

**CITY OF NORWALK
HEALTH, WELFARE, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
February 28, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Nick Sacchinelli, Chairman; Chris Yerinides; George Tsiranides;
Ernie Dumas; Doug Hempstead; Eloisa Melendez; Colin Hosten

STAFF: Deanna D’Amore, Director of Health; Deputy Chief Zecca, Norwalk
Police Dept.

OTHERS: Jamie Bennetta, School Readiness Coordinator, Norwalk Public
Schools
James Giuliano
Diane Lauricella
Theresa Peterson

I. WELCOME - ROLL CALL

Mr. Sacchinelli called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and stated that the above members were in attendance and there was a quorum present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 27, 2018

**** MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2018 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH (6) SIX IN FAVOR AND (1) ONE ABSTENTION. (MR. HOSTEN).**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Diane Lauricella- Blue Mountain Road

Ms. Lauricella stated that Theresa Peterson a member of the Ely Avenue neighborhood and others have stated that dust and other problems have been associated with the Grass Roots Tennis

preconstruction. She circulated a memo to the committee stating ways the city can control sand pile demolition and bore site dust control practices. She said all Contractors on city construction sites must demonstrate the written health and safety plan before receiving a contract; The purchasing department must be made aware of resulting policy and enforce it; The Building and Planning & Zoning Departments must be made aware and offer Health Department unannounced inspection assistance; during work the identification of the dust toxicity and type; dust control measures and if appropriate air monitoring with an independent contractor and all sand piles must be covered throughout the length of the project.

Ms. Lauricella said that she still has not received the soil borings and only has received the soil disposal logs and without that she cannot tell if that is a safe site or not and the public has a right to know. She asked if this committee can recommend to the enforcement agencies that are listed in her memo any fines or a possible reduction of contracting abilities by this company and they have a history of this kind of behavior.

Theresa Peterson- Village Creek

Ms. Peterson stated that she finds what is happening at Nathaniel Ely to be very disturbing after what had happened with the Washington Village construction and things not being monitored. She said she feels this happens in low income areas and she cannot see this would be happening next to Rowayton Elementary School without a dust suppression system or monitoring. She said that clear rules need to be established for contractors working in the city, and they have to be checked on and she hopes the committee can begin looking into putting some protections in place.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Action Items:

Early Childhood

1a. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS, NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT THE SCHOOL READINESS GRANT WHICH INCLUDES THE QUALITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2019 TO JUNE 30, 2020.

Ms. Bennetta stated that the city receives \$5.4 million dollars to provide high quality preschool experiences for families that range from low to high income brackets. She said that 96 spots are for children in the Norwalk Public Schools and the remaining 520 are for student outside of the community. She said that they receive a school readiness grant annually that is given to them by the Office of Early Childhood and it was sent out in the beginning of February and now needs to be signed by Mayor Rilling as well as Superintendent Adamowski.

**** MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE ORDER, ON BEHALF OF THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT, TO FLEET AUTO SUPPLY FOR SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF UPFIT TO COMMUNITY OUTREACH VEHICLE FOR THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$45,000.00. FUNDS FROM THE CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE GRANT AS ADMINISTERED BY THE NORWALK HOUSING AUTHORITY.

Deputy Chief Zecca stated in the Choice Neighborhood Initiative Grant there were security funds that were earmarked for this community outreach vehicle, and that it will be used primarily in the Washington Village area. Mr. Yerinides asked what the vehicle will be used for. Deputy Chief Zecca said it will mostly be used by the Community Services Unit to form outreach in the community. Mr. Dumas asked if this will be similar to the M-Cops vehicle. Deputy Chief Zecca said that this will be a much smaller version of that and the M-Cops vehicle is obsolete at this point and no longer runs well. Mr. Sacchinelli asked if the vehicle will be an approachable vehicle or will it be used as a tactical vehicle. Deputy Chief Zecca said it will be a very approachable vehicle and the whole idea of it is to be community oriented. Mr. Tsiranides asked how soon the vehicle will be on the road. Deputy Chief Zecca said in approximately eight months. Mr. Yerinides asked how often the vehicle will be out. Deputy Chief Zecca said as often as possible based on manpower.

