



**Common Council
City of Middletown
May 18, 2021**

1. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call: Ald. Ramkissoon, Tobin, Kleiner, Johnson, Burr, Green, Masi, Pres. Rodrigues - 8. Jean-Francois - Absent.

Pres. Rodrigues: For the Good of the City, we'd like to invite the Mayor and the Chief up.

John Ewanciw, Chief of Police: Good evening. Before I begin this evening, I'd like to thank Mayor DeStefano, the Common Council, and the Police Commission for providing me with this opportunity to publicly recognize three members of the Police Department for their recent promotions, and to acknowledge the outstanding bravery and courage exhibited by Police Officer Evan Barone during a critical incident that took place in August of 2020. I would also like to thank the family members, friends, city residents, and the members of the Middletown Police Department who have joined us either in-person or remotely this evening, to celebrate the accomplishments of these four members.

At the conclusion of my remarks I will officially pin each officer, but I will first provide a brief overview of each officer and their service to our organization.

Lieutenant Evan Colon began his career with MPD on September 4th, 2007. He has a Bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Delaware.

Early within his career, Lieutenant Colon was recognized as being one of the future leaders of MPD due to his professionalism, commitment to service, and his ability to constantly perform his duties with the departmental goals and objectives in mind.

As a Patrol Officer, Lieutenant Colon was extremely active, and consistently ranked as one of the agency's top performers, which led to various special assignments and duties, including his assignment to the department's "Crime Suppression Team," which consisted of a group of highly motivated police officers tasked with addressing various types of street crimes and quality of life issues.

Lieutenant Colon became a certified police instructor, developing detailed lesson plans and presentations to aid in the instruction of police officers on critically important topics such as legal updates, the use of deadly physical force, and stop and frisk procedures.

Lieutenant Colon became a Field Training Officer, where he trained and supervised newly appointed police officers, which afforded him an opportunity to impart his experiences and proactive work style to the newest members of our department. He was selected for this role in hope that he would use his experiences to train and emulate his work performance in the new officers he was training.

Lieutenant Colon also became a certified Crisis & Hostage Negotiator, which tasked him with establishing communication with high risk individuals such as barricaded or suicidal subjects, in an effort to achieve peaceful resolutions to these potentially life-threatening situations.

In June of 2015, Lieutenant Colon was promoted to the rank of Detective, and assigned to the Department's Investigative Division, where he joined the ranks of some of the most talented and dedicated criminal investigators within our region. As a Detective, Lieutenant Colon continued to demonstrate his dedication and commitment to the City of Middletown, investigating serious crimes, and conducting countless interviews of victims and witnesses. This position required him to work closely not only with the various units of MPD, but also with our fellow law enforcement partners on the local, state and federal levels.

In August of 2017 Lieutenant Colon was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and was assigned back to the Patrol Division. In this very important role he provided direct supervision over the field operations of a patrol squad, where he was responsible to ensure that the Patrol Officers served this community with professionalism and within the guidelines of our Departmental Policy and Procedures.

Throughout his tenure, Lieutenant Colon has been honored with numerous awards and commendations for his excellence in police work, and he has proven time and time again his outstanding dedication to the City of Middletown Police Department. I am honored to recognize his promotion to the rank of Lieutenant, as he is now one of the top-ranking members of the Middletown Police Department.

Congratulations.

Sergeant Richard Regino began his career at MPD on September 10th, 2012.

He has a Bachelor's degree in Human Resources from Mount Saint Mary College.

As a patrol Officer, Sergeant Regino was extremely active, constantly being one of the Department's top performers in regards to arrests and traffic summons. He was also known for his sincere interest in addressing quality of life issues and addressing the root cause of community problems. Sergeant Regino's proactive patrol style and great communication skills ultimately led him to his assignment as one of the Department's Neighborhood Enhancement Officers. He accepted this responsibility in November of 2016, and quickly demonstrated his unique ability to listen to residents' issues and work collectively with them and our community partners to resolve the issues. As a Neighborhood Enhancement Officer, Sergeant Regino was tasked with addressing quality of life and nuisance issues throughout the city, and in doing so he not only creatively utilized resources from within MPD, but he also established partnerships with the City's Code Enforcement Department, the schools, and various other local organizations. This multifaceted approach provided a foundation for reinventing the manner in which our agency addressed neighborhood complaints. In this role, Sergeant Regino built lasting relationships, and quickly became known throughout the city as one of the "go-to" officers for assistance in resolving and solving difficult problems.

In addition to his role as a Neighborhood Enhancement Officer, Sergeant Regino also wore several other hats, to include being a Field Training Officer. He trained and supervised newly appointed police officers, imparting his knowledge and experience, to include how to effectively build a stronger bond with the community. Sergeant Regino is also a certified police instructor, and is one of the Department's lead instructor for CPR & AED, as well as other lifesaving medical procedures, given his strong medical background as a paramedic prior to becoming a police officer.

Sergeant Regino is also a certified bicycle officer and Child Passenger Safety Seat Technician. As a bicycle officer, Sergeant Regino utilized the bicycle as a means to further enhance his community and youth engagement, during his patrols throughout the city, especially on the newly created reservoir trail system. As a certified Child Passenger Safety Seat Technicians, Sergeant Regino educated and assisted parents with the acquisition and installation of car seats, ensuring that parents had the correct style and size car seat needed to correctly fit their child, so as to afford a safe and comfortable car ride. This was probably very helpful for him as he and his wife just welcomed their second child three weeks ago.

