

To: Brattleboro Selectboard
Via: Peter Elwell, Town Manager
From: Michael R. Fitzgerald, Chief of Police
Date: 2/8/18

SUBJ: JANUARY 2018 MONTHLY REPORT

Summary of Major Activities/Work Projects:

Officers responded to 779 calls for service/incidents and made 41 arrests resulting in 49 criminal charges. Included in these calls for service were 4 overdoses with 1 resulting in a death. This does not mean there were only 4 overdoses and 1 OD-death in Brattleboro for this period. It merely means that these are the numbers that were responded to by police.

37 vehicle operation citations were issued along with 266 warnings. Officers spent approximately 173 hours on foot patrol in the downtown area as well as other neighborhoods and parks in Town.

Cases of Interest:

In the month of October 2017, the Brattleboro Police Department began an investigation of multiple burglaries that had occurred in the Town of Brattleboro. Through the course of the investigation the Brattleboro Police identified Jared Johnson and Jami-Leigh Webber as suspects. The investigation was completed in January with an arrest of Johnson for Burglary into an Occupied Dwelling x 2. Johnson was ordered to go to the Windham County Superior Court Criminal Division to answer to those offenses. Webber was arrested for Aiding in the Commission of Felony and Possession of Stolen Property. Webber was ordered to go to the Windham County Superior Court Criminal Division to answer to those offenses.

Brattleboro Officers responded to a two-car motor vehicle collision on Sunset Lake Road. Subsequent investigation revealed that both operators were under the influence of alcohol. Steven Witherell and Shawn Magee were both arrested and transported to the Brattleboro Police Department where they were fingerprinted and photographed. They were issued Citations ordering them to appear in Windham County Superior Court to answer to the charge.

Brattleboro Police observed a vehicle operating on Williams Street, which failed to maintain its designated lane of travel, prompting a motor vehicle stop. Further investigation lead to the arrest of Melissa Melloan for the offense of DUI. Melloan was transported to the Brattleboro Police Department where she was processed, and subsequently released on a citation. Melloan will appear in Windham County Superior Court to answer her charge.

Brattleboro Officers responded to a residence on Canal Street for a report of property damage. Upon arrival they observed that the glass on the exterior door to the building had been shattered. Witnesses stated that they believed Nathan E Hazlett to be responsible. Hazlett was located a short time later and admitted to causing the damage. He was issued a Citation for Unlawful Mischief. Hazlett is scheduled to appear in Windham County Superior Court to answer to the charge.

Brattleboro Police responded to business on Main St for the report of two males trespassing that had left the area. Through investigation it was determined that Lucas Bertolini and Thomas French committed the offense of Unlawful Trespass at the business. Bertolini and French were located at a later time and issued citations to appear at the Windham County Superior Courthouse to answer to the charge.

Brattleboro Police responded to a call concerning the theft of a credit card and its unauthorized use at two local business's. Upon investigation, it was determined that Celina Stephens committed the crime of fraudulent use of a credit card. Stephens was arrested and will appear in Windham County Superior Courthouse to answer to the charge.

Brattleboro Police responded to a residence on Elm St. for a male who was pounding on a door stating he was not dressed for the weather. Upon investigation it was determined that Matthew Linn was intoxicated and operated his motor vehicle on a public highway. Linn was arrested for DUI and transported to the Brattleboro Police Station. Linn was later issued a citation to appear in Windham County Superior Courthouse to answer to the charge.

Brattleboro Officers responded to a residence located on Pleasant Street for a report of a Domestic Assault. Subsequent investigation led to the arrest of Marquis D Lafayette. Lafayette was transported to the Brattleboro Police Department where he was ordered held until sober. He is scheduled to appear in Windham County Superior Court to answer to the charge of Domestic Assault.

Brattleboro Officers received a 911 call in which a female could be heard screaming when the call was abruptly disconnected. Officers were able to identify the owner of phone from which the call had originated and began an investigation to determine the caller's location. Subsequent investigation determined that the caller was with Walter M Taylor. Taylor was later located along with the female caller. Investigation revealed that he forced the female into his vehicle and against her will. In the process the female suffered a broken hand. Taylor drove around with the female in his vehicle for an extended amount of time during which Taylor took the cell phone from the victim to prevent her for calling for assistance. There were no weapons involved. Taylor was arrested and transported to the Brattleboro police Department where he was processed. He was ordered held without bail and is scheduled to appear in Windham County Superior Court to answer to the charges of Kidnapping, 2nd Degree Aggravated Domestic Assault and Interference with Access to Emergency Services. The female was treated at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital for her injuries and later released.

