

**CITY OF NORWALK
HEALTH, WELFARE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 27, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Nicholas Sacchinelli, Chair; Ernest Dumas, Eloisa Melendez, George Tsiranides

OTHERS: Deanna D'Amore, Health Department; Mary Oster, Early Childhood Coordinator; Chief Tom Kulhawik, Police Department

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Saccinelli called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

Mr. Saccinelli called the roll of committee members. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 23, 2019 MINUTES

**** MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED THE MINUTES OF MAY 23, 2019**

There were no corrections to the Minutes of May 23, 2019.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 23, 2019 MINUTES PASSED WITH TWO (2) IN FAVOR (SACCHINELLI AND TSIRANIDES) AND TWO (2) ABSENTIONS (DUMAS AND MELENDEZ).**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

NEW BUSINESS

Action Items

Early Childhood

Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute a subgrant agreement between the City of Norwalk and Trinity CDC, Inc. for the provision of child care services in accordance with the office of Early Childhood Purchase of Service Contract #18OECCDC01NWK

Mary Oster spoke to the committee regarding subsidized spots for toddlers and preschools, which is desperately needed. 8 of these spots recently opened up.

In August 2018, the Norwalk Common Council authorized the Mayor to sign any and all documents related to the Child Daycare Contract with the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood. The grant period is 7/1/2018-6/30/2020 in the amount of \$3,085,065.84. This funding is used by approved subcontractors to provide high-quality Toddler and Preschool care to qualifying families in Norwalk. The programs are licensed by the State of Connecticut Office of Early Childhood Licensing Division and adhere to all the reporting and monitoring requirements within the grant. The Early Childhood Coordinator monitors for compliance and quality as required by the grant. Currently, the subcontractors are Odyssey Learning, Inc. at Nathaniel Ely Center, Stepping Stones Museum for Children, Inc., Connecticut Institute for Communities, Inc. (Head Start) at Nathaniel Ely Center, Inc. and Growing Seeds Too Child Development Center, Inc. at Ben Franklin Center. In order to accommodate more toddler spaces, we are seeking approval to add an additional subcontractor, Trinity CDC located at 2 Trinity Place. (Business name-Growing Seeds). This program has been a preschool provider and receives funding under the School Readiness grant. The second Growing Seeds location in the Ben Franklin Center has been a subcontractor under the Child Daycare Contract for 2 years. Adding the new subcontractor will allow us an additional 12 much-needed toddler spaces.

**** MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO APPROVAL**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMIOUSLY.**

Youth Services

Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to sign an amendment to the “Agreement by and between City of Norwalk and Town of Weston for Juvenile Review Board Services” to auto-renew the agreement each July 1st for a one year period, so long as all other terms of the agreement remain the same.

David Walencyk, Director of the Department of Youth Services was unable to be at the meeting, but submitted an email describing the terms. All terms remain the same.

Ms. Melendez mentioned that David Walencyk and Jay Foster of Weston have a good program going to keep the youth out of the court system.

There was no discussion on the topic.

**** MR SACCHINELLI MOVED TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMIOUSLY.**

Discussion Items:

Crime Tracking

Norwalk Police Chief, Tom Kulhawik, spoke to the committee about crime tracking.

Every crime gets recorded by recording clerks who are currently 6-8 weeks behind. The state receives this information, verifies it and then certifies the information.

The Chief handed out two grids to the Committee which came from the Detective Bureau with looks at the serious crimes including burglary, homicides, sexual assaults, robberies and overdoses. It does not include the petty things. Both graphs showed that crime was down. The first chart was 2017-2018 full year figures and the other was 2018-2019 (May).

For the first quarter of 2019 violent crimes was down 30%. Because of this the police are able to have more patrols and then there is less crime and the police have time to investigate everything. Norwalk currently has one of the highest solvability rate in the state.

Ms. Melendez commented on social media sites such as NextDoor and others that are a great way to get the word out.

CAD follows police service calls (911 and regular non emergency calls) Last year the call rate was 68,000 and has dropped to 62,827. NIBER keeps stats from 2001-2017 and will be posted to the mayor's dashboard and will be updated monthly. The Annual Report of 2018 has been posted to the website. Take a look at it.

A survey was published today (12 questions) and interns will be making the calls regarding your satisfaction with the police department.

Mr. Dumas brought up crime in South Norwalk. Crime has gone way down to the removal of the pay phones being taken off the street. Drug traffic has gone way down. There is also better lightening. At the street level there is very little drug activity. The majority of it is now through cell phones. It is all the officers. The Strategic Narcotic Team will get the offenders overtime.

Mr. Sacchinelli brought up the Department of Public Works Infrastructure. If more lights are needed put a request in.

Mr. Sacchinelli asked Chief Tom Kulhawik if there was anything the police needed from the Common Council? Also, mentioned that they will need to do an impact analysis over the next 2 to 5 years to see what impact the mall and additional apartments will have on the city.

Norwalk is a large city but small enough to know what is going on. Some of the crime hotspots are: drugs via cell phone, serious crimes are down and car break ins change.

Mr. Tsiranides Congratulated the Chief for solving the cold case. The police department currently has four officers working on cold cases. They have closed four and still have two still open.

Enforcement/Customer Service

Measles

**** MR. SACCHINELLI MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THE LAST TWO ITEMS OF THE AGENDA (ENFORCEMENT/CUSTOMER SERVICE AND MEASLES) TO NEXT MONTHS REGULAR MEETING.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMIOUS.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Raeann Bromark
Telesco Secretarial Services