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Springwood Ely Park

Mr. Hosten said that he requested that this item be included on the agenda because there is rock crushing going on next to the school and is creating large clouds of dust, and there is no sense on how it is affecting the neighborhood and that it is a public health issue. Ms. D'Amore said that they were alerted of this instance by Ms. Lauricella and they immediately reached out to the Building Management Department and met with them and went to the site to investigate it. She said anytime a complaint like this is received they will follow up with the appropriate city officials and will investigate and do observations. In this case they would look at the guidelines from the DEEP, and there is a public health nuisance that the Director of Health can declare if the Director thinks it is a public health nuisance. She said when they went to investigate they had observed piles of dust that were uncovered and discussed a plan moving forward as to how to address it.

Mr. Giuliano said that there was a complaint received in the beginning of February that material was being transported to the site and crushed and when they were made aware of the complaints that had gone to the site to observe. He said that he had observed foreign material at the site and made the contractor aware they he could not import the material and crush it on site. He said the following day he had a meeting with the contractor and they had said that they would have all of the material off the site by noon on Wednesday and he went to the site and found that they had removed it. He said since then although he has not been to the site everyday he does not believe they have been crushing on site after they had removed the material that they had imported. Mr. Dumas said he was on the site on January 27th and 28th and that is when they were doing the crushing and asked if tarps have been put on the piles because he is concerned because the school is very close to where they are working. Mr. Giuliano said “yes” but the top of the tallest pile was exposed and he has emailed and called them to be sure that the pile would be covered and they assured him that it would be covered by the end of the day.

Ms. Melendez left at 7:35PM.

Mr. Hosten asked from a public health perspective if there is manpower available to perform spot checks on these kinds of issues. Ms. D’Amore said “yes” if a situation is found to be warranted, but that it would depend on the situation and they have to prioritize their resources. Mr. Hosten asked what is required to declare of public health nuisance. Ms. D’Amore said it is at the discretion of the Health Director after investigation to declare a public health nuisance.

Mr. Hempstead suggested that an ordinance be established for a long term solution for rock crushing. He requested that Ms. D’Amore contact other communities to see what their guidelines are for rock crushing. Ms. Lauricella said the other problem with that site is there are piles of sand and that sand contains silica and silica dust is a human carcinogen and that is why she has suggested a policy that the contractors should be following because it is a public health nuisance. Mr. Sacchinelli suggested that Ms. D’Amore pull the customer service information to see how many complaints have been received throughout the city. He also requested that a representative from the Zoning Department attend the next meeting. Mr. Dumas said that the contractor that is doing this job should be held accountable and should be fined. Mr. Hempstead asked who the contractor is. Mr. Giuliano said Classic Turf but their subcontractor is Grasso Company.

2. Flooding

Mr. Sacchinelli said flooding is a part of the Mayor’s initiative and funds have been set aside for various engineering studies throughout the city but there should be a plan for mitigation and remediation in the interim. He said he has concerns regarding the overflow specifically at Andrew’s Field and that he will be working with the Customer Service Department to collect the data they have in terms of complaint areas, and that a

representative from DPW will be invited to attend the next meeting. He suggested installing temporary signage to avoid some of the flood zones in the interim while DPW is identifying which locations will be addressed. Mr. Hempstead suggested that the data received is modeled on what the rainfall and duration was. Mr. Sacchinelli asked the committee to forward any emails that they have received regarding flooding to the Customer Service Department that have not already been forward to them.

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED FORWARDING SOLICITOR ORDINANCE 77-15 AND 77-26 TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE TO AMEND THE LANGUAGE TO CLARIFY DIRECTION ON REFUSAL OF CHARGES**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd
Telesco Secretarial Services