



BRATTLEBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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To: Brattleboro Select board
Via: Peter Elwell, Town Manager
From: Mark Carignan, Interim Chief
Re: Monthly report – January 2021
Date: 2/9/21

Summary of Major Activities/Work Projects:

Officers responded to 703 calls for service/incidents and made 43 arrests. Included in these calls for service were 12 overdoses with 1 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.

57 vehicle operation citations were issued along with 385 warnings. Officers spent approximately 200 hours on foot patrol in the downtown area as well as other neighborhoods and parks in Town.

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, racial equity, 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.

This month the selectboard began to review the report prepared by Emily Megas-Russell and Shea Witzberger. Department leadership began to work with Town Management to consider and evaluate the information and recommendations in the report.

Budget Concerns/Impacts:

Monitoring the FY 2021 budget. FY 2022 budget has been approved by the selectboard and awaits RTM approval.

The town's animal control vehicle is scheduled for replacement in FY 2022. Late last year, it suffered irreparable mechanical failure and required immediate replacement. In January 2021 the selectboard approved the early purchase of a new vehicle with capital funds. This money will be replaced from the FY 2022 capital allocation.

The department took delivery of its first hybrid cruiser. The vehicle is currently being outfitted with the necessary equipment to serve as a marked police car, and officers are excited to take it out on the road.

Staffing:

The Department currently has 7 openings. Two candidates are currently in the background investigation phase of the application process. 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.

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.

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