



**Police Commission Meeting  
March 17, 2022, 6:30 p.m.  
Via Videoconference**

**Present:** Commissioner Neil Bettez, Commissioner Dan Torres, Commissioner Esi Lewis, Commissioner Julie Seyfert-Lillis, Chief Rob Lucchesi. **Absent:** Commissioner Alex Baer.

At 6:32 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Bettez to open the meeting with the pledge. Seconded by Commissioner Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Agenda:** A motion was made by Commissioner Bettez to adopt the agenda as written. Seconded by Commissioner Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Public Input:**

- Edgar Rodriguez spoke about the last Conversations with the Police meeting.
- Tom Jelliffe suggested the Town post the resolution establishing the new Police Commission on the website.
- Maggie Veve recommended that the applicants for the Police Commission be allowed to respond to the questions orally, as part of the next phase of the process.

**Interviews for Police Commission:**

Moved to the Town Board meeting.

**Review and forward to Town Board for approval:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Bettez to review and forward to the Town Board the acceptance the resignation of Terance Yant as full-time police officer and approve his remaining as part-time police officer effective end of tour March 20, 2022. Seconded by Commissioner Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Review recommendation of NPPRRC: New Paltz Town Police Department should engage in the De-escalation model provided by Chuck Wexler and the Police Executive Research Forum**

Chief Lucchesi explained that NPPD already places an emphasis on de-escalation and incorporates PERF's Critical Decision-Making Model in its use of force policy and training. Much of our defensive action policy and training is grounded upon PERF's Guiding Principles on Use of Force and the Critical Decision-Making model. NPPD use of force teaches officers to differentiate between active violence and non-active violence, maximizing the use of distance and cover to create time for better decision making. Formally introducing PERF ICAT training this year. Lt. Butler attended PERF ICAT Train-the-Trainer training in November of 2021. ICAT stands for Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics. It's anchored in the Critical Decision-Making model and combines elements of CIT and tactics.

**Review recommendation of NPPRRC: We support the increasing work being done in Restorative Justice practices (currently juvenile only) and laud the work of the DA to move to 18-26-year-olds. We encourage greater collaboration between the DA, the NPPD, and programs like the One80 Initiative:**

Chief Lucchesi explained that NPPD uses the One80 program and other juvenile restorative justice alternatives whenever possible. The Restorative Justice program for 18–26-year-olds is just starting and NPPD will utilize this as well. UC DA's Office has begun to refer cases to diversion programs. ADA's are tasked with identifying applicable cases. Starting point for these referrals is with the victim. Victim must be willing participant and these cases do not include serious personal crimes.

**Monthly Report-February 2022:**

The Detective's report highlighted an incident that occurred on February 2<sup>nd</sup> involving an unconscious male who was the victim of an assault. A suspect was identified and arrested. There was also an incident that occurred on February 19<sup>th</sup> involving two females who were victims of an assault and robbery. Two suspects have been identified and the case is being reviewed by the DA's office.

**Commendations (6)**

1. A note was received thanking Officer Halstead for his help getting a car out of the mud.
2. A call was received thanking Sgt. Fuoco for his help during a medical situation.
3. A letter was received thanking Officers Halstead and Fazio for their assistance with a disabled vehicle.
4. A letter was received from the Rescue Squad thanking Officers White and Yant thanking them for their assistance with a medical call.
5. A call was received thanking Officer Benhardsen thanking him for his help during a mental health call.
6. A note was received thanking Officers Miller and Redmond thanking them for their presence after a driver hit a deer.

**Defensive Action**

1. Mental Health Law

**Executive Session:**

At 7:05 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Bettez to go into executive session to discuss personnel with the Chief. Seconded by Commissioner Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 7:32 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Bettez to come out of executive session with no action taken. Seconded by Commissioner Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 7:32 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Bettez to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lewis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosanna Rosenkranse  
Town Clerk