

Wilton Police Commission



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**POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
12 October 2010**

CTO

Commissioner Matt Mason called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Mark Ketley and Chris Weldon (arrived 7:16 p.m.), Chief Michael Lombardo, Deputy Chief Robert Crosby, Officer David Hartman, School Resource Officer Richard Ross, JJ Friedman and Wendy Colvano (Safe Rides) and Claire Furano.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Mark Ketley and seconded by Commissioner Matt Mason to approve the Minutes of the September 8, 2010 Special Meeting and the September 13, 2010 Regular Meeting, which passed 2-0.

Commissioner Weldon joined the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

DISCUSSION OF MONTHLY REPORTS

The Commission reviewed, discussed and accepted the monthly reports.

It was pointed out that the number of DUI arrests is up for the month of September 2010 and is higher than the number in September 2009.

Domestic violence numbers are down slightly from last month (with no repeat calls). They are up slightly from September of 2009.

The September MAC Report was reviewed and discussed.

REPORT OF CHIEF MICHAEL LOMBARDO

Various letters of thanks and jobs well done were reviewed.

Chief Lombardo thanked Officers Joe Calorossi and Tim Fridinger for attending the Blue Mass in Trumbull on September 12, 2010.

The Wilton Police Fund received a \$100.00 donation from Nancy Hanson.

Chief Lombardo has committed to remain on the Survivor's Benefits Committee for the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association.

Chief Lombardo reported on the October 1st drowning. It was very impressive to see the Dive Team, Police Department, Fire Department, CERT and EMS work together, along with support from the many others.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Safe Rides Presentation

Wilton High School students, JJ Friedman and Wendy Colvano, gave a presentation on the Wilton Safe Rides Organization. It is comprised of students who volunteer their time to give rides to students who find themselves in a situation where they need a ride home, i.e. a bad date, or a ride home from babysitting etc., on Friday and Saturday nights during the school year between the hours of 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. within Wilton. This does not include holidays and vacations. The organization is in need of donations and adult volunteers to supervise and man the home base at Trackside. They currently have 70 student volunteers who will assist in driving. Safe Rides is sponsored by Boy Scouts of America. It is a program that has proven beneficial in surrounding communities of Darien, Ridgefield and many communities across America. The purpose is to help students remove themselves from uncomfortable, difficult circumstances. There will be six students on duty each weekend night. Two will man radios at Trackside and a driver and passenger volunteer will man each of the two cars. Safe Rides is actively looking for parent volunteers to supervise at Trackside from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. Approximately sixty adult spots need to be filled during the course of the school year and Safe Rides is looking for adult volunteers to commit to four weekend nights during the year, although it would accept commitments for fewer nights. The website is wiltonsaferides.WEBS.com. Commissioner Weldon made a motion that based on the presentation of JJ Friedman and Wendy Colvano, the Wilton Police Commission

recognizes and commits itself to help and fully support the Wilton Safe Rides Organization. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mason and passed 3-0.

B. SRO Update

Officer Richard Ross informed the Commission about the bi-annual Explorer Conference held at Georgia Tech. The Wilton Explorers participated in competitions individually and in groups. They placed 3rd in the trauma, first aid competition, competing against thousands of explorers from across the country. Second place in the non-emergency vehicle course was awarded to one of the Wilton Explorers. The trip is funded by the Wilton Explorer Post with each participating member personally contributing \$400. Donations are needed.

Commissioner Mason suggested that the student Explorer ranked Captain write a letter to the editor when the annual mailing goes out, asking people to donate and informing the Town of what the Wilton Explorers do and have accomplished, including its success at the conference in Atlanta.

C. Youth Police Academy

The Youth Police Academy is a new and cooperative effort with Trackside geared towards youth to bring awareness about the different functions of the police department, as well as to help the police connect with Wilton's youth. The patrol division, scuba team, ERT, detective bureau, motor vehicle enforcement and technology will be covered in a six week program, taught by Wilton police officers commencing October 27th. Sessions will be held at Trackside and the Department.

D. Homecoming Police Coverage

Six officers have signed up for the weekend duty to cover Homecoming. It is a high school event and people will be asked to comply with the law. Alcohol will not be allowed at the event or on the school grounds.

E. State DOT Recommendation concerning Route 33/Westport Road

A request has been made to have Route 33 designated a no truck zone. In light of the Wilton Police Department traffic study, which indicated that the average speed traveled on Route 33/Westport Road in the area in question was 44 miles per hour, just 4 miles over the speed limit, and the difficulties inherent in making Route 33 a no truck zone, the Wilton Police Commission concurs with DOT recommendation to leave the speed limit at 40 miles per hour and not designate this roadway as a no truck zone.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Commissioner Mason suggested the Chief write a future article about the risks to consider when driving with dogs in the car. Earlier this year a fatality resulted in Westport when a dog jumped in the driver's lap and caused him to lose control. The driver was recently charged with vehicular homicide.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:13p.m., a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Ketley and passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Furano
Recording Secretary