

**To:** Brattleboro Selectboard  
**Via:** Peter Elwell, Town Manager  
**From:** Michael Fitzgerald, Chief of Police  
**Date:** 07 March 2017

**SUBJ: FEBRUARY 2017 MONTHLY REPORT**

**Summary of Major Activities /Work Projects:**

Officers responded to 802 calls for service/incidents along with making 31 arrests resulting in 42 criminal charges. 69 motor vehicle citations were issued along with 253 verbal warnings. Officers also spent approximately 124 hours on walking patrols in the downtown district and other areas of the Town.

**Cases of Interest:**

The Brattleboro Police arrested Richard G. Brown of Brattleboro, VT. Brown was charged with Leaving the Scene of an Accident. Through an investigation it was determined that Brown struck a business sign with his motor vehicle damaging it and then departed without notifying the owner of the sign.

Officers responded to a business located on Canal Street on report of an assault. Upon arrival they met with a male victim who stated that an unknown Hispanic male had assaulted him. Subsequent investigation led to the arrest of Edward Hernandez 44 year old male of Brattleboro for the offense of Simple Assault. The victim sustained minor injuries and refused medical treatment.

Brattleboro Police responded to a residence at Moore Court for a reported dispute. Subsequent investigation resulted in Corey A. Whidden being arrested for the offense of Criminal Contempt. Whidden was found to have violated his court-ordered Conditions of Release. Whidden was lodged at the Brattleboro Police Department on \$500 bail. Whidden will appear in court at a later date to answer to this charge.

The Brattleboro Police arrested Jesse L. Baldinelli of Winchester, NH and charged him with being a Fugitive from Justice. Baldinelli was held on a \$25,000.00 cash or surety bond. Baldinelli will be presented in the Windham County Superior Court Criminal Division at a later date to answer to this charge.

Brattleboro Police conducted a motor vehicle stop on Canal St. The operator, Lori L. Strange was found to be criminally suspended from operating a motor vehicle in Vermont. Strange was also found to have an active arrest warrant, stemming from a charge of Driving Under the Influence. Strange was taken into custody without incident and was lodged at the Brattleboro Police Department on \$1000 bail for the warrant. Strange will appear in the Windham Superior Court: Criminal Division at a later date to answer to these charges.

Brattleboro Police responded to the Brattleboro Retreat for a report of a patient who had eloped from deputies while in custody of the Chittenden County Sheriff's Department. After approximately 2.5 hours, the Brattleboro Police located the patient at the intersection of Cedar St. and Sycamore St. The patient was subsequently returned to the Brattleboro Retreat without incident.

Brattleboro Police responded to a residence on Putney Road for a reported stabbing. Police located an adult male on scene that had a wound to his abdomen. This wound was found to have been caused by a knife. The victim was transported to the Brattleboro Memorial Hospital via Rescue Inc. with non-life-threatening injuries. Subsequent investigation resulted in Daniel O. Vergara being arrested without incident for the offense of Aggravated Assault. Vergara was lodged at the Brattleboro Police Department and will appear in the Windham Superior Court: Criminal Division to answer to this charge.

Brattleboro Police Department responded to an accident on Canal St. at the I-91 Exit 1 off-ramp. When officers arrived vehicles involved were still in traffic, and traffic had to be restricted in the area for a short time. The operators were Morgan Dow, of Halifax, and Christine Brimmer, of Vernon. Brimmer was transported from the scene by Rescue with minor injuries.

Officers received a report of an incident that had occurred at a residence on Melrose Street, involving a domestic dispute. Investigation revealed that Todd Buchas caused injury to a female acquaintance. Buchas was subsequently arrested for the offense of Aggravated Domestic Assault and lodged at the Brattleboro PD. He was cited to appear in Windham County Superior Court.

Members of the Brattleboro Police Department, Brattleboro Fire Department and Rescue Inc. responded to a report of a head on collision on Putney Road in the area of Wantastiquet Drive. Responding officers found two vehicles with heavy front end damage and one subject trapped inside a vehicle. The collision occurred when a 2012 Ford Focus operated by Anthony Gonzalez of Brattleboro and a 2005 Subaru Forester operated by Patricia Butler of Brattleboro struck head on. Butler had to be extricated from her vehicle by the fire department. Gonzalez, Butler and Butler's passenger were all transported to Brattleboro Memorial Hospital for non-life threatening injuries. Putney Road in that area was closed to all traffic between 2:19 AM and 3:37 AM. Putney Road was closed again later in the morning for follow up investigation.

Brattleboro Police responded to a residence on West St. for a report of a stolen vehicle. Subsequent investigation resulted in a 15 year-old male from Brattleboro being charged with the offense of Operating without Consent of Owner. This male will appear in the Windham Superior Court: Family Division to answer to this charge. The stolen vehicle was recovered.

Brattleboro Police Department responded to a report of an assault in progress on South Main Street. Upon arrival two individuals, one male and one female were observed with wounds to their faces. Investigation led to the arrest of Rebecca Paligo of Brattleboro for Domestic Assault, Simple Assault, and Disorderly Conduct. Paligo was transported to Brattleboro Police Department, where she was processed and released into the custody of Probation and Parole. Paligo will appear at Windham County Superior Court at a later date and time to answer to the charges.

Officers of the Brattleboro Police Department responded to a business on Elliot St. for an assault. Subsequent investigation led to the arrest of Christine Samson-Fitzhenry for Domestic Assault, Disorderly Conduct and Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer. During the course of arrest Samson-Fitzhenry was disorderly and assaulted officers. Injuries from the assault were minor and no one was transported to the hospital as a result of this incident. Samson-Fitzhenry will appear in Windham County Superior Court: Criminal Division at a later date to face the charges.

Brattleboro Police responded to a call of a male being disorderly in the area of Canal St. Upon arrival, officers witnessed Jesse Johnson being loud and aggressive. During the interview with the police, Johnson assaulted an officer. Medical attention was not needed. Johnson was arrested and transported back to the Brattleboro Police Station where he was lodged.

### **Special Meetings/Communications/Events:**

Community Equity Collaborative: Their vision is that the greater Brattleboro area is recognized as an open and welcoming epicenter celebrating diversity free of prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. Their mission is to sustain existing and support new initiatives, activities and programs that unify and galvanize our community to achieve our vision. During the quarterly meetings we discuss the impact of current events between law enforcement and their communities, current BPD recruitment and hiring strategy and the celebration of Diversity.

Brattleboro Area Prevention Coalition: Monthly meeting consists of developing strategies in helping others to make smart choices in life. Attendees include representatives from BAPC, BPD, Vermont Department of Health, WCSD, Youth Services, and various mental health agencies.

District Leadership Team holds monthly meetings which are represented by a large audience made up from but not limited to; VT Dept. of Health, Law Enforcement, DOC, HCRS, BACP, Groundworks, Brattleboro Retreat, DCF and various rehabilitation agencies. The goals of the committee are many. To reduce addiction and the destruction it causes to the lives of the citizens in Windham County and help to connect those in need to the proper services.

Officer's and staff also made numerous appearances to meet and discuss the concerns of the citizens at the senior center, elementary schools and community centers. The topics included personal safety, crime trends, homelessness and internet safety. The Brattleboro Police Department continues to make great 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:**

Continue to monitor the FY 2017 budget.

### **Staffing:**

The Department is currently down three positions. We have two officers in the Field Training Program and are expected to complete their training by the end of March. We have one cadet that is currently attending the Vermont Police Academy. Graduation from basic training is in May followed by a three week post basic course held at the Vermont Police Academy. We are currently conducting background checks on several applicants for the three vacant positions.