

**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 17, 2026, AT 6:00 p.m.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT:

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Chairperson
Commissioner Rory Ghio
Commissioner Dean Kilbourne
Commissioner Paul Lemieux
Commissioner Terry Lewis
Commissioner Gloria Sapp Smith
Council Member Sue Tyler
Jon Mace, Board of Finance Liaison

ABSENT:

Commissioner Terry Lewis

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Michael Boucher, Michael Graboulis, Patrick Parkinson, Simon Censabella, Donna Bolasevich, Joe Silverio, and Josh Wendell received a Letter of Commendation for volunteering to cover the dispatch center while our dispatchers attended the funeral services of a fellow worker.

Officers Jared Yager and Anjay Cardona received a Letter of Commendation and the Officer of the Month award for January 2026 for their brave actions during a structure fire.

Dispatchers Betsy Rosa, Amanda Chomicz, Amy Kish, and Michael Mishol received the Headset Hero Award. Dispatcher Betsy Rosa also received Dispatcher of the Month for January 2026 for their assistance in a structure fire on Mitchell Street.

3. TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT CAMERA PRESENTATION

Chief Morello did a presentation on traffic enforcement cameras.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Patrick Parente, 280 Wolcott Road, expressed his support for traffic enforcement cameras.

Duane Mack, 67 Stearns Street, expressed that the Police Department needs to hold these people accountable for violating traffic enforcement laws.

Dennis King, 70 Gaylord Street, expressed concern about the lack of visibility caused by parking on West Street in front of the Boys and Girls Club. Mr. King stated that he supports the Traffic Enforcement Cameras.

Fire Commissioner Sean Moore, 223 Hollyberry Road, expressed that the Board of Fire Commissioners is in support of the Traffic Enforcement Cameras as referenced in the Police Board packet from the Fire Board.

Chief Rick Hart, 181 North Main Street, expressed his support for the traffic enforcement cameras.

Robert Cochran, 32 Ridge Road, stated that he feels the first thing everyone needs to do is show respect for themselves and others on the road. He also stated that we need more police enforcement on the roads.

Jen Van Gorder, 272 Candlewood Drive, stated that she opposes the traffic cameras.

Thomas Lavigne, 1469 Farmington Avenue, expressed that he opposes the traffic cameras along with 15 retired Bristol Police Officers.

Mary Ann Sirois, 362 Shrub Road, stated that she opposes the traffic cameras and believes police enforcement is the best way to address the problem.

Jim Griffin, 134 Boy Street, expressed that he opposes the traffic enforcement cameras.

Larry Casey, 20 Marion Street, does not agree that Bristol needs traffic enforcement cameras. He expressed that Bristol needs more police presence.

Richard Bouchard, 523 South Street, expressed opposition to the traffic enforcement camera and said we need more police presence.

Darryl Davis, in an online comment, had concerns about traffic enforcement cameras.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu stated that she received 15 emails: 9 were in favor, and 6 were against the traffic enforcement cameras. (emails attached)

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu stated that we are here tonight to listen to the public and to provide as much information as possible about the potential plans for the red-light cameras. The Mayor stated that they have been having other conversations with the superintendent of schools regarding school bus cameras and are focusing on the potential to partner with the Board of Education. During the public participation, some issues came up, and Mayor Zoppo-Sassu responded to the following:

- Traffic Enforcement Cameras are not replacing our workforce. We have 124 sworn officers, including our Community Wellness Officers, and currently have 8 openings. And on any given day, we have officers injured on duty, which affects the quality of service we have expected and received from the Bristol Police Department for years. Cameras are not replacing the workforce, but are a force multiplier.
- Tickets from traffic enforcement cameras are a civil penalty, and there is no direct linkage to DMV in terms of penalties.
- Traffic Enforcement Cameras receive routine calibrations. The vendors have built-in calibration systems.
- Many vendors provide this service. We are not anywhere near that point, and when we are, we will go out for a public bid.
- In terms of the profit, this is not a tax; this is a fine. The City must use the money collected from fines to improve transportation, mobility, and traffic infrastructure.

Mayor Zoppo Sassu explained that, before it can be implemented, the plan must be submitted to the Connecticut DOT and the Ordinance Committee to draft an ordinance. The Ordinance Committee is a three-member committee comprised of three city council members. Those meetings are open to the public. When they have a product that warrants public opinion, they will hold a Public Hearing. Once they are satisfied with their product, it will go to the Police Commission and City Council, where it

could be revised, rejected, or accepted. Once it is accepted, it will go to the City Council for a vote. If approved by the City Council, it becomes a law 14 days later. If it is rejected, it can be sent away or returned here for reevaluation.

Council Member Tyler stated that she is strongly opposed to speed cameras, and as for the school bus cameras, she can't see any reason to oppose them. But she stated that she has questions about the red-light cameras. Cost to the City – we will need personnel to review the footage. Have we had a conversation with the union regarding this? Where are the traffic cameras mounted? Do they get affected by the weather? Can we set limits on the cameras? How often are these cameras calibrated?

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu thanked everyone for joining the meeting tonight and asked for a 5-minute recess.

Council Member Tyler moved TO TAKE A 5 MINUTES RECESS AT 7:37 P.M., Seconded by Commissioner Ghio.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

The Commission reconvened in public session at 7:42 p.m.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Kilbourne moved to APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 18, 2025, REGULAR POLICE BOARD MEETING, Seconded by Council Member Tyler.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

6. APPROVAL OF VARIOUS MONTHLY REPORTS

Commissioner Kilbourne moved to APPROVE MONTHLY REPORTS AND PLACE ON FILE, Seconded by Commissioner Ghio.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Council Member Tyler moved to ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE, Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

8. COMMITTEE MINUTES

Awards Committee

Commissioner Ghio reviewed the Awards Committee minutes.

9. OLD BUSINESS

9.1 Chief Morello

Chief Morello informed the Board that the traffic control signal application for Farmington Avenue @ Jerome Avenue has been sent to the Office of the State Traffic Administration.

9.2 Police Commissioners

None

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Chief Morello

i. DESPP Capital Grant Request

Commissioner Ghio moved to ACCEPT THE DESPP CAPITAL GRANT REQUEST, Seconded by Commissioner Lewis.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

ii. Non-Citizen Police Applicants

Commissioner Kilbourne moved to APPROVE AND REFER MEMO TO CORPORATION COUNSEL FOR REVIEW, Seconded by Commissioner Ghio.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

iii. Internal Affairs Summary 2025

Council Member Tyler moved TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUMMARY 2025, Seconded by Commissioner Sapp Smith.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

10.2 Police Commissioners

Commissioner Lemieux brought up for discussion the no-truck signage on the boulevard. Commissioner Lemieux suggested restricting vehicles by weight class.

Council Member Tyler moved to FORWARD TO PARKS DEPARTMENT, PUBLIC WORKS, AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE TO MAKE A CHANGE TO RESTRICT VEHICLES BY WEIGHT, VEHICLES WEIGHING 10,001 POUNDS OR MORE ON THE BOULEVARD, Seconded by Commissioner Lewis.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

11. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sapp Smith moved to ADJOURN, Seconded by Commissioner Lewis.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

The regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners called for the 17th day of February, 2026, was HEREBY ADJOURNED AT 8:08 p.m.

Lisa Ziogas
Recording Secretary