



NEW HAVEN
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICE
One Union Avenue • New Haven • Connecticut • 06519



Dean M. Esserman
Chief of Police

Toni N. Harp
Mayor

Background Investigation Checklist:

Name	Address	Rank	Position
Gary Gamarra	[REDACTED]	230	Entry Level Police Officer

1. Documents Verified			
Type of Document	Date	By	
Birth Date: [REDACTED] age: 22	7/13/16	RV	
Employment Eligibility: Birth Certificate; Social Security	7/13/16	RV	
Education Verification: High School Diploma	7/13/16	RV	
Selective Svc Registration #: [REDACTED] issued [REDACTED]	7/13/16	RV	
Driver's License #: [REDACTED] exp [REDACTED]	7/13/16	RV	
Marital Status: Single; Never married	7/13/16	RV	
Number of Dependents: 0	7/13/16	RV	

2. Reference Checks Completed		
References:		
Name:	Years Known:	Comments:
Amelia Fealeta	6	Positive reference. See character reference form for further information.
George Vogt	6	Positive reference. See character reference form for further information.
Josevan Vallejo	9	Positive reference. See character reference form for further information.
Denise Weber	9	Positive reference. See character reference form for further information.
Alexandria Masselli	5	Positive reference. See character reference form for further information.

Neighbors:			
Name:	Address:	Years Known:	Comments:
George Morey	[REDACTED]	16	No concerns. See neighbor reference form for further information.
Denise Weber	[REDACTED]	9	Positive reference. See neighbor reference form for further information.

Significant Others:			
Name:	Address:	Years Known:	Comments:
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5	Positive reference. See significant other reference form for further information.

4. Employment History:

Company Name:	Address	Supervisor:	Dates of Employment:	Position:	Reason for Leaving:
Wells Fargo	2100 Dixwell Ave, Hamden, CT	Amy Cordova	08/2015 to present	Teller	N/A
Employment References: Due to company policy, Cordova was only able to provide employment dates. File pending HR approval.					
ShopRite	49 Pershing DR., Derby, CT & 155 Cherry St., Milford, CT	Naheem Kahn & John Sousa	08/2012 to 04/2013 & 03/2014 to 03/2015	Cashier	New job
Employment References: Kahn and Sousa both indicated that the applicant was immature at the time of his employment. Also, Sousa stated the applicant was defensive when receiving constructive criticism. Neither supervisor could recommend or deny the applicant's appointment. See employer reference form for further information.					
U.S. Security Associates	250 Pomeroy Ave, Suite 101, Meriden, CT	Hd Ebrahimi	08/2012 to 01/2014	Security Officer	Employer was not paying the applicant in a timely manner.
Employment References: I spoke with Ebrahimi who stated he remembered the applicant vaguely. Ebrahimi stated he had no concerns about the applicant's work performance. I was unable to review the applicant's HR file since it could not be located.					
Charcoal Chicken Restaurant	71 Elm St., West Haven, CT	Mercy Vallejo	06/2009 to 03/2012	Waiter	Better Opportunity
Employment References: Positive reference. See employment reference form for further information.					
Adult Probation	1 Lafayette Circ, Bridgeport, CT	Allyson Down	01/2015 to 05/2015	Intern	Internship
Employment References: No concerns. The applicant's internship was deemed satisfactory. See employment reference form for further information.					
Albertus Magnus College	700 Prospect St., New Haven, CT	Michele Cochran	2014	Clerical worker	Term ended.
Employment References: The applicant participated in the work study program. No concerns were mentioned about his work performance. The applicant <u>did not disclose</u> said employer on application nor did he during his background interview.					
Express	1201 Boston Post Rd., Milford, CT	Unk	2012	Sales Associate	Seasonal
Employment References: No one on scene recalled the applicant's employment history. Contacted third party HR vendor who stated they would be unable to verify employment without receiving proceeds. Therefore, I am unable to verify employment. See employer reference form for further information. The applicant <u>did not disclose</u> said employer.					
Employment References:					

[illegible]

8. Drug/DUI History Compliance, DUI License Suspension Compliance:

Comments:

ALCOHOL USAGE: The applicant described himself as a light social drinker.

