

The Deerfield Police Department Annual Report 2015

Mission Statement

"We, the members of the Deerfield Police Department, are committed to excellence in law enforcement and are dedicated to the people, traditions and diversity of Deerfield. In order to protect life and property, prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime, we will provide service with understanding, response with compassion, performance with integrity and law enforcement with vision."

I am pleased to present to you the 2015 Deerfield Police Department Annual Report. The officers, supervisors, and staff continue to deliver a superior product to the residents of Deerfield.

Staffing

The Deerfield Police Department is comprised of the Chief of Police, two full-time police Sergeants, five additional (5) full-time and twelve (12) part-time officers. Officers are organized into three shifts of two officers per shift who are accessible to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year. On each shift there is an officer assigned to Old Deerfield area (District Two), and one officer assigned to South Deerfield (District One). This ensures that residents all across town get equal response and patrol time.

The Police Department also employs a full-time administrator who is responsible for handling day to day administrative functions including: public information requests, payroll, bills, detail billing, emergency scheduling, equipment acquisition, fleet maintenance scheduling, and answering both the lobby and telephones, etc.

At the end of August, an additional position of School Resource Officer (SRO) was added. The individual Officer Brian Ravish who was born and raised in Deerfield developed a rapport with all five schools. This position was possible due to Deerfield Academy providing a significant donation towards the position.

In December of 2015, Garrett Danna left his full-time position for a job with the North Brookfield Police Department. This is in close proximity to his home town. We wish him all the best. In July of 2015, part-time police officers Mark Wilkins, Dane Jobst, and Matthew Sherman were appointed.

In September 2013, the Board of Selectmen entered into a regional partnership with both Greenfield and Montague for a shared Animal Control Officer. This position became effective October 1, 2013. Since that time, we have seen a tremendous effort from the officer assigned to this regional task. Residents' concerns and complaints have been addressed with utmost professionalism. This position is nearing the end of the three year agreement and the Town is currently in negotiations to continue the position.

Equipment

The police department continues to replace one cruiser on an annual basis. This is due to the annual mileage driven, idle time, and wear and tear on a vehicle. With two personnel on twenty-four hours a day, our annual mileage is around 140,000 miles.

Personnel have been pleased by the new Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicles. The all-wheel drive provides a solid platform in all weather. The all-wheel drives have pushed police departments forward light years when it comes to snow and sleet. The Crown Victoria's were okay at best in the snow.

In September 2013, I spearheaded a regional computer system for police and fire departments in Franklin County. This will allow for interoperability and sharing of information. This system will encompass eighty-one different

agencies which all share the same regional dispatch center. It will save the Town of Deerfield several thousands of dollars a year in annual maintenance fees. My goal was to have the system operational in fiscal year 2015. Five hundred thousand dollars was allocated for this project through the state emergency 911 grant funds. Several meetings have taken place, and the project is moving forward. Like most large scale projects, they take time; this project is scheduled to be completed in the calendar year of 2016.

Social media has become a standard with today's technology. Our agency started a Facebook web application page in 2011. Since last year, we have noted the individuals looking at our social media pages to be in excess of 3,400. Officer Adam Sokoloski routinely maintains both Facebook and Twitter. When significant events are posted it is not abnormal to see in excess of thirty thousand views.

Calls for Service

The Department is very active in responding to calls for service. Calls for service within this area are defined as requiring a police action; this does not include mere directions, or questions. Officers respond to all fire and ambulance calls. Officers assist at these scenes with traffic control, rendering medical aid and if needed are authorized to drive the ambulance to a medical facility. The total number of assigned calls for service for the 2015 calendar year was 15,215. This is an average of 41.68 calls for service on the average day.

There were 298 arrests by officers, 229 active investigations, 2,229 motor vehicle stops, 1,142 motor vehicle citations issued, 122 parking tickets, and 315 medical emergencies.

Our Officers patrol all areas of the Town of Deerfield watching for any unusual activity while keeping all residents and visitors safety in mind. Making notifications to the utility companies as well as reporting any road hazards to the appropriate highway agency. We continue to have an open communication with business owners and perform business checks daily. Officers continue to perform vacant house checks and provide target traffic enforcement in problem areas.

Officers on road patrol perform law enforcement patrol activities including, but not limited to, arresting violators of the law, checks of property and persons, conducting security checks of buildings, or dwellings, investigate traffic crashes, and enforcement of traffic offenses, including Operating Under the Influence (OUI) investigations. Aside from road patrol, these officers also assist with criminal investigations, including searching for missing persons, runaways, and wanted persons. All of this activity is documented in reports, logs and calls for service as officers are responsible to present testimony and evidence in court.

For patrol activity and coverage of calls for service, we divide the Town into two primary patrol areas. District one is South Deerfield, and District two is Old Deerfield. The line primarily follows Hillside Road, over Lee Road. This allows for the officers to be visible in all areas of the community.

The Police Department daily logs have been placed online. They are accessible through the Department's website, on the bottom right hand corner, under "Weekly Logs". This will allow the residents to view the day to day activities, as well as research events that may have transpired in your area.

Major Events

Deerfield is a hub of activity with several events taking place throughout the year. It's not uncommon for these events to draw hundreds if not thousands of visitors and participants to our town. With the constant fluctuation of our population for these events it is imperative that we maintain an active role to insure the safety of all. Our participation in these events can range from traffic control to community policing and everything in between.

Throughout the spring, summer and fall several road races are held in town. Some of these races are the 2nd Annual VFW-SMAC Run Round the Mountain 5K and 10K, Old Home Day 5K Run/Walk Road Race and The Deerfield Mile. In August, the Deerfield Dirt Road Randonnee (D2R2) event annually brings more than 1500 riders to our

area. In November, 93.9 The River's radio host Monte Belmonte walks 26 miles from Northampton, through Deerfield to Greenfield to raise awareness and funds for hunger in Western Massachusetts. Officers direct traffic and block roads so that participants and spectators can relax and enjoy the day.

With the town utilizing two fire districts, the police department has taken a more active role in facilitating communication in regards to emergency management. This has been accomplished through a team atmosphere with the South County EMS, South Deerfield Fire District, Deerfield Fire District, Board of Health/Building Inspector, and Selectmen's Office.

Training

In July of 2015, Officer Brent Griffin one of our part-time officers completed the R.O.C (Recruit Officer Class), at the Western Massachusetts Police Academy in Springfield. Officer Griffin self-sponsored to better his education and training; he paid the full tuition out of his own pocket. The academy is 26 weeks of rigorous and challenging training. Personnel who graduate are better suited to serve the people of the community and we are proud of his extraordinary accomplishment.

Sergeant Harry Ruddock and Officer Adam Sokoloski attended basic arson investigation which was provided by the North Western District Attorney's Office. The conference provided a base line on cases of Arson.

We are in constant partnership to make sure the schools are as safe as possible. As most are aware, this is challenging being that Deerfield has five schools; Deerfield Elementary, Frontier Regional High School, Bement, Eaglebrook and Deerfield Academy. In total, there are over twenty-five hundred students in Deerfield, this does not include school staff. The schools including students and staff bring in a daily influx of over four thousand.

As always, the Deerfield Police Department is dedicated to serve the community, residents and visitors of the Town of Deerfield. As the days, months, and years continue to pass, please do not ever hesitate to contact us if you have a question or concern.

Sincerely,
John P. Paciorek, Jr.
Chief of Police