

## The Deerfield Police Department Annual Report 2018

### **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 2018 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, one full-time police Sergeant, seven (7) additional full-time and fifteen (15) 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, as well as other duties.

Officer Brian Ravish continues to expand the School Resource Officer position, now teaching many different classes with faculty at Frontier Regional High School. Brian also continues to teach the RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) class. Not only does Brian teach all aspects of use of force for our agency, he teaches many surrounding departments.

During the fall, one new part-time police officer was appointed; Timothy Boland. We continue to be a reputable training ground for part-time personnel who are then taken as full-time candidates by other agencies. This exceptional reputation leaves us with constant movement on the lower half of the part-time roster. On a normal year, there are three to four part-time appointments due to these movements.

### **Equipment**

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

Two years ago, the police department entered into a two-year lease agreement for a 2017 Harley Davidson motorcycle. The lease is coming to an end and the possibility of keeping that community policing and traffic enforcement tool will be dependent on annual town meeting of 2019.

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 81 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. I'm happy to report that all participating police departments are on line and the system is working extremely well.

The police department has purchased Quik Clot and Tourniquets for deployment in any incident of violence. Over the past twenty years, police departments have been training in the detection and immediate intervention of threats. The next step in that training process is to triage victims and save as many lives as possible. This is completed by force rescue teams being deployed immediately during an incident. Paramedics, Firefighters, and police working in concert with each other to provide immediate intervention care. Quik Clot is a bandage that was designed to stop excessive bleeding in order to provide maximum survivability.

### **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 2018 calendar year was 13,279. This is an average of 36 calls for service on the average day.

There were 229 arrests, 220 active investigations, 1,815 motor vehicle stops, 527 motor vehicle citations issued, 73 parking tickets, and 480 medical emergencies in 2018. 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, checking on property and persons, conducting security checks of buildings, and dwellings, investigating traffic crashes, and enforcing 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.

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 allows 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 4th 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 Randonnée (D2R2). Each year, this event brings more than 1,500 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 The Selectboard's Office. I continue to be appointed as the Assistant Emergency Management Director for the Town.

## **Training**

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

In September of each year is a two-day mandatory Chiefs of Police conference which has been held in Norwood. This covers a vast variety of liability and management topics. The conference in the fall of 2019 is going to be three mandatory days.

Throughout the course of the year, we sponsor several part-time police candidates through the part-time police academy. The current part-time academy is just over 380 hours which includes; criminal law, constitutional law, motor vehicle law, defensive tactics, patrol procedures, as well as many other critical topics.

For nearly ten years there has been a push at the state level to create one training level for both part and full-time police personnel. This will result in the part-time police academy going from

380 hours to just over 780. The smaller communities have identified several concerns with recruitment and retention efforts. This will also impact Deerfield to some degree.

### **Grants**

Grants continue to be scarce in law enforcement with the vast majority going to large cities with exceptional high crime data statistics. Sergeant Harry Ruddock applied for and we received a \$10,000 traffic safety grant. Five thousand is dedicated to enforcement patrols where personnel are assigned to high impact areas to address traffic safety. The second part of the grant is \$5,000 for equipment. I'm pleased that we have received this grant two years in a row thanks to Sergeant Ruddock.

### **School Safety**

We are in constant partnership to make sure the schools are as safe as possible. As most are aware this is challenging since Deerfield has five schools; Deerfield Elementary, Frontier Regional High School, Bement, Eaglebrook, and Deerfield Academy. In total there are over 2,500 students in Deerfield. This does not include school staff. The schools including students and staff bring in a daily influx of over 4,000 people.

As part of school safety, we have an active partnership and leadership role in the four-town safety committee which is comprised of EMS, Police, Fire, and School Officials from all Union 38 schools and towns. This includes quarterly meetings, active shooter training, lockdown drills, and shelter in place drills. Annual review of school safety documents and plans.

### **Focused areas**

The two major projects of focus for the year have been the regional computer project as referenced above and the county radio system.

The 450 MHz radio system was originally built and expanded upon in 2004-2008. The system is outdated and parts are no longer in production. This leaves the repair personnel searching for parts on eBay and several other websites. As the appointed member of the oversight committee on behalf of the Franklin County Chiefs of Police Association I continue to represent all police departments interests county wide. The current plan is to migrate to a State 800 MHz platform that was originally designed in the early 1990's for the State Police. Western Mass. was additionally built out in 2011 to be digitally P25 compliant. Therefore, the system reflects very reasonable coverage within the county. Both the State Executive Office of Public Safety (EOPSS) and Security and Franklin County Emergency Communications Committee (FCECS) are now looking for funding to purchase subscriber units for all police, fire and EMS units. These units range from \$3,000-\$7,500 apiece. Current estimates for subscriber units county wide are near \$7,000,000.

On January 1, 2018 I started as the President of the Franklin County Chiefs of Police Association. I was re-elected in December of 2018 for calendar year 2019. I am also the Franklin County appointed

representative to the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Executive Board (since 2014). In addition, I serve as the police representative to the Western Mass. Homeland Security Council, which is a Governor's appointment (since 2015).

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  
Asst. Emergency Management Director

***"PROTECTING AND SERVING OUR COMMUNITY"***

**The Law Enforcement Oath of Honor**

On my honor, I will never betray my badge, my integrity, my character, or the public trust.

I will always have the courage to hold myself and others accountable for our actions.

I will always uphold the Constitution, my community and the agency I serve.