



City of Groton, Connecticut

Police and Community Together (PACT) Committee Minutes

Thursday, January 19, 2023

City Municipal Building
295 Meridian Street
Groton, CT 06340

Council Chambers

6:00 PM

I. ROLL CALL

The following were either present in person or on Zoom: Mayor Keith Hedrick, Chief Eric Jenkins, Captain Trish Lieteau, Wendy Connal, Christina Gore, George Baloga, Bruce DeFrehn, and Doris Pulaski

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the December 15, 2022 Minutes by George Baloga, seconded by Bruce DeFrehn. It was noted that the date for the next meeting was incorrect, and should have been January 19, 2023. With that amendment, the motion passed unanimously.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Mobile Meetings- A motion was made by Doris Pulaski, seconded by George Baloga that the next mobile meeting be with Groton City businesses. Although a meeting with Groton City businesses had been planned, it had not yet been scheduled. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously. The plan is to schedule a meeting with businesses at the Bill Library, which can hold 49 people in the largest room.
- B. Investigations – Interviews are continuing in the homicide case. A \$5,000 reward had been offered for information, and was reposted. It was asked whether the amount of the reward could be increased. So far, the reward has not been increased, and no new leads have come in. The Tip line and Tip email will be put on line soon by IT
- C. Cameras – COVID kits and KN95 masks are available from the city clerk. Their availability has been posted to the Facebook page.
- D. Volunteer Opportunities – A food distribution will be done Friday, January 27, 2023, 12:30 P.M. to 2:00 P.M, at St. John’s Church. Volunteers should plan to arrive by 11:45 A.M. The blockade will be put out earlier to improve traffic flow during the distribution.

IV. CHIEF UPDATE

- A. The Christmas food distributions went well.
- B. The “Stuff a Cruiser” toys, food, and coat drive was held Saturday, December 10, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the City Municipal Building. About 200 coats were distributed to Riverfront, St. John’s Church, and Human Services. About one and a half truckloads of

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toys were collected and delivered to Groton Human Services. Food collected was delivered to Gemma Moran in New London.

- C. Santa in the City was a success. It was on December 17, 2022.
- D. The HES Program will be restarted at Branford Manor. The program stresses health, safety, babysitting training, bicycle training, computer and other tutoring. Yale will be working with the program. There will also be movie nights and education on medical issues, like nutrition, diabetes, and blood pressure. Adults are welcome. The first event will be on February 13, 2023, 4:30 p.m., at the Community Center, to make Valentine's cards for children's parents
- E. Statistics: Since December 15, 2022 (35 days), there have been 449 events, 189 motor vehicle stops, 26 arrests, 13 summons, 146 patrol checks of businesses, the beach, etc., 89 medical events, 3 missing persons (all found), 76 suspicious circumstances, 13 unwanted persons, and 16 welfare checks.
- F. George Baloga reported on his experience doing a police "ride-along." He found it a positive experience and suggested we bring up the possibility of ride alongs at mobile meetings.
- G. The state DOT now has cameras at I 95 intersections/on and off ramps. They can be accessed by the police if there is a major incident. Access is from the DOT traffic website.
- H. The City budget goes to the Committee of the Whole Monday, January 23, 2023. It includes a request to purchase four solar powered movable radar speed signs. The signs also count the number of passing cars while they are in operation.

V. NEW BUSINESS

It was suggested that feedback meetings be held at the mobile sites that PACT had already visited, to report progress on residents' concerns.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Bruce DeFrehn, seconded by Doris Pulaski. It was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 16, 2023 in the City Hall Council Chambers (or at a mobile meeting site, if one is scheduled) at 6:00 p.m.