



BRATTLEBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT

- 62 BLACK MOUNTAIN ROAD - BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT 05301 –
802.257.7950

To: Brattleboro Select board
Via: Peter Elwell, Town Manager
From: Mark Carignan, Interim Chief
Re: Monthly report – February 2021
Date: 3/3/21

Summary of Major Activities/Work Projects:

In August 2011 Marble Arvidson, a seventeen-year-old local student, was reported missing. An in-depth investigation occurred involving several local, state, and federal organization, both public and private. Marble was never located. This month, the BPD criminal investigation division (CID) reopened this investigation as a cold case. It is important to note that this investigation is not being reopened because there are new leads. The entire case will be reviewed and additional investigation conducted as needed.

On 2/2/21 BPD responded to a report of a shooting at a hotel on Putney Road. Following an investigation, detectives seized firearms and arrested a man for shooting at people in a vehicle. The initial reported “nature” of this incident was “suspicious activity.”

On 2/8/21 BPD responded to a drug overdose at a hotel on Putney Road. Police located a suspect wanted for a shooting in Connecticut. The man was arrested and held on \$100,000 bail pending extradition. The initial reported “nature” of this incident was “overdose.”

On 2/10/21 BPD assisted US Marshal’s in locating a suspect wanted for murder in another state. The suspect was located at a local residence and officers assisted with surveillance. The man was tracked to a local restaurant and after a brief attempt to flee police, he was arrested. The initial reported “nature” of this incident was “agency assist.”

On 2/12/21 BPD responded with medical services to a subject having a seizure who was acting violently and had assaulted someone. Officers encountered a man suffering from a significant altered mental status resulting in extremely erratic behavior. Officers could have immediately taken the man into custody, likely resulting in avoidable force. Instead, they used effective de-escalation skills and took active steps to avoid aggravating or inflaming the situation. Eventually the subject was taken into custody and received medical care. Both officers were lauded for their performance and will receive letters of appreciation from the interim chief of police.

Officers responded to 638 calls for service/incidents and made 41 arrests. Included in these calls for service were 4 overdoses with none resulting in death. This does not mean there were only 4 overdoses in Brattleboro for this period. It merely means that these are the numbers that were responded to by police.

33 vehicle operation citations were issued along with 269 warnings. Officers spent approximately 150 hours on foot patrol in the downtown area as well as other neighborhoods and parks in Town.

After months of COVID related delay, the State of Vermont has freed up grant money associated with the Governor's Highway Safety Program. BPD uses this annual grant in partnership with other local agencies to increase traffic enforcement with an eye toward decreasing collisions and impaired driving in Brattleboro.

Special Meetings/Communications/Events:

Officer's and staff continue to make numerous appearances throughout the community and communicate by electronic means to meet and discuss citizen concerns. The topics included personal safety, neighborhood 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.

As high school sporting events have been allowed to reopen, BPD officers have included attendance at these events in their community outreach efforts. Meeting with and talking to students, parents, and staff in non-enforcement related circumstances is a critical part of relationship building.

This month department leaders spent time working with the town manager's office discussing potential implementation of the report prepared by Emily Megas-Russell and Shea Witzberger. We continue to look forward to working to make our community a safe and welcoming place for everyone.

Budget Concerns/Impacts:

We continue monitoring the FY 2021 budget. FY 2022 budget has been approved by the selectboard and awaits RTM approval.

Staffing:

The Department currently has 7 openings. One candidate who was in the background investigation phase of the application process withdrew his name to go work for another department. One candidate remains, and we hope to send him to the academy in May. The police academy has suffered setbacks and delays during the pandemic, and new-officer training in 2021 will be challenging.

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 made our recruiting efforts not as successful as we would like. We are exploring virtual options for recruitment.

Department leaders will spend time next month working with the HR director to identify other strategies to recruit and retain qualified applicants.

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 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 for by local, state and federal subject matter experts. Most officers have been vaccinated against the disease.

All patrol shifts remain fully staffed as there has been no change to our schedule.