

**Public Safety Committee (DOC/Garner)**  
**Regular Meeting – March 7, 2023, at 5:00 pm**  
**Newtown Municipal Center, Council Chamber**

**Members Present:** First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Warden Craig Washington, Capt. Bishop, Matthew Mihalcik, Jennifer Chaudhary and States Attorney David Applegate

**Absent:** Patrick Reilly, Bob Gerbert, Joy Previdi, Mary Salley, Bruce Clark

**Also Present:** Capt. James Wright from Garner

First Selectman Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 5:00p.m.

**Public Participation:** none.

**Minutes:** Matthew Mihalcik moved to accept the minutes of December 6, 2022. Capt. Bishop seconded. All in favor.

**Warden's Report:**

The current inmate population at the Garner Correctional Facility is 505 which includes 262 sentenced and 242 un-sentenced. There are 15 Level 5 inmates (in administrative segregation), 292 Level 4 inmates, 128 Level 3 inmates, 68 Level 2 inmates and 2 Level 1 inmates. Of the mental health population 33 are Level 5 (severe), 380 are Level 4, 26 are Level 3, 49 are Level 2 and 17 are Level 1.

Incidents are averaging about 100 per month. The increase is attributed to the increased mental health population. Warden Washington anticipates higher incidents as the mental health populations increases. Staffing is at 87%.

Covid numbers have dropped significantly. In person visitation has been reinstated and the mask mandate within the facility has been lifted.

Newtown Police Department toured the facility at the beginning of February and collaborated on a drill. Warden Washington said a big drill, including Newtown PD, various K9 units and CSP will be conducted on May 25. The Town will work to get the message to the neighborhoods in that vicinity.

David Applegate spoke about an issue at the courthouse. On site arrests are required to be in front of a judge within 48 hours and rely on DOC for transport. Conducting an arrest via warrant does not require a court appearance within 48 hours.

Capt. Bishop said there is not a clear understanding of the role of the PD should there be an escape. Each drill will expand on an understanding of this.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** none.

**Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be held on June 6, 2023 in the Council Chamber, Newtown Municipal Center at 5:00pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business the meeting ended at 5:11p.m.

*Susan Marcinek, clerk*