Throughout his tenure with our organization, Sergeant Regino has been honored with numerous awards and commendations for excellence in police work, to include being recognized as a department leader in the issuance of traffic summonses for several years. He is also the recipient of five Lifesaving awards.

Sergeant Regino continues to demonstrate his professionalism and commitment to The Middletown Police Department, and I am honored to have him

-serving in his new role as a Patrol Sergeant. I am confident he will draw on his extensive knowledge and experience to guide the members of his squad, and ensure that they continue to provide the highest level of professionalism and service to the City of Middletown. Congratulations.

Detective Andrew Rosen began his career at MPD on March 3rd, 2008 and has an Associates' degree in Social Science from Middletown's own SUNY Orange.

Like his two colleagues who stand beside him, Detective Rosen has always been a very active, and committed member of the department who has constantly endeavored to provide the residents of this great city a police service that is second to none.

One of the many highlights of Detective Rosen's career was his 4-plus-year assignment to the Narcotics Unit, where he worked diligently, investigating high level narcotics related offenses. In this role, Detective Rosen worked hand-in-hand with our various law enforcement partners on the local, state, and federal level, bringing countless narcotics operatives to justice, and removing dangerous drugs and weapons from our streets. While assigned to the Narcotics Unit, Detective Rosen was instrumental in the gang and narcotics investigation that led to the arrest and conviction of the four persons responsible for the murder of Corey White.

During his career, Detective Rosen was tasked with several other important responsibilities, to which he was fully committed. These responsibilities included being a Field Training Officer, where he trained and supervised newly appointed police officers. He is also a certified police instructor, as well as a firearms and less lethal impact munitions instructor. In these two very important roles, Detective Rosen is responsible for training the members of our department in the safe and proper handling of firearms and less lethal weapons, as well as achieving proficiency under varying high stress conditions.

Detective Rosen also spent some time in the department's Neighborhood Enhancement Unit, where he worked collectively to address nuisance and quality of life issues. Detective Rosen's most recent assignment, however, was the very challenging position of School Resource Officer in the Middletown High School. In this role, Detective Rosen was tasked with helping to create a safer environment for the staff and students at the High School, but more importantly, he had to work as an educator and department liaison, working to develop trust between the students and the police department. His commitment, compassion, and outstanding communication skills allowed him to excel in this position. Detective Rosen served as a role model for students and was able to connect with and build lasting relationships with many people, inspiring them to do their very best. He became the conduit for information between the school, the police department, the community, and various local organizations and services. He will definitely be missed in this role.

Detective Rosen was honored with several awards and commendations for his work as a police officer, to include a life saving award.

Throughout his career, he has demonstrated time and again his professionalism and commitment, to the Middletown Police Department, always going above and beyond what was expected of him. I am honored to recognize his promotion to the position of Detective, where he will work hand-in-hand with an elite group of dedicated criminal investigators to bring closure to criminal cases. Congratulations.

Now we're going to come forward to conduct the actual pinning ceremony of the new promoted members.

A round of applause for them? (Applause) Just a few more words and I'll let you get back to sit with your families.

Lieutenant Colon, Sergeant Regino, & Detective Rosen, your dedication and commitment to the Middletown Police Department is inspiring and so greatly appreciated. I know that each of you have put in countless hours studying and working hard to achieve these promotions. I commend you for efforts and your dedication to this community.

Without a doubt, each of you will be faced with new challenges as you embark upon this next chapter within your careers. In today's environment, we are all seeing that policing is undergoing significant change and reform, but you have my promise that I will support and assist you every step of the way, as will the other dedicated men and women of this organization. I encourage you to stay true to yourselves, and true to the strong morals and ethics that have led you to your new positions. I ask that you always remember the oath that you took, in which you swore to protect and serve the people of this community. I also ask that you always remember why you became a police officer. As you enter into your new roles, I implore you to strive for excellence in everything that you do, and also from the people you serve with, so that you can continue to work diligently towards achieving the goals and objectives of our organization, and ensuring the safety and security of this great city. Lastly, I ask that you embrace the words of Lieutenant General David Morrison "the standard you walk by is the standard you accept", and please maintain the integrity of our organization that has existed for the past 133 years. Congratulations. (Applause)

Officer Barone, will you kindly join me? Officer Evan Barone, thank you for coming this evening.

Officer Barone began his career with the Middletown Police Department on October 16th, 2017, at 23 years old. Besides playing football, there was nothing Officer Barone wanted to do more than to become a Police Officer, and even more so a City of Middletown Police Officer where he could serve the community that he was born and raised in. On August 14th, 2018, after completing the Police Academy and his field training, Officer Barone hit the streets ready to take on the challenges of policing, with his great demeanor, his joyous personality, and his huge smile guiding him on his way. Helping people came natural to Officer Barone, and he excelled in his position, lead-

ing to his assignment within the Neighborhood Enhancement Unit in December of 2019. In this assignment, he worked diligently building trust throughout the community, while working to resolve the root causes of neighborhood issues. Officer Barone embraced this assignment which is clearly evident by the following statement that he wrote on his evaluation in February 2020: “I love coming to work everyday for an organization as great as the City of Middletown Police Department. I am thankful for every and all opportunities that should come my way. I would like to continue helping my hometown community on the more personal level that I am awarded via the Neighborhood Enhancement Unit”.

It’s obvious that serving his hometown is very rewarding to Officer Barone, and he did it every day with honor. Then came Saturday August 29th, 2020. This day started out as any other day did for Officer Barone—he headed out of headquarters smiling ear-to-ear, ready to patrol his assigned neighborhoods. Unfortunately, we all now know, this day ended up being anything but close to ordinary, in fact this day ended up being the day that changed Officer Barone’s life forever.

