

**CITY OF NORWALK
HEALTH, WELFARE
AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
JANUARY 24, 2013**

ATTENDANCE: Michelle Maggio, Char; Anna Duleep; Bruce Kimmel;
Sarah Mann; Jerry Petrini; David Watts (7:35 p.m.)

STAFF: Chief Dennis McCarthy, Norwalk Fire Department; Deputy Chief,
David Wrinn, Norwalk Police; Darleen Hoffler, Norwalk Health
Department

OTHERS: David McCarthy, Common Councilmember

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

Ms. Maggio called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and called the Roll.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 25, 2012

**** MR. PETRINI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

Police Department

**** MR. PETRINI MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT
TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE ORDER TO COLT DEFENSE LLC, ON
THE BEHALF OF THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT, FOR THE
SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE OF TWENTY FIVE (25), COLT MODEL
6940, LAW ENFORCEMENT CARBINES FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT
TO EXCEED \$65,000.**

ACCOUNT # 09133010

The Norwalk Police Department is replacing Vietnam War era, used, Army surplus weapons that are on loan from U.S. Government Project Northstar. The Patrol Division has been utilizing this Colt M16/AR15 type rifle since the purchase of new Colt AR15 type rifles in 2009 for the Emergency Services Unit (SWAT team). The older rifles were "handed down" from the ESU to patrol. With this purchase the Norwalk Police Department will have new, state of the art, patrol rifles deployed on

patrol and to ESU team members.

Deputy Chief Wrinn explained the item. He said that this is a replacement for Viet Nam War era rifles. The rifles are carried by the Tactical Team officers. Each officer has a rifle that is assigned to them. The cost of each rifle is about \$1,000; the rest of the cost is for accessories. The old rifles will be returned to the Federal government. This is a capital item.

Mr. Kimmel asked if it is general procedure for municipalities to have weapons as a capital item. Deputy Chief Wrinn said that would be a question for Mr. Hamilton. He added that they are kept for a number of years.

Mr. Watts joined the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

The officers will train to qualify to use the new rifles. Officers that are not assigned a rifle will not be trained. Each rifle will be sighted to that particular officer.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Fire Department

**** MS. MANN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE A FOURTH AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, LLC.-CODE RED FOR THE CODE RED EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM- AMENDMENT WILL UPGRADE THE CALLING PLAN TO UNLIMITED MINUTES FOR ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AMOUNT OF \$18,250 IN FY 2012/13 AND TO AUTHORIZE A CONTACT RENEWAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013/14 FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$37,000 PENDING APPROVAL OF BUDGET FUNDING FOR THIS PURPOSE.**

ACCOUNT # 013160 – 5258

Ms. Maggio asked if there had been any discussions about combining services. Chief McCarthy explained that because of the data base, they have, the Norwalk Public Schools have not been interested in pursuing that. He said that he will re-new discussion with them.

Chief McCarthy said that during Hurricane Sandy, they used over 130,000 minutes in a week and a half. It seems prudent to get an unlimited minutes contract. In response to Mr. Petrini's question, he said that there is \$37,000 in the budget. Ms. Mann said that it was a great system, especially during the Hurricane.

Ms. Duleep asked if this uses the same provider that is used for 911 calls. Chief McCarthy said that it is not. He said that the Tax Assessor asked them to send a

message to various neighborhoods to let them know that they were going to be canvassed.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. MANN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES (RMA) TO PROVIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONAL TESTING SERVICES. SERVICES WILL INCLUDE WRITTEN AND ORAL EXAMINATIONS FOR THE POSITIONS OF DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF, CAPTAIN AND LIEUTENANT FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$15,000 PENDING APPROVAL OF THE 2013/14 BUDGET FUNDING FOR THIS PURPOSE.**

ACCOUNT # 013140 - 5258

Background:

The City requested sealed bid proposals for these services. The bids were opened on Jan 15. The bid results are attached. The bids submitted were not based on the same assumptions i.e. Jacques Personnel assumed 30 candidates for Lieutenant, 10 Candidates for Captain and 7 Candidates for Deputy Chief. RMA assumed 62 candidates for Lieutenant, 12 Candidates for Captain and 5 Candidates for Deputy Chief.

When the assumptions used by Jacques are used to recalculate the RMA fee proposal the RMA fee is \$13,035. A separate review of these figures was conducted and verified by the Purchasing Department and their analysis is attached.

