

To: Brattleboro Select board
Via: Peter Elwell, Town Manager
From: Michael R. Fitzgerald, Chief of Police
Date: 8 March 2019

SUBJ: FEBRUARY 2019 MONTHLY REPORT

Summary of Major Activities/Work Projects:

Officers responded to 734 calls for service/incidents and made 40 arrests resulting in 50 criminal charges. Included in these calls for service were 10 overdoses with 3 resulting in death. This does not mean there were only 10 overdoses in Brattleboro for this period. It merely means that these are the numbers that were responded to by police.

43 vehicle operation citations were issued along with 238 warnings. Officers spent approximately 216 hours on foot patrol in the downtown area as well as other neighborhoods and parks in Town.

Cases of Interest:

Brattleboro Police responded to a business on Main Street for a report of a theft. Through video surveillance it was discovered that Stephen Schwarzenbach concealed a pair of gloves inside the store and left the business without paying for the item. Schwarzenbach was issued a citation to appear in court to answer the charge of retail theft.

The Brattleboro Police Department responded to Brattleboro Memorial Hospital for a report of a possible assault. Subsequent investigation revealed that Buck R Mitchell acted in a manner that disturbed both staff and patients to the extent that he was escorted from the property by security. Mitchell was located at a later time in which he was cited and released for the offense of Disorderly Conduct. Mitchell will appear in Windham County Superior Court; Criminal Division to answer to the offense.

Brattleboro Police responded to an apartment complex on Elliot St. for a report of a disturbance. Investigation revealed that Kirsten Palmer had broken a window that did not belong to her. Palmer was issued a citation for Unlawful Mischief and will appear at the Windham County Superior Court to answer her charge.

Brattleboro Police conducted a stop on a vehicle due to an equipment violation. Subsequent investigation revealed that the operator, Nicholas H. Dickinson was intoxicated while operating his vehicle. Dickinson was placed under arrest and transported to the Brattleboro Police Department. There he was processed and released on a citation for DUI. Dickinson will appear at Windham County Superior Court to answer his charge

Brattleboro Police were dispatched to the area of Main St. and Elliot St. for a possible intoxicated person. Brattleboro Police Officers located Kirsten Palmer at a local grocery store in downtown. Palmer was arrested for Disorderly conduct and is scheduled to appear in Windham County Superior Court Criminal Division.

The Brattleboro Police Department responded to Main Street, for a report of an assault. The investigation revealed that Abayomi Akinbode had assaulted a female. Akinbode was subsequently arrested for domestic assault. The female had non-life-threatening injuries. He will appear at Windham County Superior Court, Criminal Division to answer to the charge.

Brattleboro Police observed a vehicle operating in an erratic manner on Canal St. Due to the operation, police initiated a motor vehicle stop. The vehicle fled from police, before becoming stuck in the snow on S. Main St. Investigation revealed that the operator, identified as Derick Fisher was under the influence of alcohol. Fisher was placed under arrest for DUI, Gross Negligent Operation, Attempting to Elude, and for No License. Fisher was transported to the Brattleboro Police Department. There he was processed, and released on a citation, along with court ordered conditions of release. Fisher will appear at Windham County Superior Court on to answer his charges.

Officers of the Brattleboro Police Department responded to the lobby of the Police station to speak with a female regarding damage to her vehicle. Upon arrival officers spoke with the female victim who reported her ex-boyfriend Matthew Luttrull, hit her mirror on her vehicle causing it to break. Brattleboro Police Officers also spoke with Luttrull who did not deny having caused the damage. Luttrull was issued a citation to appear at the Windham Superior Court to answer to the charges of Disorderly Conduct.

Brattleboro Police arrested Justin E. Clough for yelling and screaming profanities while walking down Canal Street. Prior to this, Clough was also asked to leave Brattleboro Memorial Hospital for causing a disturbance in the waiting room. Clough was placed under arrest and was transported to the Brattleboro Police Department for processing. Clough was issued a citation to appear in court.

The Brattleboro Police Department responded to Putney RD for a report of a fire alarm that had been activated for no cause. Upon arrival to the area officers located Patricia Williams walking away from the alarm box. Williams was non-compliant with officers, yelling at and swinging her arms at the officer. Williams was found to have been marked by ink from the alarm box. Williams was arrested for disorderly conduct and tampering with the alarm box. She was processed and released on citation to appear at the Windham Superior Court, Criminal Division.