In the past year, the applicant reported being intoxicated 4 times.

The applicant reported no history of driving while intoxicated or impaired.

DRUG USAGE:

The applicant reported smoking marijuana 10 times with the last occurrence in 2008.

The applicant stated he does not have relationships with anyone who uses, possesses, or sells any illicit drugs or narcotics.

MEDICATION: [REDACTED]

10. Investigative Concerns:

Comments:

CRIMINAL HISTORY: During the applicant's background interview/questionnaire, the applicant described the following incident:

In 2013, the applicant stated he suspected his girlfriend was cheating on him. The applicant stated he drove to a residence in [REDACTED] to confirm his suspicions of his girlfriend cheating on him with another man. The applicant arrived at the [REDACTED] residence in which he observed his girlfriend interacting with another man through an exterior window. While he was observing them interacting, his girlfriend then began to straddle the male. To disrupt his girlfriend from engaging in sexual acts, the applicant began to bang on the window.

The applicant stated the police were called and he was subsequently arrested for trespassing under a family violence offense. As a result of the applicant's arrest, a protective order was issued against him listing his girlfriend as the protective party. The incident was nolle in court after his girlfriend told the prosecutor that he was not a violent person. It should be noted that the applicant is still with his girlfriend.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

The following are employers who were omitted from the applicant's 10 year employment history:

- Express
- Albertus Magnus College

It should be noted I was unable to obtain any derogatory information from the above employers about the applicant's work performance.

SEXUAL CONDUCT:

During the applicant's polygraph exam, the applicant reported when he was 18 years old he had sexual intercourse with his 15 year old girlfriend. The applicant omitted this information during his background interview.

POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION: On 7/25/16, a polygraph examination was conducted on the applicant which was administered by the CT State Police.

The polygrapher observed that the applicant had displayed significant and consistent physiological reactions when he was questioned about undetected crimes against a person. Also, the applicant had inconclusive results about his involvement with illegal drugs and falsifying or omitting information in the test booklet. The reactions observed by the polygrapher are indicative of deception and the applicant was recommended to be re-tested. A follow up interview did not reveal any concerns about any of the topics listed above.

***It should be noted this file was presented to the Board of Police Commissioners for removal on Sept. 13th, 2016. They advised us to move forward with the applicant ***

Investigating Officer	Badge Number	Date
Officer Dore Van Nostrand	277	8/01/16

GAMORRA

**REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 13, 2016
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT**

PRESENT:

Commissioners Anthony Dawson, Chairperson; Kevin Diaz; Stephen Garcia; Evelise Ribeiro; Gregory Smith; and Donald Walker

Interim Chief Anthony Campbell (Exited - 7:55 p.m.): Department of Police Service

Lieutenant Racheal Cain: Department of Police Service

Sergeant Mary Helland: Department of Police Service

Debra Sullo: Administrative Assistant

Phyllis Vendoliva: Administrative Assistant

Michael Carter: CAO, City of New Haven

Bruce Fischer: Department of Transportation, Traffic and Parking

Douglas Hausladen: Department of Transportation, Traffic and Parking

Michael Wolak, Esquire: Senior Deputy Corporation Counsel

Mr. Gerald M. Antunes: Board of Alders

Brenda Foskey-Cyrus: Board of Alders

Gary Gamarra

Chief Ronnell A. Higgins: Yale Police Department

Lieutenant Jay Jones: Yale Police Department

Alphonse Paolillo, Jr.: Board of Alders

Paul Vakos

OPEN SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m., Anthony Dawson, Chairperson, presiding.

Commissioner Donald Walker was sworn in by Assistant Corporation Counsel Michael Wolak.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Following the regular meeting of the Traffic Authority, Mr. Fischer and Mr. Hausladen excused themselves at 6:30 p. m.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Discussion and Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of August 9, 2016.