At approximately 7:42 PM, as Officer Barone, was driving up Myrtle Ave., he was flagged down by a female in front of 28 Myrtle Avenue for an unknown problem. Officer Barone pulled over to the side of the road and exited his patrol vehicle to speak with the female. The female advised Officer Barone that her ex-boyfriend had arrived at her residence uninvited, and was refusing to leave. She further went on to state that he was armed with a gun. Just as the female was explaining the situation to Officer Barone, the unwanted male subject burst out of the residence and onto the front porch with a handgun, and fired without warning, striking Officer Barone in the left forearm. Without hesitation, Officer Barone immediately returned fire, striking the male subject in the lower extremities and head. In a fraction of a second, Officer Barone’s entire world was flipped upside down. Not only was he just involved in a near-death experience in which he was wounded, he also had multiple people all around him yelling and screaming. Officer Barone knew that he had to maintain control of this chaos in order to not only protect himself, but also protect the numerous adults and children that were all around him at 28 Myrtle Ave, as the suspect was still an active threat in possession of a firearm. Officer Barone did just that—he took a few steps back, called for assistance, assessed himself, and like a true warrior, he took control of the chaos, ensuring the safety of all. With the assistance of his fellow officers the scene was quickly secured.

I want to take a minute to put this incident into perspective. This entire incident, from the moment that Officer Barone exited his patrol car until the time that his backup arrived, was approximately 2 minutes, most likely the longest two minutes of Officer Barone’s life. But even more noteworthy is that it was actually less than 20 seconds from the time Officer Barone exited his patrol car until the moment he was engaged in a gunfight, a fight for his life. So when you break it down even further, Officer Barone, had only moments to comprehend the fact that he was being shot at and to react.

This is the tragic and unfortunate reality of policing, officers have to make life changing decisions in fractions of seconds, while under extreme stress. Most of the time in these high-stress, rapidly evolving situations, the involved officers do not have the benefit to discuss or explore their options, they don't have the luxury to call a time-out and review camera footage, they must simply react in a manner that not only protects themselves, but also to protect others, and that is exactly what Officer Barone did on August 29th, 2020.

We are all very fortunate that Officer Barone has amazing instincts, that he utilized his training and experience and that he reacted as he did, because if not the results of this incident could have been very different. Let's face it, the defendant in this case, Desean Owens, who had an extensive violent criminal history, came to Middletown on August 29th, 2020, unannounced and armed with a handgun. I think it is safe to say he didn't come here with good intentions.

It is for the selfless, heroic, lifesaving actions Officer Barone demonstrated on August 29th, 2020, that he is being recognized and awarded for this evening.

Officer Barone: It is with great honor, I present you with the Medal of Valor, which is awarded to Department members for conspicuous gallantry while acting in the line of duty. This award is presented to officers for acts of exceptional bravery performed at very high risk to their own lives with full awareness of the danger involved. It is also with great honor that I present you with the Law Enforcement Purple Heart award, which is issued to law enforcement officers who are injured, wounded or killed in the line of duty.

If I could have everyone stand please? Before you go back to your seats, I would like to have everyone salute you. If you don't mind joining me, I think he definitely earned it in the circumstances.

At this time, I would once again like to thank everyone that came out this evening, and I'd like to once again congratulate Lieutenant Evan Colon, Sergeant Richard Regino, and Detective Andrew Rosen on their achievements. Congratulations again, gentlemen. I would also like to once again thank Officer Evan Barone for his bravery and the extreme sacrifices he made in service to the City of Middletown and the City of Middletown Police Department. Thank you once again. (Applause)

Mayor DeStefano: I don't have my mask on. Today is the... there's only a little more time to vote on the Board of Education, so please go out and vote. But more importantly, on behalf of myself as Mayor and also Chairman of the City of Middletown Police Commission and Common Council and residents, I want to acknowledge the bravery, the courage, and the commitment of Evan, his wife and family, and well, I've known Sam since we were kids at our street playground, and the trauma that they went through, the family, also has to be recognized. I think Evan's reactions are an indication of good upbringing too, and also the investments that we make as a body, as a, as a Common Council into training and the decisions that we make as a body, that as the chief acknowledged, we look at as an investment, and that investment reaps us the

professionalism and the courage of a professional Police Department here in the city of Middletown that has the support of our community and has the support of the Common Council and has the support of the police commission and to also acknowledged the great professionalism of the chief and his management staff. So congratulations to all, congratulations Evan on a well-deserved honor and we are 100% behind you and I want to thank you and your families for all your commitment to our community. Thank you.

John Ewanciw, Chief of Police: That concludes our presentation this evening. I'd like to thank the council for allowing me to publicly recognize the members of the department for their amazing accomplishments and for Officer Barone's heroic behavior and performance. Thank you.

Pres. Rodrigues: Thank you Chief. At this time, we'll take a short 10-minute break.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion of Ald. Masi seconded by Ald. Green to accept the minutes of February 09, 2021, February 16, 2021 and March 02, 2021.

All in favor.

4. Correspondence

Nothing this evening

5. For the Good of the City

Nothing this evening

6. Remarks of the Mayor

Mayor DeStefano: We'll keep it short

Pres. Rodrigues: Thank you.

