

**Public Safety Committee (DOC/Garner)**  
**Regular Meeting – September 14, 2021 at 5:00 pm**  
**Newtown Municipal Center, Council Chamber**

**Members Present:** First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Warden Craig Washington, Stephen Sedensky, Cathy Reiss and Jennifer Chaudhary (via phone).

**ABSENT:** Bruce Clark, Jay Mattegat, Joy Previdi, Patrick Reilly, Chief Viadero and Bob Gerbert

First Selectman Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 6:03.m. There is no quorum.

**Public Participation:** First Selectman Rosenthal stated the purpose of the Public Safety meetings is specifically the Towns relationship with Garner Correctional Facility. **Alexa Larson** spoke about psychological test administered in prisons. She would like to file a complaint with the police commission. First Selectman Rosenthal directed Ms. Larson to the police department or online to download a complaint form. Ms. Larson works on area gardens and has experienced vandalism. She feels victimized as a single woman and feels there is a connection to Garner. First Selectman Rosenthal reiterated the Public Safety meeting is specific to communication with the Warden relative to inmate population and staffing. The Health District holds meetings, as does as the Police Commission, to address public health and safety.

**Minutes:** There was no motion on the minutes of June 1, 2021 as there was not a quorum.

**Warden's Report:**

The current inmate population at the Garner Correctional Facility is 458, which includes 269 sentenced and 189 un-sentenced. There are two general population units, the rest are mental health. There is also administrative segregation phase 2 & 3. There are 13 Level 5 inmates, 378 Level 4 inmates, 54 Level 3 inmates, 12 Level 2 inmates and one Level 1 inmate. Of the mental health population 21 are Level 5, 248 are Level 4, 64 are Level 3, 89 are Level 2 and 46 are Level 1.

Incidents are averaging about 92 per month.

Staffing is at 80%. The current cadet class graduates November 4; 46 cadets are expected at Garner on November 5. There will be two more academy classes in October and November. Fifteen officers are transferring out. There have been four resignations since July; one went to the State Police, one went to water patrol. Warden Washington's goal is to understand issues, retain staff to create an atmosphere where staff accept and come to Garner. Officers can put their name on a list quarterly to transfer; the name is removed for six months after a transfer and then can be added back again. Newer officers can transfer out after probation. There is a state wide, agency wide staffing issue. Facilities that are short staffed result in lock downs and staff burnout.

In August four staff members tested positive for COVID and have returned to work; three inmates tested positive, two have returned to their housing units. Everyone is encouraged to receive the vaccine.

Warden Washington closed Northern in June. Radgowski is the level 3 portion of Corrigan Radgowski; Corrigan is now the county jail for that part of the state and a level 4 facility. No inmates or staff will transfer to Garner. There will be no impact.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** none.

**Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be held on December 7, 2021 in the Council Chamber, Newtown Municipal Center at 5:00pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business the meeting ended at 6:32p.m.

*Susan Marcinek, clerk*

