

# The Deerfield Police Department Annual Report 2019

## **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, and prevent 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 2019 Deerfield Police Department Annual Report. The officers, supervisors, and staff continue to deliver a superior product to the residents of Deerfield.

## **Staffing**

The Police Department is comprised of the Chief of Police, eight full-time and 15 part-time officers, organized into three shifts of two officers per shift, accessible to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year. To ensure all residents across town get equal response and patrol time, there is an officer assigned to the Old Deerfield area (District 2), and one officer assigned to South Deerfield (District 1).

The department employs a full-time administrative assistant, Debra Austin, 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 window and telephones, as well as many other duties. Deb is a vital and instrumental member of the department.

This has been a unique year for the department and its staff. Two of our full-time officers departed for employment with the Massachusetts State Police: Christopher Savinski, and Jacob Eugin. We wish them the very best, and a long, safe, and successful career. Two of our part time officers were promoted to full time status: Marissa Smith, who graduated the Municipal Police Training Committee's full-time academy at Springfield Technical Community College (STCC) in November 2019, and Timothy Boland, who will enter the academy this January (2020), and will work toward an anticipated graduation date of July 10, 2020. Officer Smith graduated with recognition of "Highest Academic Achievement" in her class.

The supervisory structure of the department also underwent changes. Sergeant Harry Ruddock announced his intent to retire from a 32 year career in 2020. With an ongoing vacancy caused by the retirement of a previous Sergeant, three full-time officers were promoted to the position of Sergeant. Detective Sergeant Adam Sokoloski will serve as the day shift patrol supervisor and the investigator of major crimes in the Department's Detective Bureau. Sergeant Brian Ravish, the School Resource Officer, will continue with those responsibilities as well as supervise all Use of Force training for our department as well as area towns. Sgt. Ravish has fostered a strong relationship with all Deerfield's schools, public and private. Sergeant Jennifer Bartak took over as the evening patrol supervisor, along with her continued responsibilities of training coordinator and handling investigations involving sensitive crimes.

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. In a normal year, there are three to four part-time appointments due to these movements. We are proud to see the young officers we have fostered at the beginning of their career move into successful agencies in the state and across the nation on the local, state, and federal level.

## **Equipment**

The Deerfield Police Department is forward thinking and innovative with new equipment and cruisers. The police department continues to replace one cruiser annually, necessary due to mileage driven, idle time, and normal wear and tear on a police vehicle. With two personnel on duty 24 hours a day, 140,000 miles is a typical year's total. We were the first in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to order a Ford Utility hybrid cruiser in March 2019, with an anticipated delivery in January 2020.

## **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, walk-ins, telephone calls, etc. As all budgets are stretched thin across the board - more and more responsibilities are being requested for the police to assist with. This is a trend state and nationwide. With confidence, I know the officers at Deerfield Police are well trained to handle the variety of calls with understanding,

empathy, and professionalism. For example; officers respond to all fire and ambulance calls and assist at these scenes with traffic control, rendering medical aid and, if needed, authorized to drive the ambulance to a medical facility.

The total number of assigned calls for service for the 2019 calendar year was 14,075. This is an average of 38 calls for service on the average day. There were 206 arrests, 264 active investigations, 2,042 motor vehicle stops, 451 motor vehicle citations issued, 56 parking tickets, and 399 medical emergencies in 2019.

Our officers patrol all areas of Deerfield, watching for any unusual activity, while keeping resident and visitor safety in mind, making notifications to the utility companies and 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 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 daily logs are accessible online, 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. We are committed to being as transparent as possible, however due by state law, some crimes and specific investigations cannot be listed for public view.

## **Major Events**

In December the major City of Wuhan, Hubei region, China noted a new disease that had not been previously identified. As time progressed the disease was named

SARS-CoV-2 (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), also to be known as COVID-19. As will be discussed in the 2020 annual report, the disease will become an international pandemic identified in over 190 countries infecting countless individuals.

In August, Officers Timothy Boland and Nicholas Limoges were conducting an arrest of an intoxicated motorist on Greenfield Road when another impaired motorist struck them. Both officers were transported to Baystate Medical Center in Springfield by South County EMS. This is a phone call that no police chief wants to receive and the department quickly mobilized in assist with the crime scene in Deerfield and assisting the officers at the hospital. I am happy to report both officers made a full recovery and returned to patrol. We cannot thank South County EMS, the fire departments, Massachusetts State Police, and the community for helping our officers in need.