Mayor DeStefano: The garbage can distribution is still continuing. The BID district portion is on hold for now because there is such a large demand, plus we didn't buy enough of the smaller cans, that we had to order more so we're looking to figure out what we're going to do for now in the interim for the BID district. But the rest of the city we're going to be — once passed, I think it's on the agenda tonight for passage — we will be putting together the brochure that will be delivered and either mailed, it will be online, and we will be trying to deliver it to “problem properties” or people who are not following the rules, to have it explained exactly what the program is. We ask people to go online now and read what the resolution states but we're going to wait for the brochure. But you need to put the lids on, and you can't use it for yard waste. You should have an idea by now whether the one large can is going to be sufficient; if not, you can order a second can. I paid my \$100 last week, the next day I had a second can in my yard and it would be \$100 additional per year.

Recycling is up, the only complaint I've heard is that cardboard takes up a lot, but we're talking about breaking down the cardboard and not just putting a box into the can. For the most part the feedback from the community is very positive. The feel it's keeping the neighborhoods cleaner, with less animals going through the trash and no cans blowing around, and just the overall appearance has been very positive.

Other than that, the CDA program: we sold another house at the corner of Beattie and Wickham. It's working well, four more properties went into the CDA upon discussions with Maria Bruni, Economic Development Director. We're looking at possibly the funding the CDA with some more of these homes, using RPA money also. That might be a proposal to you folks, as we come down with all of the money that needs to be spent over the next two years.

In regards to the O&W Station, we did get a report from our engineer. We're putting that together, we're meeting with Head Start, with ABCD Head Start as a potential tenant. I think it's doable. We're going to present the numbers to you folks within a couple of weeks, once we get all our answers from the different elected officials that we're seeking funding from. But we think it's a very doable project, and that's probably, uh, probably the most impactful project from my perspective, that we can have in the RPA monies.

Other than that I have nothing further. If you have any questions I'll be more than happy to address them.

Pres. Rodrigues: Alderman Kleiner?

Ald. Kleiner: Just very quickly, I have a request for an update on the Heritage Trail. Is there any news?

Mayor DeStefano: The meeting was canceled again. They keep cancelling the meetings. Jacob did though have a conversation with Mr. Sorensen, the new County planner who's been there a few months now, and he did tell us, or told Jacob, that all of the funding is in place. It's going to happen, it's just a matter of us sitting down with him to see that final plan. As you know, they modified it where they're going to have two branches coming through downtown. That's what they were looking at the last time we met. But the last two meetings have been postponed for, I don't know what, for what reasons, but I think personal reasons on their side, not on our side. But we are pushing it, we want this thing to go out to bid this year, and we can't do so until we agree on the passageway through downtown.

By the way, we will also be fencing in with decorative fence the skateboard park. We had our insurance agent review it also. We were getting complaints of people flying off the skatepark down onto the sidewalk and into the road, and it created somewhat of a hazardous condition. Maria had money in her Community Development budget, Economic Development line, so we will be doing a nice decorative fence around 3/4 of the facility so that people can't end up landing on the sidewalk or going out into the road, onto Union Street

and onto Depot Street. So you might be seeing that go out. We did a purchase order for it. It's federal money, it's not City money. But we did so after consultation with Greg Townsend from Marshall & Sterling and he agreed with our analysis that we should do something there. But it will look nice, it's a nice decorative black fence.

Pres. Rodrigues: Anyone else for the Mayor? Thank you Mayor.

Mayor DeStefano: Thank you.

7. Remarks of Dept. Heads

Maria Bruni, Economic Development: Good evening. Just a couple items. This Friday we have a ribbon cutting at 7 South Street, Touchdown Sports Cards just opened up a few weeks ago, so we're going to have a ribbon-cutting, and that's on behalf of the City and the Business Improvement District. So, 3:30 p.m., see you for the ribbon-cutting there.

Also, June 5th, the Farmers Market will begin. We're going to be at our new location, but we're going to utilize Union Street until the Erie Way Park is fully completed. We're waiting for sod, irrigation, and then I believe the Pavilion is on its way to, to go up, so we're going to utilize Union Street until that's ready to go. It will be a nice transition. You'll see it on the agenda tonight, to close Union Street on Saturdays beginning June 5th, I believe we asked up until August just to give us a little time. So we're looking forward, uh, I know the BID in our department along with Stephanie, Eileen and Joseph, have been working really hard to make this move and get the farmers online, and you know, transition to the new location. And of course follow COVID rules and stuff that we have to still abide by. That's all I have for tonight.

Pres. Rodrigues: Any questions for Maria? Thank you Maria.

Maria Bruni, Economic Development: Thank you.

Jacob Tawil, DPW Commissioner: Good evening all. So, we'll start off you have couple of new resolutions from DPW before you. One of them is 10 acres subdivision right for the property adjacent to our water treatment plant. Like we talked about, we discussed at the last time, it's going to be purchased hopefully for \$200,000 subject to, subject to appraisal agreeing with that number. It's going to be just there for the future, whenever the City of Middletown decides to expand their water treatment plant, their water treatment system, new technology, new requirements, new whatever, they'll be ready to have property for them to expand, rather than being constrained like they are right now. So we urge your support. The engineer would be doing the lot subdivision in there, and to create a 10 acre lot for us, for the water treatment plant, will be merged into the water treatment plant.

That is an item. The other item is the reservoir. Alderman Masi, we're at 100% capacity, they're all topped off, we're in very good shape, I wish we had more volume to store, but we're good with that.

Yesterday we started our first algae treatment, which is using copper sulfate

added to our reservoirs, and that was concluded yesterday, so that's a treatment just to be used as a preventive maintenance. We have a low dosage of copper sulfate in there to control the algae so it doesn't become a problem, and we keep on at it, we monitor it on a weekly basis, we monitor the oxygen, PH, and different parameters in there on a weekly basis so we will not be blindsided because many times in the past the City did hit, uh, was hit with algae blooms, which caused it to lose some of its reservoirs. Hopefully, we're being proactive, we were very successful with that technique the last few years, so hopefully it will not happen again, and we'll be on top of it.

Tomorrow night as you know we have the finished water mains, and they are starting from from the water treatment plant, down to Monhagen Avenue and they are under construction at this time. And tomorrow night we're going to be doing a critical switchover — actually tie-in, not a switchover yet — tie-in the new pipes into the existing pipe at the water treatment plant. For that we have to have a shutdown on the high-pressure system. That will take place tomorrow night 11 o'clock until 3 o'clock, that is the shutdown. We don't anticipate to have any water shortages in there because there's very minimal demand at the time, for the high pressure system; about 900 gallons per minute. We have water storage tanks available and then we have the County Route 78 back feed into the system available for us. So we don't expect any issues, but the Fire Department has been advised, the Health Department has been advised because that's a major step. I will be there tomorrow night throughout the process until the tie-in is completed and line is flushed, and so we're in good shape. We did send the Nixle this morning to everybody, we'll send another Nixle tomorrow morning and towards the end of the day.

Again, we don't expect anything to happen, but who knows. You know it's, it's a tie-in, things could happen, so that things could go, could go bad. We will be topping off all of our water storage tank, tanks, throughout the system in preparations just in case.

The full... uh, the, we're preparing for the milling and paving. The Mayor has the final list of streets and he'll be distributing that to you guys, and we will be starting the milling next, this coming Monday, so you know, you're going to, you're going to find some, some traffic issues in there, we'll try our best to accommodate everybody; but please bear with us because we're doing a tremendous amount of milling and paving this year, among everything else that is taking place. So bear with us and just plan accordingly, and be careful when you're driving the rough roads and and we'll try to make it, do our best to make it as smooth as possible, but please be careful, be on the lookout for manholes, there's going to be cones, barrels in the middle of the road in there to identify manhole covers and valves and so on and so forth, because some of them are going to stick out a little bit, so just be careful. Sometimes the, the barrels are blown away, so just be mindful of it please and keep your eyes open. We appreciate that very much, all your cooperation.

The other thing is the DEC, today they concluded the drilling of wells, monitoring wells at the site which is what we call Miamisburg or the or the

Magnolia Park. Basically it's East Main Street and Anthony Street in there, and it is the old, reputed, reputedly, the old landfill for coal ash so DEC is doing that on their own, it has nothing to do with us, has nothing to do that there is pollution or there is any issue like that, but they'll be monitoring the ground water table in there which is obviously none of us, City of Middletown or town of Walkill, we use, we use that, that area or that aquifer. But that's their job, they're going to be monitoring it and hopefully everything will be okay. They'll be doing some sampling and so on.

New York Rising, in there you know that we signed two contracts in there, with RJ Cruz and Boyce Excavation, for two different sites West Main and Grand, Grand Street which is Draper Brook to replace the culverts, underground culverts/bridges and tomorrow we're going to have on-site conference in there, construction conference with Orange & Rockland regarding gas electric and cable, and the contractors, to make sure because many of the poles they have to be relocated in there, because we have to drive sheet piles and so on and so forth. So we've been, we've been preparing for this and so will have our meeting tomorrow at the site. That will be our second meeting for it. Some of you may remember that the Mayor and I have been meeting with DEC several times in the past about water withdrawal permits in there. The DEC, they have a new system in there that they have to before we had individual permits, maybe five of them, to draw water from different places now they combined everything in one, in one place, in one permit, so we're working with them right now with the draft permit, and so, so you would know hopefully we'll get it resolved in a very good way for the City of Middletown, and we should not have an issue with it. But we have some comments about the draft and hopefully the DEC will accommodate our request.

Davidge Park expansion: in there we're still almost wrestling with the, with the, with the, you know, to try to get this job up and running; and, and every time we think we plugged one thing, another things open up. Today I have sent a letter out and I copied the council president and the Mayor, and I copied, I sent it to John, so John will be sending it to all the council members in there, basically going through all the steps that were taken and where we are. So they may try all the best, I'm trying my best, and you have to get this job going, and to make a job out of it, but I'm very extremely frustrated. But we will see what happens, I'll just keep, will keep slugging, and then we'll get it, we'll get it, we'll get it going at some point.

With that, do you have any questions for me? Oh, the grass! The grass, please, reminder: we send out 414 letters for the residents in there, for the high grass. Many of you guys complied and we appreciate it very much and we thank you for it. We started cutting private lots and. and we billed up to \$2,500 so far, so please when you get our letter considered it as a reminder, a reminder. It will count against you. The second, the second reminder is going to be 2 days, and then we'll start cutting. So please help us out, keep the properties clean and cut and we appreciate that very much and we thank the people who responded to us positively so far.

Any questions for me?

Pres. Rodrigues: Questions for Jacob? Thank you Jacob. Fire Chief?

Nick Barber, Fire Chief: Good evening. I don't have much to say. Y'all heard we had a three alarm fire last night, minor injuries, everybody was lucky last night in that condo complex. Any questions?

Pres. Rodrigues: Any questions for the Fire Chief? Alderman Masi?

Ald. Masi: On behalf of everyone here, thank you and your entire department, you saved a lot of lives last night.

Nick Barber, Fire Chief: Thank you. PD was there, they did a great job. It was lucky it came in around that time and not at 1 a.m.

Ald. Masi: That ladder truck saved a lot of buildings too.

Nick Barber, Fire Chief: The two people up there. Thank you.

Pres. Rodrigues: Police Chief?

John Ewanciw, Chief of Police: Good evening once again. I do have a few things just to address this evening. As the weather warms, so we're starting to deal with fireworks calls; and as we move into the Fourth of July, you know, weekend, is not that far away in reality but I just want to remind the residents and everyone else that's listening. Fireworks are not legal here in the city Middletown, in no form or fashion. Even though you could buy them at Walmart and other stores and ShopRite in and around the area, they are legal in other municipalities, however, as the council knows, they opted out of the fireworks law a couple years ago. We are putting in place a plan for more enforcement this year to try to address it prior to that weekend.

We'll be participating May 26th with school and a career expo. It's a virtual career expo. I know when we did our police panels several months ago, that was one of the topics that came up is how are we reaching out to the members of the community, to entice members of the community to take the police test and join the force; so on May 26th I have officers assigned to participate in the career expo. Again, it is virtual, it is being hosted by the Middletown School District and they invited us to participate in it .

This coming weekend, the 22nd, Scott Gallagher — he's our Downtown Officer — he's coordinated along with the BID district a downtown clean up on a smaller scale than what we traditionally have done in the past of the city wide cleanup. He's organized with a couple of organizations, local organizations, to do a few hours in the downtown to get the streets cleaned up. Just in case anybody doesn't know or just for information, he did a similar project in collaboration with the BID district and some of the businesses about a month ago and cleaning up graffiti. They acquired the paint and went around on an early Saturday morning and addressed the graffiti on the buildings. So kudos to Officer Gallagher in the BID district for working to clean up the downtown.

The information cards that I provided the council earlier; I do have additional

ones. We had several printed and we can have more printed as needed; basically the goal actually came as an idea from Alderman Johnson and the Mayor, is to get information out about NIXLE. Get it out to the community as you engage with people in the community. Just a quick cards to hand out that has the NIXLE information as well as some other pertinent telephone numbers.

Just to piggyback on what the Fire Chief said; the Buttonwood fire, it was horrific last night and as he said, everybody did an amazing job. I would like to thank him and his staff, and my staff, all the support services that came out. Really a horrific scene. You know, to me that's one of the worst things you can do, lose your home, everything that you have, and unfortunately we have 16 families that did lose their home as a result of that. On a more positive note, Sgt. Welch worked with Buttonwood organism, uh, organization today and some of the other support services, to get some information about the families that lost their homes, and she's putting together a list of needs. We will be pushing it out through social media and on our website, and we're going to make our job building the drop off point; so once we get that out, if anybody is willing to donate, I'm sure the families will definitely appreciate that.

I did speak with Alderman Kleiner in regards the department stats. I know he posed the question regarding stats. I just want to let everybody know, I'm always more than willing to discuss our stats. I typically don't address them in the council meeting cause I do address them in my monthly Police Commission meeting, which is televised. It is the third Thursday of every month right here in this Chambers. We do televise them, we do talk about Police Operations a little more in-depth than I do here at the, at the council meetings. However, I'm always open to discuss them and additionally we post our monthly stats on our website. So for anybody that is interested, it's a quick link on the right side of our website, and I know it's up to date up though April right now, but again, if anybody ever has any questions, I normally have them with me or I'm available most times to discuss them.

Last couple of things. The promotions, I appreciate that you give me the opportunity to recognize those officers on their accomplishments. They truly work very hard to achieve those promotions, and to come here in front of their family, in front of the community, it's very important to them; so thank you for that. Same with Officer Barone, well-deserved, I appreciate the support, and I'd like to wish him and hopefully everybody wishes him, you know, a speedy recovery. He still has a long way to go, but he's, he's really made a lot of strides and it was great to see him in here this evening. Other than that I have nothing unless you have questions for me

Pres. Rodrigues: Questions for the Police Chief? Thank you Chief. Corporation Counsel?

Alex Smith, Corporation Counsel: I don't have anything to report unless anybody's got any questions for me

Pres. Rodrigues: Any questions for Alex? Thank you Alex. City Clerk?

John Naumchik, City Clerk: I have nothing this evening.

Pres. Rodrigues: Any questions for John? All right. Remarks of Aldermen, Alderman Masi.

10. Remarks of Aldermen and reports of committees

Ald. Masi: I really don't have anything other than, everyone's going to say the same thing; we are very proud of the officers that were promoted and we're certainly very proud of Evan. And to thank everyone in the community for their involvement.

Ald. Tobin: Must have read my mind. Congratulations to Officers Colon, Regino, Rosen and Barone, thank you. Can't thank you enough. A big thank you to the firefighters and the police department for their heroic work at the Buttonwood condos. Prayers go out to the families, our constituents, the 16 families that lost their homes, and to the victim, all victims of domestic violence. It's a horrible crime, can't imagine what it's like to lose your home. And that's it for me.

Ald. Green: Thank you. I'll echo the congratulations, the recognition, and thank you Office Barone and also to all the police, fire and EMS from last night's event. It was a well-combined effort and we really appreciate all you do. Thank you.

Ald. Johnson: I agree with my colleagues, and I hope that the NIXLE cards which is kind of this best-kept secret, and I think if we can get more participation the world will be a better place. And I'll be in good company: I also will be joining the virtual career night but not as a police officer, as a veterinarian. Thank you.

Ald. Ramkissoon: Good evening. I just wanted to say thanks to the fire department for another great job keeping our community safe in a very serious and scary fire. My congratulations to Lt. Colon, Sgt. Regino and Det. Rosen, and a big thank you to Officer Barone for his bravery and quick-thinking in his outstanding police work. I think it's just an example of why we have such an exemplary Police Department here that serves our community. We're very lucky to have all of our officers on the department.

