



# Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

## Police Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday-October 26, 2020

7:30pm-Zoom Meeting

Present: Commissioners James Stavola, Carol Vaillancourt, Debi Marvin, Beatrice Farlekas, Kevin Gustin

Others in Attendance: First Selectman Mary Bylone, Sergeant Michael Rondinone, Admin Sergeant Tim Edwards, Corporal Craig Scheel, Interim Fire Chief Sean Shoemaker

1. Meeting called to order at 7:32pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Additions to Agenda: None
4. Citizens Comments: None
5. Officer Comments: None
6. Correspondence: None
7. Motion to approve minutes from September 28, 2020 meeting with the following amendments per Commissioner Stavola:  
Under Item 17b: include Mary Bylone's request for a Police Officer Vehicle Take Home Policy and information regarding a Neighborhood Watch Program as a possible Corporal project. Motion made by Carol Vaillancourt, second by Bea Farlekas. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Budget Review: No issues with budget to report
9. Appropriations & Transfers: None
10. Resident Trooper Report:
  - a. October Activity Summary as well as a written report from Sergeant Rondinone are attached.
11. Corporal Reports: Delivered by Sergeant Tim Edwards
  - a. Corporal Labonte: Continues to monitor NESPIN pawn shop records.
  - b. Corporal Green-Pistol & Rifle qualifications were recently completed.
  - c. Corporal Owens- Currently in the process of submitting 2020-2021 DUI grant information through DOT.
  - d. Corporal Goss-Continues to monitor Facebook and just completed Drug Take Back Day.
  - e. Corporal Scheel-Will be piloting the drone, recently finished the SOP for the drone program.
12. First Selectman Mary Bylone:
  - a. COVID update: Colchester is accelerating in numbers, increase in deaths which is pushing us closer to the "red zone."
  - b. Mary also mentioned her support for a shooting range in Colchester which allows for the officers to train under proper conditions, she believes the Police Department will be able to work with the Fire Department to possibly use Shuster Park as a location.
13. Traffic Authority: Nothing to report
14. Old Business: None

RECEIVED  
COLCHESTER, CT  
2020 NOV -2 PM 2:16  
Mary Bylone  
FIRST SELECTMAN  
TOWN OF COLCHESTER



# *Town of Colchester, Connecticut*

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## 15. New Business:

- a. Proposed draft of the new vehicle take home policy was sent to the commissioners for their review, Jim Stavola would like everyone to review and send their thoughts/comments to him prior to next meeting.
- b. The question was asked whether Sergeant Rondinone will be allowed to fly the drone. The answer is yes, per the insurance he will be allowed to fly.
- c. Corporal Scheel and Sean Shoemaker answered questions and gave details regarding the departments new drone program.
  - i. The drone will be operating under the FD license and Certificate of Authorization as only one COA is issued per town government.
  - ii. The police drone will be able to fly at night with a daylight waiver which has been applied for and is awaiting approval, the FD drone does not fly at night.
  - iii. The Colchester PD drone policy will be added as an addendum to the police A&O Manual, Sergeant Hurley from Troop K is in charge of this.
  - iv. The call out procedure for the drone will be as follows: Corporal Scheel will be called, Supervisor will be notified, and permission will be granted to fly. It was mentioned that there should always be a Supervisor available for permission but if not, there is language that the chief pilot has the discretion to deploy if there is an immediate need to preserve life.
  - v. Commissioner Farlekas asked the difference between a visual observer and a pilot-Corporal Scheel explained that a pilot must be 107 certified and trained in basic UAS operations.
  - vi. Sean Shoemaker mentioned that there are a lot of options online for self-study classes and test prep for the 107 certification, training can be self-driven if there is interest in the future.
- d. Sergeant Rondinone mentioned that Corporal Scheel has done a great deal of work to get the drone program up and running.
- e. Carol Vaillancourt made a motion to accept the drone policy as written Bea Farlekas second. Motion carries unanimously.

## 16. Commendations/Awards:

- a. Jim Stavola thanked everyone again for their help with the October 9<sup>th</sup> awards ceremony at the fire department.

## 17. Project Goals and Discussion: none

## 18. Chairman/Commissioner Comments:

- a. Jim Stavola stated he has a deep appreciation for the commission and the role of Chairperson as there is a lot of work involved.

## 19. Motion made by Bea Farlekas for adjournment at 8:20pm second by Debi Marvin. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Swinburne



Resident Trooper Supervisor  
Sgt. Michael Rondinone # 125

# State of Connecticut



Colchester Police

## Connecticut State Police Colchester Resident Troopers' Office

TO: Colchester Police Commission

RE: Monthly Report for October 2020 (October 26, 2020 Meeting @ 1930 hours)

**I. Monthly activity: statistics – previously submitted**

- a. Stats for October 2020- (Attached)

**II. Equipment:**

- a. We have ordered a new Ford 2020 F150 (Police rated) and it will be assigned accordingly once received-the status of the vehicle being delivered is moving slow due to the pandemic.
- b. We have also received a new drone which is an DJI Mavick 2 Enterprise, the drone will be deployable once all administrative guidelines are in place, and presently we have an updated policy which will be submitted to Colchester Police Commission and the CT DESPP for review and approval.

**Officer Training:**

- a. All our Officers have been POSTC recertified and are completing firearms annual training.

**III. Initiatives:**

- a. RX Drug drop box. – It should be noted that we are regularly receiving Pharmaceutical Prescription Drugs dropped off at our facility.
- b. Officers have been fingerprinting individuals for background checks and pistol permit applicants for town residents.
- c. Officers are conducting visibility/enforcement patrols at numerous locations within the town. The Speed Trailer will be deployed at numerous locations throughout the town (weather permitting due to being solar powered).
- d. Notable Investigations: None to report.
- e. Officer Brown # KC 85 has assumed the duties and responsibilities as the Town's SRO.
- f. Adding and outfitting Colchester PD sworn personnel to the DESPP-CT State Police back end client to be compliant with the legislative act concerning BWCs and On-Board video and audio recording capabilities.
- g. Implementing the usage of the DRONE to aid in investigations and emergency incidents where aerial observations will be useful.
- h. Implementing a neighborhood watch format, the Colchester residents can implement in their neighborhoods with the help of social media and getting basic guidance from an officer in the PD.
- i. Researching prospective locations within the town of Colchester for a pistol/rifle range for the PD.

Sgt. Michael Rondinone #125

Colchester Resident State Police Sergeant

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# Activity Summary



Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

End Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

10/1/2020 00:00

10/26/2020 23:59

Colchester

- OR -

Badge numbers separated by commas (####,####,####)

Summary Report

<u>Statistic</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Calls for Service	<u>507</u>
Total Accidents With Report	<u>18</u>
Total Accidents Without Report	<u>1</u>
Total Fatal Accidents	<u>0</u>
Total Fatalities	<u>0</u>
Total Serious Injury Accidents	<u>0</u>
Total Minor Injury Accidents	<u>0</u>
Total Noninjury Accidents	<u>18</u>
Total Accident Dwis	<u>2</u>
Total Onsite Dwis	<u>1</u>
Total Dwis	<u>3</u>
Total Other Reportables	<u>24</u>
Total Nonreportables	<u>445</u>
Total Motorist Assists	<u>9</u>
Total Citations Primary Charge	<u>5</u>
Total Citations All Charges	<u>5</u>
Total Warnings Primary Charge	<u>0</u>
Total Warnings All Charges	<u>5</u>
Total Seatbelt Citations Primary Charge	<u>0</u>
Total Seatbelt Citations All Charges	<u>0</u>
Total Seatbelt Warnings All Charges	<u>0</u>

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