The Department requests the bid award be made to RMA. The department has experience with both vendors for testing services and while we have preferred Jacques Personnel for entry level testing our experience is that RMA provides a higher quality more thorough promotional exam with fewer candidate challenges. RMA has greater experience as demonstrated in their proposal with departments equal in size and community demographics than does Jacques Personnel. Lastly RMA provides videotaping of the oral interviews and the reviewers' deliberations/scoring which we feel provides a far more defensible process should any candidate challenges arise. The price difference between Jacques Personnel and RMA is less than three hundred dollars however in our opinion the RMA services are superior.

Health Department

Women, Infant & Children (WIC) Program

**** MR. PETRINI MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CITY OF**

STAMFORD FOR CONTRACT PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2012 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2017.

AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS, OR AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE WIC PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2012 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2017.

The Department of Health received an agreement in the amount of \$227,209 per year, with the City of Stamford, to act as a subcontractor of services under the WIC Program.

The contract period is from October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2017.

Program Description: The WIC Program provides nutrition supplementation and education to eligible women and children between birth to age 5 years. Eligibility is determined by income. The Norwalk WIC Program has been providing this service for more than thirty years. The Norwalk WIC Program successfully serves approximately 1800 participants per year.

Ms. Hoffler explained that the WIC Program is very well known and that they are housed in the Norwalk Health Department.

Mr. Watts spoke in support of the program and said that it gives children the nutrition they need to grow and be able to compete in the classroom. There are a lot of people who depend on this.

Ms. Maggio asked for an overview of the WIC Program. Ms. Hoffler explained that pre-printed vouchers are given to the mothers and are used at participating vendors.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

RESOLUTION

A Resolution in Favor of Responsible Gun Laws and their Enforcement
Sponsored by David McCarthy (District E), Michael Geake (District B), Sarah Mann
(At Large)

**** MS. MAGGIO MOVED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:**

WHEREAS on December 14, 2012, there was a most heinous crime

committed in Sandy Hook, CT, which resulted in the deaths of 20 innocent children, who had yet to live their lives, as well as 6 adults who stood up to protect them and the other children in their charge.

WHEREAS firearms are used in over 2,000 crimes every year in Connecticut.

WHEREAS in Connecticut, 60% of murders are committed by illegal firearms.

WHEREAS, in Connecticut, 23% of “small-city” 9th and 10th graders and 15% of affluent suburban 9th and 10th graders said that it would be “sort of easy” or “very easy” to get an illegal gun.

WHEREAS, in Connecticut, more than 85 percent of gun crimes are committed by people who cannot legally purchase guns.

WHEREAS, in Connecticut, there is already a ban on the sale of “assault weapons” as defined in Sec. 53-202a Chapter 943 of the Connecticut General Statutes as well as other laws related to the purchase of guns.

WHEREAS on June 27, 2012, a Meriden convenience store owner named Ibrahim Ghazal was shot and killed by a violent felon with illegal gun related felony convictions released under the state’s “Early Release Program.”

WHEREAS, in Connecticut, of the 7000 prisoners released under the “Early Release Program,” over 10% of them have been arrested for subsequent violent crimes, including many shootings with illegal guns and are back behind bars.

WHEREAS in the City of Norwalk, even while the overall crime rate has plummeted in the last 6 years, any crime committed with an illegal gun is of concern. All cities have experienced their share of gun violence due to the spread of illegal guns of all kinds.

WHEREAS in Norwalk, in October 2012, there was shooting in Norwalk with one killed and one wounded, in broad day light as part of an ongoing gang struggle, in which illegal guns were used.

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Common Council of the City of Norwalk that the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut should increase the penalties for illegal gun-related crime and cause the enforcement of those laws already enacted and the prosecution of those arrested under those laws and facilitate the incarceration of those convicted under those laws.

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Common Council of the City of Norwalk

that the Chief of Police is encouraged to continue his work to reduce the number of illegal guns on our streets.

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Common Council of the City of Norwalk that the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut should repeal its “Early Release Program” for violent felons.

Mr. McCarthy thanked the Committee for letting him come before them and present the Resolution. He said that it is important for a number of reasons and could potentially benefit the Police Department. He said that the Resolution focuses on illegal gun. Most of the crimes committed in Connecticut are committed with illegal guns.

Mr. McCarthy said that Connecticut has some of the strictest gun laws in the country, but a large number of people are released from prison early and subsequently arrested for violent crimes. He said that now that a task force has been created, he would like to get this to them so that they might focus on illegal guns and increasing penalties.

Mr. Watts said that he had a problem with this Resolution. He said that if the Resolution talks about Sandy Hook, he was all for it, but to add prisoners will offend people who had nothing to do with Sandy Hook. He suggested crafting something they could all buy into.

