

CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
February 28, 2022

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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; Commissioner Lopez

STAFF: Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Deputy Chief Susan Zecca; Garrett Bolella, TMP; Michael Yeosock, Principal Engineer, TMP; Kyle Benjamin, Traffic Data Analyst, TMP; Sergeant Calise

OTHERS: James Whipple; James Gerweck; Jeff Dewitt; Edison Rivas; Lindsey Griffin

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting order at 4:04PM.

Mayor Rilling introduced Mr. Lopez as the newest member of the Traffic Authority and the Norwalk Board of Police Commissioners. Mr. Lopez said he is glad to be on board and looks forward to serving with everyone. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons and staff introduced themselves to Mr. Lopez and welcomed him.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

BUSINESS

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 24, 2022.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2022, AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION- MR. LOPEZ**

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2022.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 7, 2022, AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION- MR. LOPEZ**

3. APPROVE THE ROUTE FOR THE WALL THAT HEALS ON JUNE 2, 2022

Sergeant Calise provided an overview of the route for the Wall That Heals. Mayor Rilling asked how large the caravan will be. Sergeant Calise said it will be large and the Westport Police will provide an escort in Norwalk, and the Norwalk Police Department will provide an escort in Westport. Mayor Rilling asked if the state has been the contacted because Winfield Street is a state road. Sergeant Calise said he will work on that.

Mr. Dewitt provided an overview of the event and said the wall that heals is a replica of the Vietnam War memorial in Washington DC and is a method to honor the 58,000 names that are on the wall and to honor Vietnam veterans. He said that Norwalk is a host city, and this is a county event.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ROUTE FOR THE WALL THAT HEALS ON JUNE 2, 2022.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. APPROVE THE RACE ROUTES FOR MMMF TEAM FOR CURES 5K WALK/RUN ON JUNE 4, 2022.

Ms. Griffin provided an overview of the event and said the event raises funds and awareness for multiple myeloma which is a blood cancer, and they have had the event at Taylor Farm for many years and this route was permitted last year. Mayor Rilling asked how many participants are anticipated to attend. Ms. Griffin said 350. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said she sees from the application that the police department has not yet reviewed the course. Mr. Yeosock said the applicant is still working with the police department.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE RACE ROUTES FOR THE MMMF TEAM FOR CURES 5K WALK/RUN ON JUNE 4, 2022.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. APPROVE THE RACE ROUTES FOR THE 2022 GARAVEL SONO HALF MARATHON, 5K, & KIDS FUN RUN ON OCTOBER 2, 2022.

Mr. Whipple provided an overview of the event and said this is the eighth year the event will take place and the route was changed three years ago and was moved from Saturday to Sunday which seems to work very well, and all the feedback has been positive. Mayor Rilling said since the route was changed and day the race is held got moved, he has received very few complaints.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE RACE ROUTES FOR THE 2022 GARAVEL SONO HALF MARATHON, 5K, & KIDS FUN RUN ON OCTOBER 2, 2022.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. APPROVE THE RACE ROUTE FOR THE LIGHTFOOT RUNNING CLUB MOTHER'S DAY 10K RACE ON SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2022.

Mr. Gerweck provided an overview of the event and said they will be using the same route that has been used the last couple of years. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if the start and finish of the race will be at Matthews Park. Mr. Gerweck said "no" the start and finish will be at Calf Pasture Beach and Matthews Park is the mid-point of the race.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE RACE ROUTE FOR THE LIGHTFOOT RUNNING CLUB MOTHER'S DAY 10K RACE ON SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2022.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

7. APPROVE THE RACE ROUTE FOR THE O'NEILL'S 5K MOTHER'S DAY 5K RACE ON SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022

Mr. Gerweck provided an overview of the event and said they will be using the same route that has been used the last couple of years and is the 10th year the race has been held, and the proceeds this year will go to Project Steps which is an organization that finds employment for special education students from Norwalk.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE RACE ROUTE FOR THE O'NEILL'S 5K MOTHER'S DAY 5K RACE ON SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. SUBMIT A REQUEST TO THE OFFICE OF THE STATE TRAFFIC ADMINISTRATION TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER REDUCING THE APPROVED SPEED LIMIT ON STATE ROUTE 809 (RIVERSIDE AVENUE) NORTH OF HILL STREET TO RT. 123 FROM 40 MPH TO 30 MPH.

Mr. Yeosock said currently there is a 40 MPH speed limit on a section of Riverside Avenue and with the proposed Norwalk River Valley Trail coming this summer TMP is recommending submitting a request to the state that it be lowered to 30 MPH.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE TO SUBMIT A REQUEST TO THE OFFICE OF THE STATE TRAFFIC ADMINISTRATION TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER REDUCING THE APPROVED SPEED LIMIT ON STATE ROUTE 809 (RIVERSIDE AVENUE) NORTH OF HILL STREET TO RT. 123 FROM 40 MPH TO 30 MPH.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9. SUBMIT A REQUEST TO THE OFFICE OF STATE TRAFFIC ADMINISTRATION TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER REDUCING THE APPROVED SPEED LIMIT ON RIVER ROAD FROM 30 MPH TO 25 MPH.

Mr. Bolella introduced Kyle Benjamin and said he recently joined the TMP team as the Traffic Data Analyst.

Mr. Benjamin said TMP recently received a citizens request to look into speeding on River Road and they did observe some pedestrian activity and speeding and are recommending submitting a request to the state to consider the speed limit be lowered to 25 MPH. He said that New Canaan has also signed their portion of the road as 25 MPH and would like to match them, so the character of the road doesn't change.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE TO SUBMIT A REQUEST TO THE OFFICE OF STATE TRAFFIC ADMINISTRATION TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER REDUCING THE APPROVED SPEED LIMIT ON RIVER ROAD FROM 30 MPH TO 25 MPH.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OTHER ITEMS

1. PRIDE IN THE PARK- JUNE 11, 2022

Mr. Rivas provided an overview of the event and said there is a large crosswalk in front of the park, and they hire police officers to manage that intersection so that pedestrians can cross the intersection safely and also manage the entrance to the park. He said the event will take place on June 11, 2022, and are

trying their best to reduce the number of cars at that intersection by having shuttles to and from the train station and to the parking lots and garages on Wall Street and surrounding areas. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked how long the event is. Mr. Rivas said from 12:00PM to 9:00PM but they do begin to set up at 8:00AM on Saturday and will receive some deliveries on Friday. Mr. Lopez asked what the expected attendance will be. Mr. Rivas said approximately 7,000.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd