

BRATTLEBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT
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Michael R. Fitzgerald
Chief Of Police

Mark E. Carignan
Captain

To: Brattleboro Select board
Via: Peter Elwell, Town Manager
From: Michael R. Fitzgerald, Chief of Police
Date: 5 November 2019

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. Fitzgerald', is written over the 'From' and 'Date' lines of the header.

SUBJ: OCTOBER 2019 MONTHLY REPORT

Summary of Major Activities/Work Projects:

Officers responded to 838 calls for service/incidents and made 41 arrests resulting in 56 criminal charges. Included in these calls for service were 10 overdoses with 0 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.

31 vehicle operation citations were issued along with 312 warnings. Officers spent approximately 320 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 residence on Canal Street for a report of a male who broke a window at the residence. Through investigation it was determined that there was a dispute over a stolen bicycle and Theodore D. Colehamer broke the window and destroyed some tents off Elm Street. Colehamer was arrested for his actions.

Brattleboro Police Department responded a residence on Main Street for a late report of an assault. Subsequent investigation revealed that Matthew Brooks had violated his conditions of release when he assaulted a male at the Brattleboro Transportation Center. The male sustained minor injuries and declined treatment. Brooks was arrested for Simple Assault and Violation Condition of Release.

Brattleboro Police were conducting a foot patrol under the Elm St. Bridge. While on patrol, Police observed Aaron Devens engaging in activity consistent with abusing crack cocaine. Investigation revealed that Nevens was in possession of crack cocaine. Nevens was arrested for possession.

Brattleboro Police Department responded to the area of the Whetstone Walkway in Brattleboro to investigate a report of a verbal dispute. Initial reports indicated that James (Amie) Douglas was involved in the incident. Douglas was located on Linden Street and subsequent investigation revealed that Douglas was in violation of court ordered conditions of release regarding a curfew.

Further investigation revealed that Douglas acted in a disorderly manner in public and spat on another person. Douglas was placed under arrest for disorderly conduct and violation of conditions.

Brattleboro Police located a male subject whom they believed to have a warrant for their arrest. The subject, Justo DeThomas provided false information to the officers while attempting to identify him. DeThomas was arrested on the warrant and also charged with False Information to Law Enforcement.

Officers of the Brattleboro Police Department responded to a business on Canal Street for a reported theft complaint. Officers reviewed surveillance images and videos from the theft and were able to locate the subject later that morning. The subject was identified as Corey A. Whidden. Whidden was arrested for Retail Theft.

Brattleboro Police observed a vehicle commit a motor vehicle violation on Canal St. A motor vehicle stop was subsequently initiated. The operator, Joshua J. Archer, was found to be under the influence of alcohol. Archer was placed under arrest for DUI.

Officers of the Brattleboro Police Department were dispatched to 124 Main St. for a Trespassing complaint. Officers took statements from employees at 124 Main St. Subsequent investigation lead to the arrest of Anthony Rivera. Rivera used obscene language in a public building which lead to his arrest. Rivera was arrested for Disorderly Conduct. Rivera was also given a No Trespass order for 124 Main St.

Brattleboro Police responded to the area of Park Place and Linden Street for an attempted robbery. Police met with a male subject on Park Place who advised he was standing near his vehicle when an unknown male struck him on the back of the head demanding his wallet. The male stated he was able to fend off the attacker and the attacker was last seen walking north on Linden Street. The male did not sustain any injuries, did not require any medical attention and was not robbed of any items. This incident is still under investigation.

Officers of the Brattleboro Police Department were on directed foot patrol on Flat St. when they came across Anthony M. Rivera. Rivera had his back to the officer when they met each other. When Rivera faced the officer, Rivera was holding a small bag of suspected crack cocaine. Rivera admitted to the substance being crack cocaine. Rivera was arrested for possession.