Brattleboro Police observed a vehicle being operated that is registered to Albert E. Berthiaume. From previous encounters with the registered owner, the officer knew that Berthiaume had a suspended license. The vehicle was also operating in a suspicious manner and attempting to elude the officer. Based upon this, plus the knowledge of the registered owner having a suspended license, police initiated a motor vehicle stop. The operator was in fact Berthiaume, whose right to operate a motor vehicle is criminally suspended. Berthiaume was placed under

arrest. Berthiaume was subsequently issued a citation for Criminal DLS. Berthiaume will appear at the Windham County Superior Court to answer his charge.

Officers of the Brattleboro Police Dept. responded to a local business for a report of a female who was inside the store and had been previously trespassed from the property. Upon arrival officers spoke with an employee who reported Patricia Williams was inside the store this morning but left prior to police arrival. The store provided a copy of the surveillance video showing Williams inside the store. Williams was later located and issued a citation to appear at the Windham Superior Court, Criminal Division.

Brattleboro Police Department responded to S. Main St. for a report of a physical fight. Upon arrival both parties had been separated and neither party needed medical attention. Upon further investigation it was found that Tadros Hoth and Edwin Cross had a verbal argument which turned into a physical altercation. Both Hoth and Cross were issued a citation to appear at the Windham County Superior Court: Criminal Division.

Officers of the Brattleboro Police department responded to the lobby of the police station for a report of a domestic assault. Officers met with the female victim who reported she was assaulted in her home the previous night. The female victim declined medical attention. Officer contacted the assailants, Ashiah Puri, Rama Puri and Balak Puri. All three were taken into custody and transported to the Brattleboro Police station where they were fingerprinted and photographed. All three subjects were issued conditions of release and released on citation to appear at the Windham Superior Court, Criminal Division.

Officers of the Brattleboro Police Department responded to a residence on Central Street for the report of a domestic assault. Officers met with the female victim who stated that she was assaulted. She was then transported to receive medical treatment for non-life-threatening injuries. Officers located the suspect identified as Mark J. Caslin and placed him under arrest. Caslin was then transported back to the Brattleboro Police Department where he was lodged. Caslin was held on bail and issued a flash citation to appear at the Windham Superior Court, Criminal Division the following day.

Brattleboro Police received a report that a woman in a vehicle had approached an 8 year old boy as he walked home from the bus stop after school. This happened in the Maple/Pleasant Street neighborhood. The person asked the child to get into her vehicle. The child did not know the woman and ran home. There was no other attempt to contact the child. The woman is described as medium height with blonde hair driving a white vehicle. This incident bears some similarity to an incident reported to police the previous month. A press release was completed for that incident. It is unknown if the two incidents are connected. Police are actively investigating both reports. BPD has been in communication with the local bus company and schools related to this matter and are working closely to make sure children and families are informed. We remind families to know the walking routes and schedules of your children and encourage them to use sidewalks, crossing guards, and if possible to walk with other children. It is also important to regularly communicate with your children about what happens during their day and how they should respond to such situations.

Brattleboro Police observed a vehicle being operated on Western Ave. The license plate on the vehicle was not assigned to said vehicle, and a motor vehicle stop was subsequently initiated. The operator, Jodi L. Clement was found to have a criminally suspended license. Clement was issued a citation for DLS and will appear at the Windham County Superior Court.

Brattleboro Police observed a vehicle operating in a manner consistent with the operator being impaired. Police also observed several motor vehicle infractions. A stop of the vehicle was initiated, and subsequent investigation revealed that the operator, Joseph P. Eno was under the influence of alcohol. Eno was placed under arrest and transported to the Brattleboro Police Department. There he was processed, issued a citation for DUI, and lodged. Eno will appear at the Windham County Superior Court to answer his charge.

Brattleboro Police observed a vehicle leaving a well-known residence on Oak St. This residence is well known to police due to drug activity stemming from it. Police conducted a motor vehicle stop. A search of the vehicle revealed narcotics, leading to the arrest of Shannon T. Mylott. Mylott was found to be in possession of heroin and crack cocaine. Mylott was transported to the Brattleboro Police Department, where she was processed, and released on a citation. Mylott will appear at Windham County Superior Court to answer her charges.

Brattleboro Police responded to the area of Oak Street for a report of the sound of gunshots. Police interviewed several people in the area, including vehicle occupants, apartment residents, and neighbors. Some witnesses reported having heard what they thought were gunshots. Police did not locate any injured people and there were no reports of injuries by anyone. No physical evidence of gunshots was located during the initial police response. The investigation into this incident is ongoing. Vermont State Police responded to the scene as well to assist with security.

