

To: Brattleboro Select board
Via: Peter Elwell, Town Manager
From: Michael R. Fitzgerald, Chief of Police
Date: 6 July 2018

SUBJ: JUNE 2018 MONTHLY REPORT

Summary of Major Activities/Work Projects:

Officers responded to 911 calls for service/incidents and made 25 arrests resulting in 31 criminal charges. Included in these calls for service were 7 overdoses with 2 resulting death. This does not mean there were only 7 overdoses in Brattleboro for this period. It merely means that these are the numbers that were responded to by police.

29 vehicle operation citations were issued along with 221 warnings. Officers spent approximately 154 hours on foot patrol in the downtown area as well as other neighborhoods and parks in Town.

Cases of Interest:

Brattleboro Police received notification of a credit card reported as stolen that was used at a business on Canal St. Through investigation it was determined Holly Magnuson and Jeremy Grenfell were in possession of the card inside the business at the time of the transaction. Magnuson and Grenfell were issued citations ordering them to appear at the Windham County Superior Courthouse to answer to the charge.

Brattleboro Police responded to a local parking lot for a report of a fight taking place between two individuals. Upon investigation, it was determined that James Douglas Jr. repeatedly blocked the travel, spit at, and assaulted the victim as he was walking. Both the victim and Douglas sustained non-life threatening injuries. Douglas was transported to the Brattleboro Memorial Hospital where he was evaluated and released. Douglas was issued a citation for this offense and will appear at Windham Superior Court to face the charge.

Brattleboro Police responded to a local business parking lot for a vehicle being struck by a school bus. Upon investigation, it was determined the operator of the school bus, Andrea D. Royce left the location without contacting the owner of the damaged vehicle. Royce was later interviewed about the incident and it was determined that Royce provided false information to an officer. Royce was issued a citation for LSA and false information to an officer. Royce will appear at Windham Superior Court to face the charge.

Brattleboro Police responded to a local business for a report of two females fighting. Upon investigation, it was determined that Lisa M. Gendron committed the offense of disorderly conduct by fighting in public. Gendron will appear in court at a later date to face the charge

Brattleboro Police conducted a motor vehicle stop. Investigation determined that one of the occupants, Tonya Camolli was at a location on Pleasant St where she had been trespassed. Camolli was originally trespassed from the Pleasant St property for disorderly behavior. Camolli was also in violation of several of her court ordered conditions of release. Camolli was issued a citation and will appear at Windham County Superior Court to answer her charges.

Brattleboro Police observed Walter Swift walking on Putney Rd. Swift was issued conditions containing a 24-hour curfew to remain at his residence. Swift also had an active warrant for his

arrest. Swift was placed under arrest and transported to the Brattleboro Police Department. Swift was lodged and later released with conditions and was issued a citation ordering him to appear at the Windham County Superior Courthouse to answer to the charge.

Lisa Marie Gendron was located on Flat Street in Brattleboro and taken into custody as a result of continuing investigation for a previous incident. In that incident, a female victim was assaulted by several individuals whom had unlawfully entered a residence. As a result of that incident, Gendron was charged with the offenses of Burglary and Simple Assault. Gendron was also the subject of 2 active arrest warrants stemming from previous charges. She was lodged at the Brattleboro Police Department in lieu of \$5000.00 bail, and ordered to appear in Windham County Superior Court.

Officers of the Brattleboro Police Department were on patrol downtown when they came across Holly Magnuson and an unknown male, apparently using drugs. The two admitted to having smoked crack cocaine. A consent search revealed that Magnuson was in possession of additional amounts of crack cocaine. Magnuson was issued a citation for Possession of Cocaine and will appear in Windham County Superior Court: Criminal Division to face the charge.

Brattleboro Police responded to a local housing development for a report of a juvenile that was left alone. Upon investigation, it was determined that Aurora F. Messier left her six-year-old child unsupervised while she left to visit a local business. Messier was issued a citation for cruelty to a child and will appear at Windham Superior Court to face the charge.

