

**Public Safety Committee (DOC/Garner)**  
**Regular Meeting – December 7, 2021 at 5:00 pm**  
**Newtown Municipal Center, Council Chamber**

**Members Present:** First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Warden Craig Washington, Chief Viadero, Bruce Clark, Joy Previdi, Jay Mattegat and Jennifer Chaudhary

**ABSENT:** Stephen Sedensky, Patrick Reilly and Bob Gerbert

First Selectman Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 5:01p.m.

**Public Participation:** none.

**Minutes:** J. Previdi moved to accept the minutes of June 1, 2021. B. Clark seconded. All in favor. Chief Viadero moved to accept the minutes of September 14, 2021. J. Chaudhary seconded. All in favor.

**Warden's Report:**

The current inmate population at the Garner Correctional Facility is 493, which includes 199 sentenced and 294 unsentenced. There are two general population units, the rest are mental health. There are 11 Level 5 inmates (in administrative segregation), 379 Level 4 inmates, 75 Level 3 inmates, 26 Level 2 inmates and 2 Level 1 inmates.

The overall state population is declining, however the mental health population is increasing. In the last two years the mental health populations have increased 5%.

Incidents are averaging about 93 per month. Warden Washington is hopeful there will be a decrease in incidences now with the increase in staffing. 1/3 of incidences were due to emergency staffing.

Staffing is at 89%. This represents an increase of 39 officers since the last meeting. The facility is stable with no major issues.

More inmates are being transferred to court now, as opposed to on video.

In the last three months ten staff members tested positive for COVID and six inmates tested positive. The methods and efforts in place to sanitize and clean common areas seem to be working. If the positivity rate goes above 5% all in person visitation are cancelled. Video visits are allowed. Tablets were given out in August and are well received well by the population. There is access to podcasts, music, movies and programs.

The outside clearance population for outside work is very low. During the pandemic those eligible to go home were also outside work eligible, leaving a limited outside clearance population.

As of October, inmates in general population area allowed four hours out of cell time. The restrictive population in administrative segregation are allowed four hours as well, effective December 1. The mentally severe inmates are allowed out of cell for a lesser time and only when it's deemed safe.

The Commissioner will make an announcement relative to a facility closure on January 1. Radgowski closed without issue; Northern closed in June.

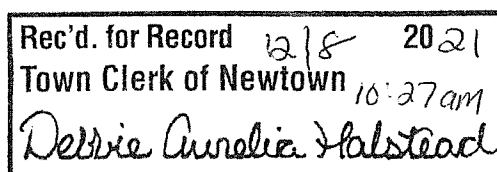
**Approval of 2022 Meeting Calendar:** B. Clark moved to approve the 2022 meeting calendar (att.).  
J. Chaudhary seconded. All in favor.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** none.

**Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be held on March 1, 2022 in the Council Chamber, Newtown Municipal Center at 5:00pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business the meeting ended at 5:14 p.m.

*Susan Marcinek, clerk*



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Daniel C. Rosenthal  
First Selectman

**TOWN OF NEWTOWN**  
**OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN**

**2022 Meeting Schedule**

The Public Safety Committee (DOC/Garner) will hold meetings at 5:00 pm in the Council Chamber at the Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT as follows:

Tuesday	March 1
Tuesday	June 7
Tuesday	September 6
Tuesday	December 6