Just for a little bit of business for the Third Ward: next week, Tuesday the 25th, will be our third ward meeting for the month of May and we will be at 6 p.m. at Maple Hill Park so look for us there and we like to bring refreshments so it's a good time. That's all I have.

Ald. Kleiner: Thank you. Quite a night here. I also want to thank the Police Department and congratulate the people, the officers, on their promotions. Well-deserved, you know, we worked with them for a long time and, and we have a great department. And Officer Barone, it's nice to see him up and doing well. What can you say, except thank you.

And also to the fire department, last night did not hear the alarm go in, I saw the news today and I went, wow, so what a great job; and this is why LOSAP

is just a no-brainer. Whatever we can do for our volunteers, yeah, move it, move it forward. I hope everyone will support it when it's on the ballot. I also want to thank John Naumchik for doing some work on our minutes, which, Council minutes, which needed a little, needed a little help this time. Thank you John.

We'll be voting on The Ruthie Dino Run tonight, and I will vote for it and closing the street so I want to thank the Chief for his work with the YMCA in trying to minimize it as much as possible as far as closing. In the second ward they will be going in the opposite direction and stopping on Wallkill instead of Cantrell and they will open up as quickly as they can so, it's a good cause, then let's just bear with it for for the short time.

Before our next meeting, our next meeting is the day after Memorial Day, so I want to remind people: May 31st is Memorial Day. There will not be a parade this year. The Middletown American Legion will have a very short service at 11 a.m., a very small service. The Town of Wallkill, in the Town of Wallkill Memorial Park, Veterans Memorial Park, next to Maddie's Diner at 10 a.m., is also going to have a small service. So keep that in mind, remembering all our veterans and thank you. Alderman Masi is our veteran on the council and I thank you. And I will see you next time, thank you.

Ald. Burr: I'd just like to congratulate our officers on all the promotions and a great honor for Officer Barone, it's well-deserved. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

11. Unfinished Business

Nothing this evening

12. New Business

107.21 - Resolution to approve to expand the LOSAP benefit from \$700.00 to \$1,200.00 annually and authorize the City Clerk to place this expansion on the ballot for a vote in November 2021.

On motion of Ald. Masi, seconded by Ald. Tobin.

Ald. Green: I just want to note that as a volunteer, I will be abstaining from this. Thank you.

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to approve to expand the LOSAP benefit from \$700.00 to \$1,200.00 annually and to place this expansion of the LOSAP benefit on the ballot for a vote in November 2021.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ramkissoon, Tobin, Kleiner, Johnson, Burr, Masi,
Pres. Rodrigues - 7
Abstained: Green - 1
Absent: Jean-Francois - 1

108.21 - Resolution to ratify the contract between the Middletown Professional Firefighters, Inc. and the City of Middletown dated January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023.

On motion of Ald. Tobin, seconded by Ald. Kleiner

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to ratify the attached contract between the Middletown Professional Firefighters, Inc. and the City of Middletown dated January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ramkissoon, Tobin, Kleiner, Johnson, Burr, Green, Masi, Pres. Rodrigues - 8
Absent: Jean-Francois - 1

109.21 - Resolution to rescind Resolution #228-20 adopted on November 11, 2020 in regards to Chapter 215 COVID-19 Enforcement by requiring the wearing of facemasks or face coverings in the City of Middletown to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

On motion of Ald. Green, seconded by Ald. Ramkissoon

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown hereby rescinds Resolution # 228-20 adopted on November 11, 2020 in regards to Chapter 215 COVID-19 Enforcement, in regards to wearing face masks or face coverings in the City of Middletown to prevent the spread of COVID-19

Roll Call: Ayes: Ramkissoon, Tobin, Kleiner, Johnson, Burr, Green, Masi, Pres. Rodrigues - 8
Absent: Jean-Francois - 1

110.21 - Resolution to close any and all streets and intersections necessary for the YMCA Annual Ruthie Dino Marshall Run on Sunday, June 13, 2021, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

On motion of Ald. Johnson, seconded by Ald. Kleiner

RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Middletown hereby authorizes the Commissioner of Public Works, and/or his designee, and the Chief of Police, and/or his designee, to close any and all streets and intersections as per the attached route necessary and at their discretion, for the YMCA Annual Ruthie Dino Marshall Run on Sunday, June 13, 2021, beginning at 8:00 a.m. and lasting until such time as it is no longer needed.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown approves the Annual Ruthie Dino-Marshall Run held on June

13, 2021 as per the attached COVID-19 guidelines approved by the Chief of Police of the City of Middletown.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ramkissoon, Tobin, Kleiner, Johnson, Burr, Green, Masi,
Pres. Rodrigues - 8
Absent: Jean-Francois - 1

111.21 - Resolution to authorize the Mayor to sign as the sole signatory all necessary documents required pertaining to DASNY grants for the Davidge Park Expansion Project (Davidge Athletic Park).

On motion of Ald. Ramkissoon, seconded by Ald. Tobin

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to authorize the Mayor to sign as the sole signatory, any and all necessary documents required pertaining to DASNY grants #15486 (\$250,000) and #15603 (\$100,000) for Davidge Park Extension Project/Wolslayer Field.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ramkissoon, Tobin, Kleiner, Johnson, Burr, Green, Masi,
Pres. Rodrigues - 8
Absent: Jean-Francois - 1

112.21 - Resolution to approve the new Sanitation Plan for the City of Middletown.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ramkissoon, Tobin, Kleiner, Johnson, Burr, Green, Masi,
Pres. Rodrigues - 8
Absent: Jean-Francois - 1

113.21 - Resolution to authorize the Treasurer to transfer \$5,726.00 within the Fire Department 2021 budget to cover unbudgeted costs of training.