Mr. Watts said that the Governor decided to go the route of early release to save money. If that is repealed, they will need to add money to corrections. He asked to separate the two issues. He said that he would be interested in a debate over early release and suggestions of how that could be funded if repealed. He said that they should have a conversation about violence in the City. Mr. Watts said that he will vote against the Resolution.

Mr. Kimmel suggested removing the first whereas and focus on gun violence. He said that the early release program was done for budgetary reasons and a number of folks were released by mistake and did not complete the required program. He said that in Connecticut there is no psychiatric evaluation prior to release. He added that it is unique that Connecticut has early release for violent crimes. Mr. Kimmel said that he went on line to look for defenses of the program, but could not find one.

Mr. Kimmel suggested changing the last word from repeal to suspend.

Ms. Duleep said that Chief McCarthy serves on the Sandy Hook Advisory Committee; she added that she attended the meeting today. She said that the Legislator is focusing on

school safety, guns and mental health. She suggested that Mayor Moccia work with Mayor Bloomberg in the Mayors Against Illegal Guns.

Ms. Maggio said that her take on the Resolution was that Sandy Hook was being used as an example and that this Resolution would be used to prevent that from happening again.

Mr. Petrini said that he agreed with 90% of the Resolution and agreed with Mr. Watts and Mr. Kimmel about the Sandy Hook connection. He said that the State needs to find the money to keep violent criminals in prison. He said that he could support the resolution with the suggested revisions.

Mr. McCarthy said that this Resolution was not meant to be divisive; the first whereas was used to frame the Resolution.

**** MR. MCCARTY MOVED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS AMENDED:**

A Resolution in Favor of Responsible Gun Laws and their Enforcement

Sponsored by David McCarthy (District E), Michael Geake (District B), Sarah Mann (At Large), Bruce Kimmel and Jerry Petrini (District D), Michelle Maggio (District C) and David Watts (District A)

WHEREAS firearms are used in over 2,000 crimes every year in Connecticut.

WHEREAS in Connecticut, 60% of murders are committed by illegal firearms.

WHEREAS, in Connecticut, 23% of “small-city” 9th and 10th graders and 15% of affluent suburban 9th and 10th graders said that it would be “sort of easy” or “very easy” to get an illegal gun.

WHEREAS, in Connecticut, more than 85 percent of gun crimes are committed by people who cannot legally purchase guns.

WHEREAS, in Connecticut, there is already a ban on the sale of “assault weapons” as defined in Sec. 53-202a Chapter 943 of the Connecticut General Statutes as well as other laws related to the purchase of guns.

WHEREAS on June 27, 2012, a Meriden convenience store owner named Ibrahim Ghazal was shot and killed by a violent felon with illegal gun related felony convictions released under the state’s “Early Release Program.”

WHEREAS, in Connecticut, of the 7000 prisoners released under the “Early Release Program,” over 10% of them have been arrested for subsequent violent crimes, including many shootings with illegal guns and are back behind bars.

WHEREAS in the City of Norwalk, even while the overall crime rate has plummeted in the last 6 years, any crime committed with an illegal gun is of concern.

WHEREAS Norwalk has experienced its share of gun violence due to the spread of illegal guns of all kinds.

WHEREAS the City of Norwalk, its Police Department, and the bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms have experienced significant success in arresting those involved with the crime of gun running and illegal gun possession.

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Common Council of the City of Norwalk that the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut should increase the penalties for illegal gun-related crime, especially when it occurs near a school, and cause the enforcement of those laws already enacted, and the prosecution of those arrested under those laws, and facilitate the incarceration of those convicted under those laws.

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Common Council of the City of Norwalk that the Chief of Police is encouraged to continue his work to reduce the number of illegal guns on our streets.

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Common Council of the City of Norwalk that the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut should suspend its “Early Release Program” for violent felons for further study.

Adopted by the Common Council of the City of Norwalk on February 12, 2013

Mr. Watts said that violent people are holding innocent people hostage. He said that he supports the Police and wants to continue to support them. He said that words are powerful and is glad the Committee was able to reach a compromise. He said that he wants the Common Council to support the Police and they need bi-partisan language so that this Resolution can pass unanimously.

Mr. Kimmel asked Deputy Chief Wrinn if the weapons used in Newton were deemed illegal. He said that they were not illegal.

Mr. Watts said that he would like to see something about closing gun show loop holes. He added that the Legislature should add a bill that increases penalties for having a firearm near a school. He said he would carry that to Hartford; he said that children should not be held hostage by weapons near their school.

The Committee agreed unanimously to sponsor the Resolution.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED**

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

ADJOURN

**** MR. PETRINI MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services