

**CITY OF NORWALK
HEALTH, WELFARE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
JULY 27, 2017**

ATTENDANCE: Faye Bowman, Chair; Richard Bonenfant; Nick Sacchinelli; Steve Serasis

OTHERS: David Walencyk, Youth Services Bureau Director; Broderick Sawyer, Fire Marshal; Theresa Argondezzi, Acting Health Director

I. WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

Ms. Bowman called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. She stated that a quorum was present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

June 22, 2017

**** MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.
** THE MOTION PASSED WITH TWO ABSTENTIONS (MR. SACHINELLI,
MR. SERASIS.)**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No one from the public commented.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **REFER THE TOPIC OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES VACANCY (AS DETERMINED BY THE CITY CHARTER) TO THE**

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR
FURTHER RESEARCH THE DISCUSSION.**

- ** MR. SERASIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. **AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, T SIGN THE 2017-2019 YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION TO RECEIVE GRANT FUNDS VIA THE START DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO SUPPORT THE OPERATIONS OF THE NORWALK DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES. FUNDING AMOUNT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 AND 2018-2019 WILL BE DETERMINED VIA THE CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ONCE THE STATE BUDGET HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.**

Mr. Walenczyk stated that each community receives a certain amount of grant funds and that the grant period is every two years. He said that the amount of the grant is not known until after the State of Connecticut finalizes its budget, and that the deadline to submit the grant application is July 31, 2017, and that last year the minimum Youth Service Grant was \$14,000, and that Norwalk had received \$53,485, which is down from previous years. Mr. Bonenfant asked if the amount received is per year for the two years. Mr. Walenczyk said "yes". Ms. Bowman asked what programs the grant will fund. Mr. Walenczyk said that it does not fund specific programs but funds the operation of the department as a Youth Service Bureau, but that enhancement funds that are received are program specific and that last year they had received an additional \$7,500 and was used to fund the peer outreach program, and he provided an overview of the programs.

- ** MR. SERASIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **AUTHORIZE PROPOSED FEE INCREASE FOR ANNUAL LIQUOR LICENSE INSPECTION.**

Fire Marshal Sawyer stated that the State Statute requires annual inspections for residential and educational occupancies among others, and that they are unable to do that at this time but that they are working towards it. He said that a lot of the establishments that they have to go to multiple times to gain compliance which is taking resources away from where they should be putting them. He said that he is proposing charging \$100 for the annual liquor license renewal inspections beginning January 1, 2018, to raise the

revenue to cover the manpower. Ms. Bowman asked if there is currently a fee. Fire Marshal Sawyer said “no” Mr. Serasis asked how they will ensure that the rules are followed. Fire Marshal Broderick said that the \$100 fee they are proposing is not set in stone, and that he has considered proposing a \$50 annual fee and charging \$25 for each time they are required to come back. Mr. Bonenfant asked how many establishments there are that are required to apply for an annual liquor license. Fire Marshal Sawyer said 218 establishments. Ms. Bowman requested that Fire Marshal Sawyer find out how much funding that they will need to cover the lost manpower costs.

**** MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM UNTIL THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Options

Ms. Argondezzi discussed the substance abuse prevention and treatment options and stated that subject has not always been the Health Departments area of expertise in part because Norwalk has a lot of other community agencies that specialize in substance abuse prevention and treatment. She said that a community health assessment was done in 2016, and that mental health and substance abuse was identified as a high priority area for the community so they have developed a treatment plan and the Norwalk Hospital has taken the lead on implanting that plan. She said that the Health Department refers people to 211 especially when in a crisis situation and everyone at the front desk also has resource guides for different areas.

She said that in terms of prevention it can vary depending on which substance it is and which population, and currently opiates are at the top of the list in terms of trying to figure out on how to address them, and that the biggest prevention strategies are controlling and monitoring the supply. She said that the two main strategies is trying to control the number of prescriptions that get written, and also encouraging people to go to medication drop off boxes and drop off their extra medication, and in Norwalk the police department has a drop off box. She distributed a list of agencies that can help with substance abuse programs, and she discussed the steps to take when in the presence of someone who is overdosing. She said that in terms of opiates there are a lot of resources and attention given to Narcan which is the opiate overdose reversal medication, and there is a lot of effort to try and educate people about what Narcan is, and that there is training available on how to use it and if someone attends they training they will receive a

kit to take home. She said that First Responders and the Norwalk Hospital are equipped with the Narcan kits on hand. She also said that there has been some legislation around Good Samaritan laws so that if Narcan is not on hand it will prevent someone from begin prosecuted for possession of par aphelia if they are calling for an overdose, which has increased the number of calls to First Responders. She said that the Mid-Fairfield Substance Abuse Coalition is doing a good job and they hold Narcan training, and have regular meetings with other providers in the area to share resources and best practices. She said that the Health Department is a vehicle for communication and is getting the message out to folks. Ms. Bowman asked if there is a fee for the Mid-Fairfield Substance Abuse Coalition. Ms. Argondezzi said that she believes it's on a program by program basis, and they are always seeking grant funding because the services are free to participants but there is a cost to provide those services. Mr. Sacchinelli asked what the level of outreach is from the Health Department. Ms. Argondezzi said social media, the website and each year they also do a calendar of social media postings based on the different awareness months or days. Mr. Sacchinelli asked if there is any thought to distribute the information to the people that may not have access to social media. Ms. Argondezzi said that a plan has been set up but that they have not yet figured out which agencies will take which pieces of the plan, and part of that was outreach and making people aware of what resources are available.

2. Ryan Park Contamination Report

Ms. Bowman stated that the report is included in the packet and asked the committee members to read the report and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

3. Safety at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr./West Ave Intersection

A resident from West Ridge Condominium stated that people speed through or run the two lights near O'Neil's Pub causing a very unsafe condition. He requested that the speed limit be posted and traffic radar be installed to see the rate of speed that people are driving. Ms. Bowman said that she had contacted Chief Kulhawik and she read his response and said that he stated the he will have the traffic unit take a look at the area and if there is a place to install it, they will place a recorder there to capture the speeds over a number of days to track if there is a speeding issue, and if so when it occurs most frequently and then use that to schedule enforcement during those times. If it does not show speed an issue they will then have the backup to show residents who have concerns, and sometimes the perception of speeding is not accurate and the data helps in that regard. Any permanent signage or speed signs are installed by DPW, and that normally a request goes to the Traffic Authority who then asks DPW Traffic Engineering to review the location and make recommendations, and then the Traffic Authority

will make their determination. The Traffic Authority meets monthly prior to the Police Commission meeting, and that the regular date for the August meeting did not work so we are now searching for a new date that is agreeable to all. Ms. Bowman stated that she will refer the issue of the signage the DPW committee at the next meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Food Truck Vendor Fees

There was no discussion.

2. Police Media, Pursuit and Complaint Policies

Ms. Bowman stated that Chief Kulhawik has made some changes to the policies and had emailed those changes. She read his e-mail and stated that as a result of his discussions with David McGuire from the ACLU, research on the forms other departments use, as well as a model form that was proposed in the legislature this year but not adopted as legislation was not called for a vote, they have revised their complaint form, and basically removed some of the items that there was concern over, removed the employment information, and noted that all personal information is optional, and will also be removing the notarization requirement on the part of the complainant. The newest version without the notarization is not yet posted as it is being adjusted now and translated into Spanish, and that it will be uploaded to the website shortly. She said that he had also stated that regardless of the form itself that they accept complainants in any form, whether by phone, letter, or e-mail and anonymous complaints as well. He stated that in actuality e-mail is now the most common for most complaints although they do get some by mail or through the actual form, and thankfully they do not get many complaints, and the vast majority that they do receive are minor in nature, and that the cameras have been a great tool in reviewing the incidents when we have received complaints, as he is normally able to immediately pull up the call and review the incident. He believes in each case thus far, the video has shown that the officers

acted appropriately, and often the individual is simply upset that they were arrested or did not get the satisfaction they sought.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. SERASIS MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd

Telesco Secretarial Services