the officers into a physical altercation. The officers employed de-escalation tactics and after a lot of effort they were able to get the suspect to calm down and establish effective communication with him. The officers were subsequently able to take the suspect into custody without incident. If not for the excellent communication skills of the officers, as well their patience and ability to de-escalate the situation, this incident could have had a very different outcome.

In the days following the incident the victim made a post on social media in which she applauded the officers for how they handled her husband, which she described as "hostile and delusional." She stated that she feared for the officers and was concerned that someone would get hurt trying to get the suspect out of the house. Her closing comment on the post best summarizes the officer's efforts that night and it read as follows, "The officers handled the situation with courtesy and professionalism for everyone involved. I applaud you Waterford PD because you made a night of terrible circumstances a lot easier than I anticipated. You are an asset to the community and your Chief should be very proud."

Mark Gelinas
Chairman Board of Police Commission

Marc Balestracci
Chief of Police



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Chief of Police

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Letter of Recognition

Officer Nicholas Genung #74

Waterford Police Case #2021-02169

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Marc Balestracci
Chief of Police



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Letter of Recognition

Officer Zachary Bushwack #80

Waterford Police Case #2021-02169

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Chairman Board of Police Commission

Marc Balestracci
Chief of Police



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Chief of Police

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Letter of Recognition

Sergeant Andrew Farrior #18

Waterford Police Case #2021-02169

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Mark Gelinas
Chairman Board of Police Commission

Marc Balestracci
Chief of Police



Marc Balestracci
Interim
Chief of Police

Waterford Police Department
41 Avery Lane
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2819



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mbalestracci@waterfordct.org

Letter of Recognition

Officer Zachary Bushwack #80,

Waterford Police Case #2021-01083

On Wednesday June 30, 2021 members of the Waterford Police Department evening shift responded to a burglary at the T-Mobile store located within the Waterford Commons. Upon arriving at the scene the officers identified what needed to be done and quickly went to work. Officers obtained statements from the witnesses while others conducted and assisted with a K-9 track. Officer Bushwack was one of the responding officers and although he hadn't been assigned a specific duty, he took it upon himself to begin checking the surrounding area for potential evidence items.

Upon checking the main entrance to the Waterford Commons, Officer Bushwack located a pair of latex gloves which had been discarded on the roadway. This was at a time during the COVID-19 pandemic in which it wasn't uncommon to find latex gloves discarded in commercial parking lots. Instead of writing the gloves off as not being associated with the call he recognized that they potentially had evidentiary value. The gloves were subsequently seized and later sent to the State of Connecticut Forensic Laboratory.

During the course of the investigation a suspect was developed which had committed burglaries at other T-Mobile locations in the tristate area. Numerous attempts to connect the suspect to our burglary were unsuccessful, however the forensic analysis of the gloves located by Officer Bushwack confirmed the presence of DNA belonging to the suspect. If not for Officer Bushwack's attention to detail this case may not have resulted in an arrest.

Mark Gelinas
Chairman Board of Police Commission

Marc Balestracci
Interim Chief of Police



Marc Balestracci
Chief of Police

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Letter of Recognition

Officer Robert Edwards #40

Waterford Police Case #2021-02081

On December 11, 2021, at approximately 0115 hours, Midnight shift Officers responded to a residence on Ellen Ward Road for a male who had contacted the Suicide Hotline who stated he was armed with a knife and wanted to harm himself. The male made additional comments that he would harm himself or the police if they arrived where he was living. Officers Edwards, Krysztofiak, Robinson, and Sergeant Gelinas responded. Once on scene, they were allowed entry in to the home by a relative and located the male sleeping in a chair with a large hunting knife in his hand. Sgt. Gelinas was able to take possession of the knife while the male slept. Upon waking, the male pulled a second knife from within the chair and threatened officers with it. The male wanted the officers to shoot him and made continuous statements requesting to be shot. The male threw the second knife with such force that it stuck into a nearby wall. The male then became combative and fought with officers. Officers had to utilize a department issued electronic control device to gain control of the male. He was found to be having an extreme mental health crisis and was transported to the hospital for a psychological evaluation. During the incident it was learned that the male had several firearms registered to him. The family was reluctant to turn the firearms over to the Waterford Police Department however, after a lengthy discussion with the family a total of five firearms were located under a mattress in a separate part of the residence. The firearms were seized via search warrant. The Officers on scene were able to remain calm, work as a team and defuse the situation without injury to the male or the Waterford Police Officers. Their actions at this scene are to be commended.

Mark Gelinas
Chairman Board of Police Commission

Marc Balestracci
Chief of Police



Marc Balestracci
Chief of Police

Waterford Police Department
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Letter of Recognition

Officer Tadeusz Krysztofiak #54

Waterford Police Case #2021-02081

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Letter of Recognition

Officer Christopher Robinson #84

Waterford Police Case #2021-02081

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Mark Gelinas
Chairman Board of Police Commission

Marc Balestracci
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Letter of Recognition

Sergeant Troy Gelinas #15

Waterford Police Case #2021-02081

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Mark Gelinas
Chairman Board of Police Commission

Marc Balestracci
Chief of Police