

**City of West Haven, CT
Board of Police Commissioners
Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, March 18, 2025**

The regular meeting of the West Haven Board of Police Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Paul E. Butler at West Haven Police Headquarters, 200 Sawmill Road. All those present, rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

Paul E. Butler, <i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Present
John M. Carrano, <i>Commissioner</i>	Present
Christopher Suggs, <i>Commissioner</i>	Present
Deborah B. Wright, <i>Pension Board Chair and Commissioner</i>	Present
Joseph Perno, <i>Chief of Police</i>	Present
Carl Flemmig, <i>Deputy Chief</i>	Present
Steven J. Johnstone, <i>City Liaison</i>	Present

Agenda

Vice-Chairman Butler MOVED to nominate Commissioner Carrano to act as Chairman for the meeting; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Suggs MOVED to accept the agenda; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Minutes

Commissioner Wright MOVED to accept the minutes from the previous meeting on March 4th, 2025; SECONDED by Commissioner Suggs. Motion carried; Vice-Chairman Butler abstained.

2. Public Input- (1) ONE OPPORTUNITY PER PERSON TO SPEAK FOR A (3) THREE MINUTE TIME LIMIT.

Commissioner Carrano asked three times if any person from the public wished to speak. There being none, he declared the public portion closed.

3. Communications

- 3.1 Animal Control Report – January 2025**
- 3.2 Training Report – January & February 2025**
- 3.3 Traffic Management Report – February 2025**

4. Report of the Chief

Chief Perno announced the Annual Post Road Cup to be held on Saturday, March 22nd, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at Bennett Rink; WHPD vs. Milford PD, benefits will go to local charities.

5. Report of the Deputy Chief

Deputy Chief Flemmig delivered the following report:

“With tonight’s anticipated hiring, we will be staffed at 119 Officers. We have 16 Officers currently unavailable, which leaves us with 103 available Officers.

Recruits Justin Wenzel and Anthony Paiva will graduate from POSTC next Wednesday, March 26th, 2025. The graduation ceremony will be at CCSU Welte Hall at 2:00 p.m.

The West Haven Police Department has successfully met the POSTC State Accreditation Standards for Tier III and we are fully accredited at this time. I would like to thank Capt. Robert Urrata, Capt. Joseph Romano, and Kerri Ruocco for their hard work in accomplishing this goal.”

6. Report of the Committees – None

7. Pension – None

8. Old Business – None

9. New Business

9.1 Promotion – Officer Paul Butler to the Rank of Detective, Effective March 24th, 2025

Vice-Chairman Butler recused himself on Item 9.1. Commissioner Wright MOVED to accept the promotion of Officer Paul Butler to the rank of Detective effective March 24th, 2025 pending discussion; SECONDED by Commissioner Suggs.

Deputy Chief Flemmig delivered the following report:

“Officer Paul Butler III has been with the West Haven Police Department for approximately eleven years. He is a hardworking, dedicated officer who takes pride in his job and often goes above and beyond in the performance of his duties. He is currently assigned to the Patrol Division where he serves as an FTO who is always willing to assist the officers he works alongside, offering guidance and advice to help them in the performance of their duties.

Officer Paul Butler has previously served in the Street Crime Unit and as a Task Force Officer assigned to the FBI. He excelled in both of these assignments and was responsible for conducting complex criminal investigations to the fullest extent possible, drafting and serving arrest and search warrants, examining crime scenes and providing testimony as a witness in court. The experience and knowledge obtained in these assignments has developed Officer Butler’s investigative skills and prepared him for this next step in his career.

Officer Paul Butler is highly respected by the rank and file, and in his new role as a Detective, he will be entrusted with new responsibilities that will challenge him and help him grow professionally. His enthusiasm and sense of duty paired with his experience and job knowledge will make him an excellent addition to our Detective Bureau.

Paul, I want to extend heartfelt congratulations to you and your family on this well deserved promotion.”

Chief Perno delivered the following:

“Paul, this is a very well-deserved assignment and promotion, something that I know that you will not take lightly. I want everyone in the public to know that this is one of the pieces that we have been putting together with the bureau and hiring; this is the future and I’ve said this before with some of the other promotions. Officer Butler has only been here a short while, but with every task he’s been given, he’s taken it to the limit. Officer Butler is one of our best FTO. The only negative aspect of this promotion is the fact that the other Officers won’t have your tutelage. I am personally very happy that

you're taking this fork in the road, and I think someday you will transition into a supervisor position. But first, I think you still want to do some investigative chores. There were a lot of people that were looked at for this position; when we identified the names there were approximately 4-5 others that could have fit. That is a testament to everyone in the department involved in training at a level that makes it hard to narrow it down to who stands out. Officer Butler, we appreciate you always stepping up, showing up, coming in, and even doing what you do off duty. Congratulations, God bless, and God speed."

Motion for promotion carried unanimously; Vice-Chairman Butler abstained.

Officer Paul Butler took the following OATH OF OFFICE:

"I, Paul Butler, do solemnly swear that I will support and comply with the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution and Laws of the State of Connecticut, the Charter, Laws and Ordinances of the City of West Haven, the rules and regulations of the West Haven Police Department, and the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties as Detective for the West Haven Police Department to the best of my ability, so help me God."

9.2 Action on Item 11.1

Vice-Chairman Butler MOVED to postpone Item 9.2 until after Executive Session; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Wright extended a heartfelt appreciation to Capt. Romano for "the big and little things that he does to make a difference in people's lives".

11. Executive Session

Commissioner Wright MOVED to enter Executive Session; SECONDED by Commissioner Suggs. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners entered Executive Session at 7:14 p.m.

The Commissioners returned to regular session at 8:05 p.m.

Commissioner Carrano MOVED to add Item 9.2 to the agenda regarding the hiring of Francisco Damian at Grade-C with a start date of March 31st, 2025; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Wright MOVED to approve Item 11.1 to hire Francisco Damian at Grade-C with a start date of March 31st, 2025; SECONDED by Vice-Chairman Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Adjournment

At 8:06 p.m., Commissioner Carrano MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Commissioner Suggs. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christy Collins
Recording Clerk