

Public Safety Committee (DOC/Garner)
Regular Meeting – June 1, 2021 at 5:00 pm
Newtown Municipal Center, Council Chamber

Members Present: First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Warden Amonda Hannah, Joy Previdi, Jennifer Chaudhary, Cathy Reiss and Patrick Reilly and Chief Viadero via phone.

ABSENT: Bruce Clark, Jay Mattegat, Steve Sedensky and Bob Gerbert

First Selectman Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 5:03p.m.

Public Participation: none.

Minutes: J. Previdi moved to accept the minutes of June 1, 2021. C. Reiss seconded. All in favor.

Warden's Report:

The current inmate population at the Garner Correctional Facility is 467, which includes 293 sentenced and 174 un-sentenced. There are 15 Level 5 inmates, these are administrative segregation status inmates, 392 Level 4 inmates, 50 Level 3 inmates, 10 Level 2 inmates and zero Level 1 inmates. Of the mental health population 22 are Level 5, 227 are Level 4, 66 are Level 3, 105 are Level 2 and 47 are Level 1.

Incidents are averaging about 92 per month, which is up from last quarter. Warden Hannah attributes the increase to inmates being confined to their cells. Due to a decrease in staffing there has not been recreation or time out of cells other than to shower and eat.

Officer staffing is at 82%, down from 94%. There have been agency wide resignations attributed to the pandemic as well as retirements and staff transferring out; there have been eleven transfer outs and one transfer in. During the pandemic there were no academy classes resulting in an inability to replenish the decreased staff. There will be a six week academy class beginning in June. Warden Hannah hopes to gain staff through that class. Northern Correction facility closed; it's closer to the MA border; staff transfer in unlikely due to the location of Garner. Another facility will be closing; an announcement will be made in July. The agency wide inmate population is decreasing and is at the lowest level in thirty years. Crime is down. The populations is aging and there are fewer younger inmates. There are early release programs and incentives.

The AS (Administrative Segregation) program has been part of Garner for two years, which includes AS phase two and three inmates. McDougal runs the AS phase one program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Warden Hannah announced she will be retiring after 27 years of state service; her last day is June 18. Everyone wished Warden Hannah well in her retirement.

Next Meeting Date: September 14, 2021 – First Selectman Rosenthal noted the later date is due to Rosh Hashanah the week prior.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business the committee voted unanimously to adjourn their regular meeting at 5:25 p.m.

Susan Marcinek, clerk