**** Commissioner Garcia moved Approval of the Minutes of August 9, 2016**

**** Commissioner Smith seconded**

Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker

**** Motion passed (6-0-0)**

MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA

**** Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Amend the Agenda to go out of order**
**** Commissioner Diaz seconded**
Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
**** Motion passed (6-0-0)**

OTHER BUSINESS

Request to Hire for Yale Police Department by Lieutenant Jay Jones the following candidates: Michael Durso, William Hurley, Jr., and Zachary Masotta.

■ Discussions with Chief Ronnell Higgins and Lieutenant Jay Jones.

**** Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Approve the Hiring of the Candidates**
**** Commissioner Smith seconded**
Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
**** Motion passed (6-0-0)**

CHIEF'S REPORT

Interim Chief Anthony Campbell

- Chief Anthony Campbell was apologetic for his absence at the August meeting because he was assisting officers in the plans to attend the funeral services for Officer Matthew Myers in South Carolina. Seventeen officers were able to attend.**
- He thanked the Board of Police Commissioners for their letter to Officer Myer's family.**
- He also thanked the Board for its support since Chief Dean Esserman resigned from the Department.**
- The 29 recruits that graduated have completed Phase I and were entering Phase II. The board will be kept apprised of their progress.**
- The Academy class is scheduled to begin on October 3rd, 2016 with approximately 35 or 36 new recruits. Agility testing was ongoing.**
- The Department is on track to receive 17 new patrol cars. Thanks to Mr. Carter six new additional cars are expected in order to get the fleet up to speed.**
- Detectives' examination was scheduled for the week of the 24th of September. There are about 35 to 26 officers who plan to take the examination.**
- Sergeants' examination is on track for November. Posting will occur in the next six weeks.**
- Firearms training was underway and going extremely well.**
- The firearms range at the Wintergreen facility is being built. Expected completion is in March of 2017.**
- Classroom are also under construction.**
- CompStat has been going well and will continue.**
- An officer-involved shooting has occurred. That investigation has been turned over to the State's Attorney who had the State Police complete the investigation. The officer is doing well. The suspect who was shot in the arm is recovering.**

- The morale of the Department is pretty up.
- He is doing the best he can to work with each member of the command staff and members of the Department to keep us moving forward with the community policing philosophy and bring the Department into the 21st Century.
- Captains' examination will be scheduled for the summer in the Year 2017.
- Commissioner Dawson suggested that the law enforcement agencies participating in CompStat should invite their regulatory bodies, Board of Police Commissioners, to open up communications. An official invitation letter from the New Haven Board of Police Commissioners will be sent out
- Chief Campbell stated that meetings with the clergy was ongoing and expected to continue.
- Commissioner Dawson suggested that Congressman John Conyers should be invited to the New Haven Police Department. This should be spearheaded by Interim Chief Anthony Campbell, Chief Ronnell Higgins, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro and Senator Richard Blumenthal.
- Commissioner Smith asked about the psychological examination and the process. The Chief stated that the Department is taking definitive action on it.
- Commissioner Ribeiro asked about a memorial service for Officer Matthew Myers in Connecticut as many wish to attend. The Chief stated that it was being planned.
- Commissioner Garcia asked about the Detention Center. The Chief stated that the Detention Center was running extraordinarily smoothly.

CORPORATION COUNSEL REPORT

(In Executive Session)

INTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT

(In Executive Session)

DECEASED

Officer Matthew Myers - eff. 8/9/2016

RESIGNATIONS

Chief Dean Esserman - eff. 9/2/2016

RECRUITMENT/SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Presentation of, Opportunity for Candidates to Comment, and Vote for Removal of Candidates from Civil Service List #15-07

- Lieutenant Cain stated that there were three candidates who wanted the opportunity to address the Board, one is a no-show, one in open session and one in closed session.
- Mr. Paul Vakos opted for open session and addressed the Board during which questions were asked of him.
- Mr. Gary Gamarra opted to address the Board in a closed session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**

Commissioner Garcia moved to Enter Executive Session to discuss personnel

matters

- ** Commissioner Walker seconded**
- Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker**
- ** Motion passed (6-0-0)**

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:07 p.m.