Brattleboro Police conducted a motor vehicle stop on I91S due to an equipment violation. Investigation revealed that the operator, Jillian Harden, was impaired while operating her vehicle. Harden was placed under arrest for DUI.

While patrolling on Elliot Street, officers of the Brattleboro Police Department located a female with an active arrest warrant. Subsequent investigation revealed that Courtney T. Lafayette, also had heroin in her possession. Lafayette was arrested under the warrant and additional charge of possession was added.

Brattleboro Police, Rescue Inc. and Brattleboro Fire responded to the intersection of Main Street and Walnut Street for a report of a bicyclist that was struck by a motor vehicle. Upon arrival, Brattleboro Police and EMS personnel located the bicyclist laying on Walnut Street. The bicyclist was a 29-year-old female of Brattleboro. She was transported to Brattleboro Memorial Hospital for serious but non-life-threatening injuries. The operator was identified as Sean P. Pierce of Massachusetts. This investigation is ongoing.

Brattleboro Police responded to Putney Road for a report of a bicyclist that was struck by a motor vehicle. Upon arrival, Brattleboro Police met with a 40-year-old male who was riding his bicycle north on Putney Road. Through investigation it was discovered a black 2017 Cadillac XTS with New Hampshire registration struck the bicyclist and fled the scene after the collision. The bicyclist did not need medical attention but sustained minor, non-life-threatening injuries. This investigation is ongoing.

Officers of the Brattleboro Police Department responded to the town common, in the town of Brattleboro, for a report of a male engaging in tumultuous behavior by kicking a porta potty over an embankment and damaged the information booth, while using obscene language in a public place. Subsequent investigation revealed Justin E. Clough, yelled profanities while kicking a porta potty and a picnic table over an embankment at the park. Clough was arrested for Disorderly Conduct and Unlawful Mischief.

Brattleboro Fire Department and Brattleboro Police Department responded to a report of a fire at a residence on Canal Street. The fire appears to have been intentionally started by a subject who has not yet been identified. The fire was quickly contained and there were no injuries. This remains an active investigation.

Brattleboro Police were called to Green St. for a report of a vehicle versus a bicyclist motor vehicle crash. Investigation revealed that Corey A. Whidden was riding his bike on Green St. Whidden when he was struck by a vehicle. The operator stopped immediately to render aid. Whidden then threatened and intimidated the operator into giving him financial compensation. Whidden then demanded more money under the threats towards the operator. Whidden fled the scene prior to police arriving. Whidden was located and placed under arrest for larceny from a person and extortion.

Brattleboro police were flagged down by a female subject on Canal Street in the area of the BMH. The victim told police she just had her purse stolen by a male subject she barely knew but recognized. During the theft, the male, later identified as Fredrick A. Habich, came out of the woods and restrained her by putting his arm around her neck. Habich then forcibly took the purse and fled the scene. Habich was located by police a short time later Canal St in the area of Clark St. Habich was arrested and taken into custody without incident. There were several witnesses to the incident which assisted in identifying Habich. The victim was not injured during the theft. Habich was arrested for Larceny from a Person.

A Brattleboro Police Officer on foot patrol in the downtown area was approached by a local citizen. The citizen reported that she had been a victim of a crime. Investigation revealed that Frederick A Habich had nearly struck the 53 year old woman with his vehicle while she was walking on a sidewalk. The night prior Habich had assaulted the same woman by shoving her to the ground. The victim sustained non-life-threatening injuries from the previous incident. Habich was located and arrested for Assault and Negligent Operation.

Officers of the Brattleboro Police Department were on patrol in the area of the Brattleboro parking garage. Officers contacted the operator of a motor vehicle. The operator was identified as Ryan Cobb. Further investigation revealed that Cobb was under the influence of alcohol. It was also found that Cobb had a criminally suspended operator's license and was violating his court ordered conditions to not operate a motor vehicle. Cobb was placed under arrest for Driving Under the Influence, Operating with a Criminally Suspended License, and Contempt of Court.