Brattleboro Police arrested Joseph A. Pasquino for trespassing at a business on Main Street. Pasquino was transported to Brattleboro Probation and Parole where he would be turned over to the custody of his probation officer. Upon arrival, Pasquino exited the cruiser and then assaulted a Brattleboro Police officer. Pasquino was issued a citation to appear in court and was transported to Southern State Correctional Facility by probation and parole.

Brattleboro Police responded to a business on Bridge Street for a motor vehicle collision that occurred in the parking lot. Through investigation it was determined that Suzanne Shervinskie backed into a parked motor vehicle and was subsequently placed under arrest for suspicion of DUI. She was transported to the Brattleboro Police Department for processing. She was issued a citation to appear in court.

Officers of the Brattleboro Police Dept. responded to a restaurant on Canal St in the Town of Brattleboro for a report of a female inside passed out. The complainant reported the female had previously been trespassed from the business. Upon arrival Officers located Lynn S. Norman sleeping in a booth. Dispatch confirmed Norman had been issued a Trespass warning for this business in January of this year. Norman did have a strong odor of intoxicating beverages emanating from her person. Norman was placed under arrest and transported to the Brattleboro Police station where she was processed. The court ordered Norman be held until sober and was later released on citation to appear at the Windham Superior Court, Criminal Division.

Brattleboro Police Department, Brattleboro Fire Department, and Rescue Inc. responded to the area of 130 West River Rd. for a report of a motor vehicle crash. It was reported as a head on motor vehicle crash between a passenger car and a box truck. The collision occurred when a 2017 Toyota Prius operated by Devan Calabrese and a Ford F450 operated by Todd Clark collided on West River Rd. Upon arrival it was found that all parties involved in the crash had non-life-threatening injuries. All parties were later transported to Brattleboro Memorial Hospital by Rescue Inc. for treatment. West River Rd. was closed for approximately 3 ½ hours. This was due to the vehicles being in both lanes of travel and for investigation. This motor vehicle crash is still currently under investigation.

The Brattleboro Police Department responded to a local residence for a reported Abuse Prevention Order Violation. Upon arrival it was determined that Mark Caslin Jr. was violating a court ordered Abuse Prevention Order, and court ordered conditions of release. Caslin was arrested and transported to the Brattleboro Police Department. While at the Police Department Caslin committed the crime of Lewd and Lascivious Conduct. Caslin was ultimately held for lack of \$1,000 bail and cited to appear at the Vermont Superior Court – Windham Criminal Division to answer to the charges of Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order, Violation of Conditions of Release and Lewd and Lascivious Conduct. Caslin was cited to appear in court to answer to the charges.

Brattleboro Police were dispatched to the area of Main St. and Elliot St. for a possible intoxicated person. Brattleboro Police Officers located Kirsten Palmer at a local grocery store in downtown. Palmer was arrested for Disorderly conduct and is scheduled to appear in Windham County Superior Court Criminal Division.

Special Meetings/Communications/Events:

Officer's and staff continue to make numerous appearances to meet and discuss the concerns of the citizens at the senior center, elementary schools, with various organizations and community centers. The topics included personal safety, crime trends, homelessness and internet safety. The Brattleboro Police Department continues to make strides in educating and informing the citizens of our activity and to solicit their feedback on how we can improve our services. Additionally, local and regional first responders participated in a training at the Brattleboro Area Middle School. This training was broken into two sessions, one in the morning and one in the evening. The training was indoors, but there was a notable presence of police, fire, and EMS vehicles in the area. This training has been scheduled and planned for months. It is not the result of any recent local, regional, or national events.

Budget Concerns/Impacts:

We are continuing to monitor the FY 2019 budget. Along with other members of the Town's staff, we are preparing the FY2020 budget.

Staffing:

We have 3 officers currently undergoing the 12-week FTO program at the BPD. Completion date is anticipated to be mid-March 2019.

There are 2 candidates attending the 107th Basic class at the Vermont Police Academy. They are scheduled to graduate in May 2019. and will start the 3-week post Basic course. It is anticipated that they will be back at the BPD in late June 2019. At that time, they will begin their 12-week FTO training with a completion date in late September 2019.

We currently have 2 applicants that are in the hiring process. These applicants are for the 108th Basic class starting in August 2019. If these applicants successfully complete the hiring process, the Department will be fully staffed. We are continuously accepting applications as we will anticipate filling vacancies from turnovers and retirements.