On motion of Ald. Burr, seconded by Ald. Masi

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to authorize the Treasurer to transfer \$5,726.00 within the Fire Department 2021 budget to cover unbudgeted costs of training two recruit career firefighters at the NYS Academy of Fire Science in the following manner:

From:	AMOUNT	To:
A.3410.100	\$5,726.00	A.3410.433
Personal Services		Personnel Training

Roll Call: Ayes: Ramkissoon, Tobin, Kleiner, Johnson, Burr, Green, Masi,
Pres. Rodrigues - 8
Absent: Jean-Francois - 1

114.21 - Resolution to approve an agreement between the City and its Bond Counsel (Orrick) to cover the proposed sale of bonds to E.F.C.

On motion of Ald. Masi, seconded by Ald. Tobin

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to approve an agreement between the City and its Bond Counsel (Orrick) to cover the proposed sale of bonds to E.F.C. (C3-5315-02-01) which fees are the same as prior years.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ramkissoon, Tobin, Kleiner, Johnson, Burr, Green, Masi,
Pres. Rodrigues - 8
Absent: Jean-Francois - 1

115.21 - Resolution to close Union Street for the Farmers Market, every Saturday from 7 AM to 2 PM from June 5, 2021 to August 5, 2021 temporarily once Erie Way Park is completed.

On motion of Ald. Tobin, seconded by Ald. Green

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown hereby authorizes the closing of Union Street for the Farmers Market from 7 AM to 2 PM from June 5, 2021 to August 5, 2021 temporarily once Erie Way Park is completed

Roll Call: Ayes: Ramkissoon, Tobin, Kleiner, Johnson, Burr, Green, Masi,
Pres. Rodrigues - 8
Absent: Jean-Francois - 1

116.21 - Resolution to award the bids for surplus vehicles auctioned off through Auctions International for a total of \$11,020.00.

On motion of Ald. Green, seconded by Ald. Burr

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to award the bids for the following surplus vehicles auctioned off through Auctions International:

1999 Chevrolet Malibu (VIN# 1G1ND52J0X6249668) - \$450.00

- 2000 Acura TL (VIN# 19UUA5664YA044856) - \$560.00
- 2002 Lincoln LS (VIN# 1LNHM86S72Y674502) - \$540.00
- 2006 Ford Expedition XLT (VIN# 1FMPU16596LA75875) - \$630.00
- 2006 Audi A4 (VIN# WAUDF78E16A0178712) - \$1,325.00
- 2008 BMW 3-Series (VIN# WBAWC73508E065749) - \$2,600.00
- 2008 Dodge Charge SE (VIN# 2B3KA43RX8H280171) - \$810.00
- 2008 BMW 5 Series (VIN # WBANV93588CZ60757) - \$1,550.00
- 2008 Ford Focus (VIN#1FAHP34N68W297392) - \$1,475.00
- 2008 Ford Crown Victoria (VIN#2FAHP71V68X159142) - \$610.00
- 2009 Ford F450 Shuttle Bus (VIN#1FDFF45P39DA03016) - \$470.00

Total \$11,020.00

Roll Call: Ayes: Ramkissoon, Tobin, Kleiner, Johnson, Burr, Green, Masi,
 Pres. Rodrigues - 8
 Absent: Jean-Francois - 1

117.21 - Resolution to authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement from Fusco Engineering to provide professional services for a 2-lot subdivision at 28/30 Pilgrim Corners Road in the Town of Wallkill.

On motion of Ald. Johnson, seconded by Ald. Kleiner

Pres. Rodrigues: I will be abstaining, I represent the owner as a Real Estate agent.

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to authorize the Mayor to sign the attached agreement from Fusco Engineering to provide professional services for a 2-lot subdivision at 28/30 Pilgrim Corners Road in the Town of Wallkill.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to authorize the Treasurer to transfer \$14,500.00 to fund the agreement in the following manner:

FROM	AMOUNT	TO
Water Fund Balance	\$14,500.00	F.1940.900
		Purchase of Land

Roll Call: Ayes: Ramkissoon, Tobin, Kleiner, Johnson, Burr, Green, Masi - 7
Abstain: Pres. Rodrigues - 1
Absent: Jean-Francois - 1

118.21 - Resolution to authorize the Treasurer to transfer a total of \$127,638.00 to cover the purchase of additional carts for the rollout of the new Sanitation Collection Program.

On motion of Ald. Ramkissoon, seconded by Ald. Masi

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to authorize the Treasurer to transfer a total of \$127,638.00 from the General fund and within the 2021 DPW budget to cover the purchase of additional carts for the rollout of the new Sanitation Collection Program in the following manner:

H.0988.201	\$127,638.00	H.0988.450
Sanitation Vehicles		Sanitation Equipment

Roll Call: Ayes: Ramkissoon, Tobin, Kleiner, Johnson, Burr, Green, Masi, Pres. Rodrigues - 8
Absent: Jean-Francois - 1

13. Local Laws

Nothing this evening.

14. Audit of claims and accounts

On motion of Ald. Masi seconded by Ald. Green

I move that the accounts be audited, the claims be adjusted, and the City Treasurer be authorized to issue warrants for their payment.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ramkissoon, Tobin, Kleiner, Johnson, Burr, Green, Masi, Pres. Rodrigues - 8
Absent: Jean-Francois - 1

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Greco