Members of the Brattleboro Police Department responded to a local community center for a report of trespassing. The complainant reported Anthony Rivera had been on the property and was previously trespassed. A record check confirmed Rivera was trespassed from the property. Rivera was later located and arrested.

Officers of the Brattleboro Police Department located a suspect wanted in New Hampshire for failure to appear in a case of Welfare Fraud. Edward Madigan was located at his residence on Putney Road and taken into custody without incident. Madigan was arrested as a fugitive from justice and held on \$10,000 bail.

Officers of the Brattleboro Police Department responded to a business on Putney Road for a report of a physical dispute. Upon arrival officers located the subjects that were involved in the incident. Further investigation revealed that Corey R. Hale had initiated aggressive behavior in a public place. Hale was arrested for Disorderly Conduct.

Brattleboro Police, Brattleboro Fire Department and Rescue Inc responded to a vehicle collision involving two pedestrians on Canal Street near Oak Grove Avenue. Investigation revealed that Michael Floyd struck a 28-year-old male and a 29-year-old female in a crosswalk with his vehicle. Both pedestrians sustained non-life-threatening injuries and were transported by ambulance to Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. This incident is still under investigation.

Officers of the Brattleboro Police Department responded to the parking lot of a business on Putney Road for a report of an intoxicated driver. Officers located the vehicle in question and after the ensuing investigation the operator, Gary Hines, was arrested for DUI. After being released, officers noticed Hines walking on Putney Road towards his vehicle. Hines was warned that he was not to drive the vehicle, but he returned to it and attempted to drive the vehicle out of the parking lot. Officers stopped the vehicle and Hines was once again arrested for DUI and lodged in lieu of bail.

Brattleboro Police Department responded to a local business on Putney Rd. for a report of a single vehicle crash. It was reported that the vehicle appeared to have been racing and crashed into a median in the parking lot, there was no one with the vehicle. Upon arrival Brattleboro Police found a 2016 Dodge Challenger that had crashed into the median of the parking lot. The vehicle was removed from the scene. Investigation revealed that George Kracke had driven the vehicle into the parking lot and then raced across the parking lot, crashing into the median. No one was injured in the crash. Kracke was arrested for Negligent Operation.

Officers from the Brattleboro Police Department were dispatched to a local business on Canal St for a report of a female being disorderly. Subsequent investigation led to the arrest of Kendra Pixley for Disorderly Conduct. Officers were dispatched back to the parking lot for a subject who was obstructing traffic and being disorderly. Subsequent investigation led to the arrest of Kendra Pixley again for disorderly conduct. Since Pixley had been cited just minutes prior to this incident Pixley was transported to the Brattleboro Police Department where she was held until sober.

Officers of the Brattleboro Police Department were dispatched to a residence on South Main St for a reported domestic assault. Subsequent investigation revealed that Emery Wainwright had assaulted a family or household member on two separate occasions. Wainwright was later located, arrested and lodged at Southern State Correctional Facility as the court held him without bail. Rescue Inc treated the victim for injuries on scene.

The Brattleboro Police Department was dispatched to a report of a male subject sleeping in a hallway inside of a residence on Western Ave that he had no legal right to be in. Upon the arrival of officers, the male had already left on foot in an unknown direction. Subsequent investigation led to the arrest of Nicholas Lapedota for Unlawful Trespass into an Occupied Dwelling.

Officers were on bicycle patrol in the downtown business district when they observed two individuals walk behind a building on Flat St. Investigation led to the arrest of Brandy Rockwell and Craig Roys for Possession of Fentanyl.

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:

Monitoring the FY 2020 budget. Preparing for the FY2021 budget.

Staffing:

We currently have two recruits attending the Vermont Police Academy 108th Basic class. They are scheduled to graduate the end end of November. They will begin their 3 week post basic training with a completion date mid to late December.

Background investigation is being conducted on one candidate for the February 2020 Basic class.

The Department is short 3 positions.