

CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
November 15, 2021

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Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via e-mail in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Michael Yeosock at myeosock@norwalkct.org to provide written comment prior to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Rilling; Commissioner Collier-Clemmons

STAFF: Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Deputy Chief Susan Zecca; Deputy Chief James Walsh; Garrett Bolella, TMP; Michael Yeosock, Principal Engineer, TMP

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting order at 4:01PM.

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2021.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2021, AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. APPROVE THE MEETING SCHEDULE CALENDAR FOR 2022.

****COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING SCHEDULE CALENDAR FOR 2022.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. APPROVE THE RACE ROUTE FOR THE 30TH ANNUAL NORWALK RIVER FUN RUN ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2021.

Mr. Yeosock said the run will begin at Veterans Park and go to the Maritime Aquarium and is sponsored by the Recreation and Parks Department. He said it will take place on December 11, 2021, and set up will begin at 7:00AM and the event will end by 11:00AM.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE RACE ROUTE FOR THE 30TH ANNUAL NORWALK RIVER FUN RUN ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2021.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. APPROVE THE ROUTE FOR THE NEW NORWALK JINGLE BELL 5K ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2021.

Mr. Yeosock said that this is a new race that the Recreation and Parks Department wants to organize, and the race will begin at Calf Pasture Beach, and they have been reaching out to the neighborhood to advise them of this event. He said the race will be held on Saturday, December 4, 2021. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked how many participants they are expecting. Mayor Rilling said that a maximum of 1000 tickets will be sold.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ROUTE FOR THE NEW NORWALK JINGLE BELL 5K ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2021.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. APPROVE THE ROUTE FOR THE TCA LIGHT UP ROWAYTON ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021.

Mr. Yeosock said this event has been held annually for years, and once the Traffic Authority has approved the race it will also need state approval.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ROUTE FOR THE TCA LIGHT UP ROWAYTON ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021.**

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TO THE AGENDA.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Cece stated that she is requesting that item 6 of the agenda be tabled and went on to say that in 2015 this same topic was discussed in conjunction with the don't block the box on North Street and was sprung on all the residents at that time, and she has emails and letters from that time on what some of the concerns were. She provided a justification on why the item should be tabled and said that when this was discussed in 2015 there were items discussed that made the don't block the box at East Avenue @ Olmstead Place challenging, and after discussions with the stake holders and city officials it was decided then that it should not be implemented because the turns coming out of Olmstead Place would be troublesome with a don't block the box, and no matter which way people were trying to turn on or off of the street seemed to create a dilemma. She said the other point that was brought up by the police department was that there is no way for the police to enforce the don't block the box because there is no way to safely pull over a motorist who is in violation. She said she applauds Mr. Bolella and staff for bringing the issue back up as residents on all sides of this topic have been frustrated, and in 2015 there was a list of viable alternatives that could be implemented in lieu of don't block the box and despite the numerous requests the city has never maintained the marking and signage that is currently there the same way they do on the opposite side of the bridge for the people turning left out of Colony Street. In closing she said that she would be happy to meet with city officials to discuss this further and that the item should be tabled and is worthy of revisiting because there still could be a viable solution and asked that a meeting be coordinated with the residents of Olmstead Place and Knickerbocker Street which she would be happy to coordinate, or with the greater community at large through her role with the East Norwalk Neighborhood Association.

Mr. Bolella thanked Ms. Cece for her comments and said that staff realizes this was an issue in 2015 and continues to be an issue today and this request came from a resident who referenced the challenges of getting into or out of the street. He said he had the opportunity to conduct several field investigations and view some drone photography and all documentation recommends that in addition to a do not block the intersection sign the pavement markings are needed, and this has been proven to be effective and is subject to fine language giving an additional tool for enforcement. He said staff does recognize that the ordinance will need to be updated to include this intersection but believes that pavement markings will improve compliance and staff is recommending having this intersection look similar to other intersections

where there is existing do not block the intersection signage and incorporate fine signage as well as pavement markings.

Mayor Rilling asked if there is any time sensitivity to this. Mr. Bolella said that we are approaching the end of the season to implement the pavement markings and if postponed will need to just wait until next season to have them installed. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said she thinks this will need more discussion with the residents and the Traffic, Mobility and Parking Department. Chief Kulhawik agreed and said he understands the concern about moving forward without further discussion. Mayor Rilling requested that staff reach out to the residents on Olmstead Place and Knickerbocker Street to inform them of what is being proposed and ask their comments and/or concerns. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked when the do not block the intersection sign was installed and how effective it is. Mr. Bolella said it was installed a few years ago and based on the photos we have received from the residents on the street as well as observations it is not effective.

6. APPROVE “DON’T BLOCK THE BOX” ON EAST AVENUE AT OLMSTEAD PLACE.

****COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM UNTIL THE DECEMBER MEETING**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:26PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd