



City of Groton, Connecticut

Police and Community Together (PACT) Committee Minutes

Thursday, February 16, 2023

City Municipal Building
295 Meridian Street
Groton, CT 06340

Council Chambers

6:00 PM

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. The following were either present in person: Mayor Keith Hedrick, Chief Eric Jenkins, Captain Trish Lieteau, Wendy Connal, Christina Gore, George Baloga, Bruce DeFrehn, Holly Butler, Frank Jennette, Dan Karns, Meredith Perkins, Shawn Perkins, Robert Hagar, Doris Pulaski, and Juliette Parker

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the January 19, 2023 Minutes by Bruce DeFrehn, seconded by Chief Jenkins. The motion passed unanimously.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Mobile Meetings- This meeting was originally planned to be held with local businesses. All Groton City businesses, other than restaurants and bars were invited. Only representatives of Karn's Automotive were in attendance. A meeting at Eastern Point Beach is proposed for April 20. An email will be sent to those who attended the previous meeting at the beach, inviting them to attend.
- B. Investigations – The Federal/State Joint Task Force is now involved in the investigation of the homicide that occurred a year ago.
- C. Cameras – The cameras have not yet arrived.
- D. COVID kits and KN95 masks are available at the front desk. Their availability has been posted to the Facebook page.
- E. Volunteer Opportunities – A food distribution was done Friday, January 27, 2023, 12:30 P.M. to 2:00 P.M, at St. John's Church. It went well. This month's food distribution will occur at St. John's Church, February 24, 2023, 12:30 – 2:00 PM.

IV. CHIEF UPDATE

- A. The department interacted with Pfizer security to solve a situation where Pfizer employees were driving through the lot on Benham Road to go to work. The police stopped and educated drivers on the correct method. From here on in, drivers making improper turns will be issued infractions.

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- B. There was vandalism at Thames View Park, near Garbo's. Graffiti was painted on the wall, benches, and picnic table. The department is working with Norwich and New London police departments to identify the tags. The Parks and Recreation Department will repair the damage. The installation of a motion detecting camera and better lighting in the area is being pursued. The owner of the adjacent building has authorized tying to his electric power connection. Officers have been doing out of vehicle checks in the area several times a day.
- C. An independent biologist built a kit radiation detector. He did not calibrate it. After two uneventful days, his detector registered an unacceptable amount of radiation. Further investigation showed none of Pfizer, E.B., the Submarine Base, and Millstone registered any problem.
- D. The Penguin Plunge will be held March 5, 2023, at 10 a.m. to benefit Special Olympics.
- E. Statistics: Since January 16, 2022, there have been 548 self-initiated checks, 258 motor vehicle stops, 95 "911" calls, 53 arrests, 12 accidents., 22 infractions, and 5 drug incidents.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Police reaction to the Tyre Nichols beating-Christina Gore asked what the police response was. The Chief said he discussed it with the department.
- B. A request was made that the Chief publicize hiring practices. Two officers are still needed.
- C. A request was made that the police schedule a "hang out" with the St. John's men's group.
- D. The group from Karn's Automotive were generally happy with the police but asked for help with controlling pedestrian traffic from E.B. at shift change. They also were concerned with how this would be handled as the number of E.B. employees continues to increase.
- E. There are problems with parking in the Hamilton Ave. area.
- F. The City and the police are working with the E.B. Safety Manager to respond to what the future parking and pedestrian problems will be as employment increases. A parking officer may be employed, and parking violation fee structure and actions may be changed. Other parking areas and arrangements are being discussed. Busing from the Foxwoods lot in Norwich is being considered. At this time, a new parking garage is not favored, due both to cost and maintenance issues.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Doris Pulaski, seconded by Chief Jenkins. It was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

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