Brattleboro Police Department were on patrol on Canal St. when they stopped a vehicle for defective equipment. Subsequent investigation revealed that the operator, Elizabeth Walsh, was under the influence of alcohol. Walsh was arrested for Driving Under the Influence, and later released with a citation. Walsh will appear in Windham County Superior Court: Criminal Division to face the charge.

Brattleboro Police Department responded to Canal St. for a citizen dispute. Upon arrival officers located Nathan A. Coll, and subsequent investigation revealed that Coll had been following and threatening a woman walking in the area. Coll was issued a citation for Disorderly Conduct and released, and will appear in Windham County Superior Court: Criminal Division to face the charge.

Brattleboro Police responded to a report of a suspected explosive device at the Brattleboro Retreat. The Brattleboro Fire Department responded along with Rescue, Inc to support and assist. BPD officers met with Retreat security, who had located the device, and confirmed that it appeared to be some sort of explosive. The device was located outside of a building on the south side of the Retreat campus. A secure perimeter was established and the area evacuated. Police and Fire set up an incident command post and began to stage additional resources. Vermont State Police and the Windham Sheriff's Department assisted. A VSP bomb squad responded to investigate the device. They were assisted by bomb personnel out of the FBI Albany office. The device was examined with the use of a robot and was determined to be inert. Brattleboro Police developed a suspect, named above, and began an investigation. Clough was located near the Retreat and was arrested. He was charged with placing a hoax device, a felony, and was ordered held on \$2,500 bail. There were no injuries reported as a result of this incident. BPD is fortunate to enjoy established positive relationships with VSP, the Windham Sheriff, Brattleboro Fire, Rescue, Inc, the FBI, and the Brattleboro Retreat. These relationships allowed for smooth interagency cooperation that resulted in the safe outcome of a dangerous situation.

Brattleboro Police responded to a business on Main Street for the report of a female that was inside the store from which she had been previously been trespassed. Through investigation it was determined Colleen Bagley was inside the store in violation of a no trespass order. Bagley

was located and issued a citation ordering her to appear in the Windham County Superior Courthouse to answer to the charge.

Brattleboro Police responded to a business on Main Street for the report of a male on the property that had previously been trespassed. Through investigation it was determined Shawn O'Dell had been on the property and had left the area. O'Dell was later located and issued a citation ordering him to appear at the Windham County Superior Courthouse to answer to the charge.

Patrick Poillon came to the Brattleboro Police Department to turn himself in on an outstanding warrant. Poillon was arrested and held in lieu of bail. Poillon will appear in Windham County Superior Court: Criminal Division to face the underlying charges: Retail Theft, Assault and Robbery, Simple Assault, and Aggravated Disorderly Conduct.

Brattleboro Police met with a female subject at the Brattleboro Police Department regarding an issue she had with one of her tenants. She stated that Kyle A. Goodnow was a tenant of hers and while speaking about a property issue over the telephone, he pretended that he was at a police station and handed the phone to a police officer, demanding his property back. The female subject reported she was threatened by the alleged police officer that she could face jail time if she did not return Goodnow's property and she was breaking the law. Goodnow was issued a citation to appear in court answer the charges of Impersonating a Police Officer.

Brattleboro Police responded to a social service agency on South Main Street for a report of a suspect armed with a large knife and threatening people. When officers arrived, the suspect, later identified as Vercher, fled east toward Vernon Road. Officers pursued Vercher, who was still armed with the knife. Additional officers responded to the area to assist. Eventually Vercher was surrounded and trapped in a wooded and brushy area between Vernon Street and the railroad tracks near the parking lot of 28 Vernon Street. Vercher refused to obey officers' instructions. Officers began negotiations with Vercher in an effort to get him to surrender. During this time Vercher threatened to injure himself and officers. The BPD social worker was summoned to the scene to assist. After about 50 minutes Vercher stood up and began to approach officers. He refused to comply with instructions from officers and continued to advance. Officers deployed a TASER which was ineffective. Officers then fired several shots from a bean-bag shotgun, striking Vercher. Vercher was controlled and taken into custody. He was transported by Rescue, Inc to BMH for treatment of moderate but not life-threatening injuries. No one else was injured. Vercher was initially charged with disorderly conduct. He was ordered to appear in court on July 24, 2018 and was released with conditions. BPD has invested heavily in training related to dealing with armed individuals who may be suffering from a mental health crisis. This training includes using de-escalation techniques to slow down an incident, when possible, so that negotiations can occur and strategic decisions can be made. BPD also employs a variety of tools and weapons in order to control violent suspects. This includes the bean-bag shotgun, a less-lethal weapon that shoots a small bean-bag at high velocity in order to cause non-penetrating impact. Officers, under the direction of a patrol sergeant, were able to utilize their training and other tools to resolve the situation safely.