Brattleboro Police Department received a complaint about the welfare of a child. Through the investigation, it was discovered that Jacob Gagnon was violating his conditions of release by having contact with a child under the age of 16. Gagnon was arrested for violating his conditions of release. He was later released on a citation to appear at Windham County Superior Court, Criminal Division to answer to this charge.

Brattleboro Police responded to South Main Street for a fight in progress. When police arrived, they found the parties were separated and one had left the scene. After an investigation took place police cited Arthur Fisk to court for the charge of Disorderly Conduct.

Brattleboro Police responded to a residence on First Level Drive for a family fight. Upon arrival, it was determined that Emma R. Ethier got into an argument with her mother and punched her three times. Ethier was placed under arrest and was transported to the Brattleboro Police

Department for processing. Ethier was released with Conditions of Release and on a flash citation to appear in court the following day. No one was treated for injuries.

Brattleboro Police responded to the Drop In Center on South Main Street for an altercation between two clients. Through investigation it was determined that Denny R. Bills Sr spit and threw coffee on another client. Bills was issued Conditions of Release and a citation to appear in court to answer to the charge of Disorderly Conduct.

Brattleboro Police responded to a financial institution on Putney Road for a report of an armed robbery. Through investigation and with the assistance of social media, Angel Baker and Jack Burke were identified and arrested. Baker is being charged as an adult with Assault and Robbery, and Burke is being charged with Aiding in the Commission of a Felony. Both were held on \$10,000 bail. Vermont State Police and Keene NH Police assisted with this investigation.

Brattleboro Officers responded to a business on Canal St. for a report of a shoplifter in custody. Upon arrival Officers met with the suspect, Deborah J. Longueil, and issued her a citation to appear in court for the offense of Retail Theft

Brattleboro Police responded to a business on Canal Street for an attempted armed robbery. A male wearing dark clothing entered the store demanding money from the cashier. The male stated that he had a firearm, however no firearm was brandished. The male had a mask covering his face. The male then exited the business, and headed towards the downtown area. The male was described as skinny, approximately 5ft 5inches tall. The male did not make away with any money, and there were no injuries. This is an ongoing investigation.

Brattleboro Officers responded to a residence on Brookwood Dr. regarding a domestic assault. The suspect, Matthew R. Condon, allegedly slapped and knocked the victim to the ground. Condon was arrested for Domestic Assault. Condon will appear in court to answer to the charge. The victim was not medically treated.

Brattleboro Police Department responded to a local business on Putney road for a female that was hunched over in the driver's seat of her vehicle. Upon investigation, it was determined that Genie Bent was under the influence of alcohol. Bent was arrested and transported to the Brattleboro Police Department where she was later released on a citation. Bent will appear in Windham Superior court to face the charge.

Brattleboro Police Department were investigating ongoing drug activity at a residence on Canal St. when they located Corey Whidden. Whidden was discovered to have an outstanding warrant. Whidden was arrested and held in lieu of \$5000 bail. Whidden will appear in Windham County Superior Court: Criminal Division to face the underlying charges.

Brattleboro Police, Brattleboro Fire and Rescue Inc. responded to Marlboro Road near Hamilton Road for a report of a tractor trailer on its side. Upon arrival, the tractor trailer unit was

discovered lying on its driver side. The operator, Nathan T. Rogers of Texas, was treated on scene and transported to Brattleboro Memorial Hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. Rogers was operating a 2016 Freightliner Cascadia, towing a 53-foot trailer, east when the trailer lost traction due to ice and started to slide. Rogers then crossed the west bound lane and rolled the tractor trailer on to its side. Marlboro Road was shut down to alternating one lane traffic for approximately three and a half hours and shut down completely for approximately 30 minutes while DJ's Towing pulled the truck upright. A chemical and oil spill response team responded as well for diesel fuel that had leaked into a nearby brook.

Brattleboro Police responded to Brattleboro Memorial Hospital for a report of a female with injuries resulting from an attempted Assault and Robbery, and an assault with a motor vehicle. The female stated that the incident occurred in the parking lot of the Municipal building located at 230 Main Street. The female was treated at BMH for non-life-threatening injuries and was subsequently discharged. This is an ongoing investigation. A suspect has been identified but has not been located for questioning. This was not a random act as the suspect was known to the victim.

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.

Budget Concerns/Impacts:

We continue to monitor the FY 2018 budget. We have prepared and submitted a budget proposal for FY19 to the town manager and look forward to participating in the annual budget development process.

Staffing:

The Department is currently down five positions.

Three candidates are currently attending the Vermont Police Academy. They will be in a classroom setting for the next 19 weeks before they will be able to participate in the 12-week Field Training program.

Interviews for the remaining open positions took place in December 2017. Out of that process there were 6 candidates selected to move forward into the background phase. The successful candidates are being screened for the August 2018 academy class.