



City of Groton, Connecticut

Police and Community Together (PACT) Committee Meeting Minutes

City Municipal Building
295 Meridian Street
Groton, CT 06340

Thursday, May 18, 2023

6:00 PM

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. The following were present: Mayor Keith Hedrick, Captain Trish Lieteau, Wendy Connal, Christina Gore, Holly Butler, Bruce DeFrehn, George Baloga, Doris Pulaski, and Juliette Parker.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the April 20, 2023 Minutes by Bruce DeFrehn, seconded by Wendy Connal. The motion passed unanimously.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Mobile Meetings - The next mobile meeting is planned to be with restaurant representatives and food truck representatives. The time of the meeting will be determined after consulting the restaurant representatives. It was mentioned that a number of interactive meetings with police and city departments will be planned, including Coffee With a Cop.
- B. Investigations – There are no new updates on the investigation of the homicide that occurred a year ago.
- C. Cameras – Cameras will be installed on all evacuation routes from the city, including Clarence B. Sharp Highway, Rainville Avenue, and Thomas Road.
- D. COVID kits and KN95 masks are available at the front desk. Their availability has been posted to the Facebook page. Vaccines are administered at the Farmer’s Markets and at L&M. As the Emergency for COVID has been ended, this item will not be discussed at subsequent PACT meetings.
- E. Volunteer Opportunities –
 - a. A Bike Rodeo for Kids will be held on Thursday, June 15, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Branford Manor. Free bike helmets will be given to participants while supplies last. There will also be bike games, prizes, and safety information. For information, call Ivelisse at 860-440-8502 or contact Rainbow at 888-299-8915 (flyer was provided).
 - b. The Ragnar Relay to Boston will start at Eastern Point Beach on Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 5:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. It was suggested by George Baloga that

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orange cones be placed in those areas where the pavement is broken up on Beach Pond Road.

- c. United Way Food Distribution will be held at St. John's Church, Friday, May 26, 2023, from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

IV. CHIEF UPDATE

- A. Chief Jenkins is retiring in July 7, 2023.
- B. High priority federal agency case is over. No information is available, but we have been assured there is no danger to the public involved.
- C. A home heating oil truck turned over and burst into flames on the Groton side of the southbound span of the Gold Star Memorial Bridge on Friday, April 21, 2023. The City Police were responsible for redirecting traffic and safe guarding the public from debris falling from the burning bridge. The bridge is now in service again, but the bridge pedestrian and bicycle walkway on the bridge is still closed. Since May 15, 2023, a pedestrian and bicycle shuttle has been running from Groton to New London and back from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on a 30 minute loop. At this time, it is not known when the walkway will be restored and open again.
- D. The flag at the City Municipal Building was raised for National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.
- E. A service was held at the City Municipal Building for the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 4, 2023.
- F. National Police Week runs from Sunday, May 14, 2023 to Saturday, May 20, 2023. A flag raising was done at the City Municipal Building on Monday, May 15, 2023, in honor of Police Week.
- G. On Thursday, May 25, 2023, City Police representatives will attend the Law Enforcement Memorial Services in Meriden, in remembrance of City Police Officer William Snyder Sr. who died on duty on January 16, 1994.
- H. Law Enforcement Special Olympics Torch Run will be held in the City on May 31, 2023.
- I. On Thursday, June 8, 2023, a Tip a Cop event will be held at Par 4 from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. All tips will be given to the Special Olympics Committee.
- J. On June 12, 2023, police representatives will attend the DARE graduation ceremony at Thames River Magnet School.
- K. On June 15, 2023, police representatives will be involved with the Bike Rodeo for Kids at Branford Manor.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. The Department of Transportation, the City of Groton, and others held a post event review of the Gold Star Bridge fire to determine lessons learned and to do better emergency planning for similar events. Communications worked well, in general, and the first responders did a great job. Ten to fifteen different fire corps responded to the fire. The Emergency Management is in the process of reviewing the emergency traffic plan.

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- B. There was a fight between several juveniles at Washington Park. City Police were called to break up the fight. Three juveniles were arrested and later released to their parents. A review of police body cameras was done to ensure that department protocols were followed and no excessive force was used.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by George Baloga, seconded by Doris Pulaski. It was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, June 15, 2023, in the City Council Chambers. The time will be determined after restaurant personnel are contacted about what time will work best for them.