Brattleboro Police were called to the intersection of Putney Rd and Town Crier Dr for a report of a physical fight in process. Upon arrival officers spoke to both parties involved. It was determined that Heather L Holmes had physically assaulted a male that she was in a relationship with. Holmes was placed under arrest for Domestic Assault and Disorderly Conduct. She was transported to the Brattleboro Police Department where she was processed, and released on a citation and conditions of release. Holmes will appear in court to answer her charges. There were no serious injuries to either party.

Brattleboro Police Department were on foot patrol downtown when they noticed two people acting suspiciously behind a public building on Flat St. Further investigation revealed that Reginald W. French was in the process of using crack cocaine. French was arrested, and then issued a citation for Possession of Cocaine and released. French will appear in Windham County Superior Court: Criminal Division to face the charge

Brattleboro Police Department responded to the parking lot of a business on Main St. for a fight in progress. Subsequent investigation revealed that Ryan Cobb argued with friends who tried to stop him from driving, believing that he was too intoxicated to do so safely, leading to Cobb breaking the window of one of his friends' cars. Cobb drove away from the scene and was apprehended. No one was seriously hurt in this incident. Cobb was arrested and charged with DUI, DLS, and Unlawful Mischief, and will appear in Windham County Superior Court: Criminal Division to face the charges. Cobb was held in lieu of bail on an outstanding warrant.

Brattleboro Police were called to an apartment complex on Western Ave. A witness stated that she saw a vehicle pull into the parking lot with damage, and believed the operator to be impaired. Police responded, and located the operator, Joshua White. Investigation revealed that White had operated a motor vehicle while intoxicated. White had also crashed his vehicle on the 91 S off ramp for exit 2, causing damage to the vehicle and the guard rail. White was arrested for DUI and Leaving the Scene of an Accident. White was transported to the Brattleboro Police Department, where he was processed, and eventually released on a citation. White will appear at Windham County Superior Court at a later date. There were no injuries in the crash.

Brattleboro Police responded to Elliot St for a report of a citizen dispute. During the investigation of the dispute, Police arrested Kyo Pincus for Disorderly Conduct due to her escalating aggressive behavior and cursing after being warned by Police to stop. Pincus was released with a citation to appear in Court.

Brattleboro Police responded to Elliot St. for a report of possible drug activity near the park. During the investigation police arrested Rodney Lumbra for possession of suspected Heroin and Fentanyl. Lumbra was released with Conditions of Release and issued a citation to appear in Court.

The Brattleboro Police Department responded to Memorial Park for a report of a fight in progress with a possible gun and bat involved. Officers arrived on scene to find both parties had left the area. Officers conducted a motor vehicle stop based on witness statements of an involved vehicle. Officers located 3 juveniles that had been involved in the altercation. A BB gun resembling a real gun was located in the vehicle along with several bats. Officers learned that the altercation was caused by a road rage incident between the two parties. The juveniles were transported by parents to the Brattleboro Police Department where they were released on juvenile citations for disorderly conduct. The juveniles are scheduled to appear in Windham County Superior Court Family Division at a later date.

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 are continuing to monitor and closing out the FY 2018 budget.

Staffing:

The Department is currently down 6 positions. Two candidates are currently attending the 12-week Officer Field Training Program at the BPD. There are 3 candidates slated to attend the 106th Basic Training Academy on 30 July 2018.

Interviews for the remaining open positions took place in June. Out of that process, 4 candidates were selected to move forward and background investigations are currently underway. Candidates that successfully complete the hiring process will be scheduled to attend Basic training in February 2019.