- ** Commissioner Garcia moved to Exit Executive Session**
- ** Commissioner Smith seconded**
- Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker**
- ** Motion passed (6-0-0)**

The Board exited Executive Session at 7:24 p.m.

- ** Commissioner Garcia moved to Remove #114, Paul Vakos, from Civil Service List #15-07**
- ** Commissioner Smith seconded**
- Voting for: Commissioners Dawson and Smith**
- Voting against: Commissioners Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro, Walker**
- ** Motion failed (2-4-0)**
- ** Commissioner Garcia moved to Remove #173, Richard MacLennan, from Civil Service List #15-07**
- ** Commissioner Ribeiro seconded**
- Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker**
- ** Motion passed (6-0-0)**
- ** Commissioner Garcia moved to Remove #196, Robert Haas, from Civil Service List #15-07**
- ** Commissioner Ribeiro seconded**
- Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker**
- ** Motion passed (6-0-0)**
- ** Commissioner Garcia moved to Remove #221, Gaetano Zavaglia, from Civil Service List #15-07**
- ** Commissioner Smith seconded**
- Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker**
- ** Motion passed (6-0-0)**
- ** Commissioner Garcia moved to Remove #230, Gary Gamarra, from Civil Service List #15-07**
- ** Commissioner Diaz seconded**
- Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Garcia and Smith**
- Voting against: Commissioners Diaz, Ribeiro and Walker**
- ** Motion failed (3-3-0)**

EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE REPORT

There was no Efficiency Committee Report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

There was no Finance Committee Report.

■ Chief Dean Esserman would like to address the Board of Police Commissioners.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ** Commissioner Garcia moved to Enter Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and incomplete reports
- ** Commissioner Smith seconded
- Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
- ** Motion passed (6-0-0)

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:37 p.m.

- ** Commissioner Garcia moved to Exit Executive Session
- ** Commissioner Smith seconded
- Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
- ** Motion passed (6-0-0)

The Board exited Executive Session at 8:04 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

Election of Officers

Appointment to the Pension Board

Recruitment/Selection Committee

- ** Commissioner Garcia moved to Suspend the Rules of the Bylaws for the purpose of nominating officers due to the fact that in February, 2016 the Board was not at full capacity
- ** Commissioner Smith seconded
- Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
- ** Motion passed (6-0-0)

Commissioner Garcia Nominated Commissioner Dawson as Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners

- ** Commissioner Diaz seconded
- Voting for: Commissioners Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
- ** Motion passed (5-0-0)

Commissioner Diaz Nominated Commissioner Smith for Vice-Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners

- ** Commissioner Garcia seconded

**** Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro and Walker
Motion passed (3-0-0)**

Commissioner Garcia moved to Nominate Commissioner Ribeiro to the Pension Board

**** Commissioner Diaz seconded**

**** Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Smith and Walker
Motion passed (3-0-0)**

Commissioner Garcia moved to Accept Commissioners Ribeiro and Walker to the Recruitment/Selection Committee

**** Commissioner Diaz seconded**

**** Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia and Smith
Motion passed (4-0-0)**

Commissioner Diaz moved to Accept Commissioners Garcia and Smith to the Efficiency Committee

**** Commissioner Walker seconded**

**** Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Ribeiro and Walker
Motion passed (4-0-0)**

Commissioner Garcia Nominated Commissioners Diaz and Walker for the Finance Committee

**** Commissioner Smith seconded**

**** Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia and Ribeiro
Motion passed (4-0-0)**

**** Commissioner Walker moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting**

**** Commissioner Garcia seconded**

**** Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro, Smith and Walker
Motion passed (6-0-0)**

**The Board adjourned at 8:15 p.m.
The next meeting is scheduled for 10/11/2016.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sotonye Otunba-Payne