We also assisted with bringing Deerfield native and Navy sailor Corpsman Meaghan Burns home to her family in 2019, following her tragic passing. The return of Corpsman Burns was met with an incredible show of support from the entire community. We continue to keep her family in our thoughts and thank her for her service to all of us.

Deerfield is a hub of activity with several events taking place throughout the year. It is 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 we maintain an active role to ensure 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. In August, the Deerfield Dirt Road Randonnee (D2R2) brings more than 1,600 cyclers to our area. This has now become a world-renowned cycling event, with routes throughout the region – and has a home base on Mill Village Road.

Every Halloween, the police department partners with the Deerfield Police Association to hold a Hayride and party for the community. This is one of the department's favorite events of the year, and we continue to see attendance grow. We are thankful to all the sponsors, volunteers, and town departments who partner to hold such a successful event.

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

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 Select Board's Office. With the town Emergency Manager, the police department is actively implementing the "RAVE" Alert Emergency System to distribute notifications to members of the community. I continue to be appointed as the Assistant Emergency Management Director for the Town and have seen great advancements with emergency communications.

## **Training**

All staff continue to fulfill their mandated yearly in-service training. Other opportunities for regional training are common. Sgt. Bartak has, for the past two years, maintained a "Regional Police Training Group" which covers specialized topics designed for Franklin County officers, covering issues common to our communities. Greenfield Community College graciously allows us to use a centralized location, which draws officers and 911 dispatchers from multiple county police departments. We are dedicated to education, training and finding innovative solutions to problems in our communities.

This year, the Deerfield Police Department was proud to partner with the Northwestern District Attorney's Office and put on a community lunch for seniors with a focus on Elder Financial Exploitation Education. A panel spoke to attendees about scam and fraud prevention and educated them on how to recognize a scam, and what to do if they suspect they are a victim. Officers served lunch, donated by Deerfield Academy, and the South Deerfield Polish Club donated the space for the event. Greenfield Savings Bank also gave presentations and donations.

In October I attended the International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference in Chicago. The conference brings speakers from around the world and attendees are encouraged to attend a variety of the nearly three hundred classes offered. One class I attended was on the current international fraud schemes. The presenter was a Special Agent from the Department of Homeland Security who primarily works out of Boston. Coincidentally less than a week back from the conference a local business lost \$450k in a fraud scheme. Through an investigation from the same Special Agent and Detective Sergeant Adam Sokoloski the business was returned \$445k of the 450.

## **Grants**

Sergeant Ruddock applied for the Massachusetts Traffic Safety Enforcement grant and was awarded funds to pay for more proactive traffic enforcement as well as equipment. You may have already seen our new traffic speed boards around town which were purchased with the grant. We have seen a very positive response to the traffic boards, as well requests to place them on certain roads in town which residents have identified traffic concerns. Grants continue to be scarce in law enforcement, with the vast majority going to large cities which display exceptional high crime data statistics. The department and community are grateful for the hard work Sgt. Ruddock put into these grants to keep our streets and roads safe. The first two years of this grant allowed us to purchase four speed signs, however this years' round only allows the money towards officers pay for enforcement efforts.

## **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 – which does not include school staff. The schools, including students and staff, bring in a daily influx of over 4,000 people.

Vaping continues to be a dangerous activity amongst youth. In October 2019, the Deerfield Police Department designed and sponsored a “Hawks Don’t Vape” campaign with the Frontier Regional School. Students were given a “Hawks Don’t Vape” t-shirt if they signed a contract not to vape or use vape products. Sgt. Ravish and Vice Principal Dredge are very proactive to curb vaping and to keep our students healthy and safe.

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. A comprehensive, annual review of school safety documents and plans takes place.

## **Focused areas**

As the major computer project I originally started more than a few years back comes to a close, all eyes are on our continuous work to migrate all of Franklin County to

the State CoMIRS, 800MHz digital radio system. This has been a work in progress for nearly five years in of itself. Remaining positive, my goal is to start rolling out subscriber units (portable and mobile radios) in Calendar year 2020.

I was elected in 2018 as the President of the Franklin County Chiefs of Police Association, and re-elected for calendar year 2020. I am also the Franklin County appointed representative to the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Executive Board, yearly since 2014. In addition, I serve as the police representative to the Western Massachusetts Homeland Security Council, which is a Governor's appointment, yearly 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.