



BRATTLEBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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To: Brattleboro Select board
Via: Peter Elwell, Town Manager
From: Mark Carignan, Interim Chief
Re: Monthly report – December 2020
Date: 1/6/21

Summary of Major Activities/Work Projects:

Officers responded to 714 calls for service/incidents and made 52 arrests. Included in these calls for service were 12 overdoses with 0 resulting in death. This does not mean there were only 12 overdoses in Brattleboro for this period. It merely means that these are the numbers that were responded to by police.

31 vehicle operation citations were issued along with 265 warnings. Officers spent approximately 200 hours on foot patrol in the downtown area as well as neighborhoods and parks.

Special Meetings/Communications/Events:

Officers and staff continue to make numerous appearances throughout the community and communicate by electronic means to meet and discuss citizen concerns. We solicit feedback from the community as we learn what is important to them in the delivery of our services. We also inform them on the nature of our work and ways we can partner for success.

Our efforts in this area have of course been significantly impacted by COVID-19, and we have been unable to engage in-person as much with community partners such as schools, youth groups, and other organizations. We still regularly communicate with these groups, and they have expressed that they share our desire to get together again as soon as it is safe.

Budget Concerns/Impacts:

Monitoring the FY 2021 budget. The 2022 budget has been proposed and is being debated/discussed by the board.

Staffing:

With the recent retirement of Chief Mike Fitzgerald, the department currently has 7 openings, representing more than 25% of our sworn staff. Two conditional employment offers have been made to applicants, and they are currently in the background investigation process. If successful, one candidate would attend the police academy in March 2021, and the other in August, 2021.

We continue to advertise locally and regionally to solicit applicants. College job fairs throughout New England and New York are currently suspended for safety reasons due to the COVID-19 pandemic which has hampered our recruiting efforts. We are exploring virtual options for recruitment and interviews.

COVID-19

As the Town of Brattleboro responds to COVID-19, the men and women of the Brattleboro Police Department remain steadfast in our commitment to maintain public safety, uphold the law and safeguard the well-being of our community. Our department is working closely with other town departments, law enforcement agencies, Dept. of Public Safety, and the State's Attorney Office to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

We are in normal operations with an emphasis on safety. We are following the directives and recommendations set by local, state and federal health experts.