

To: Brattleboro Selectboard
Via: Peter Elwell, Town Manager
From: Michael Fitzgerald, Chief of Police
Date: 7 November 2017

SUBJ: OCTOBER 2017 MONTHLY REPORT

Summary of Major Activities /Work Projects:

Officers responded to 920 calls for service/incidents along with making 43 arrests resulting in 72 criminal charges. Included in the calls for service were 9 Overdoses with 2 resulting in fatalities. 34 motor vehicle citations were issued along with 313 verbal warnings. Officers also spent approximately 192 hours on walking patrols in the downtown district and other areas of the Town.

Cases of Interest:

The Brattleboro Police Department responded to a residence for a report of a possible burglary. Upon investigation, it was determined that Jennifer J. Hull had smashed a window in order to gain entrance and had stolen items. Hull was arrested and ordered to appear at Windham County Superior Court, Criminal Division to answer to these charges.

Brattleboro Police, Brattleboro Fire, Vermont State Police and Rescue Inc responded to a motor vehicle crash involving a pedestrian on Putney Road. The operator of a 2007 Dodge Pickup truck was pulling out of an establishment to head north on Putney Road when he struck a 57 year old pedestrian who was walking on the eastern side of the road. The female was transported to Brattleboro Memorial Hospital with serious injuries and was later transferred to Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital. Putney road was not shut down; however traffic was diverted for several hours. The operator was cited for Negligent Operation and will appear at Windham County Superior Court to answer the charges.

Brattleboro Police conducted a motor vehicle stop on Canal Street for a traffic violation. The operator of the vehicle, Hilary Holden provided the officer with no license and a false name. The name provided was of an actual person with a valid license. Investigation revealed Holden's true identity and that her license to drive was suspended. Holden was issued a citation to appear at court on to answer to the charge of False Information to a Law Enforcement Officer.

Brattleboro Police responded to a report of a sexual assault that had occurred in a Prospect Street residence. Responding officers were given a suspect description of a male wearing gray shorts and a black backpack. No further description or information was available. Police learned that the unknown male subject made entry into an occupied dwelling and sexually assaulted a female victim. The victim did not report any physical injuries as a result of the assault. No subjects matching the description have been located as of this report. The investigation is ongoing.

Crystal Willard was arrested during a traffic stop as a result of a recent ongoing investigation that occurred on Green Street. She was originally charged with Possession of Cocaine and Heroin. A search of Willard's home later resulted in Willard being charged with Trafficking of Heroin, Trafficking of Crack Cocaine, Trafficking of Cocaine, and Possession of a Controlled and Regulated Drug. She was arrested and transported to the Brattleboro Police Department where she was fingerprinted and photographed. She was lodged and later ordered released on Conditions. She was issued a citation ordering her to appear in Windham County Superior Court to answer to the charges.

The Brattleboro Police Department, Brattleboro Fire Department and Rescue Inc responded to Fairground Road for a motor vehicle crash involving a pedestrian. Preliminary investigation revealed that a 58 year old female was struck by a vehicle. The female was transported to Brattleboro Memorial Hospital for non-life threatening injuries. This crash is still under investigation.

Brattleboro Police Department conducted a motor vehicle stop on a vehicle due to defective equipment, and the license plate not being assigned to the vehicle. Police made contact with the operator, Kenneth Rochefort, and subsequent investigation revealed that his license to operate a motor vehicle in Vermont was criminally suspended. Rochefort was placed under arrest, and transported to the Brattleboro Police Department. He was finger printed, photographed, and released on a citation. Rochefort will appear at Windham County Superior Court to answer to his charge.

Brattleboro Police Department responded to a residence in Town for a third party report of a dispute occurring between a male and female. On arrival Donald R Wilkins was located in the apartment. Subsequent investigation revealed that Wilkins had current court ordered conditions of release related to a previous arrest for domestic assault, not to have contact with the female involved in the incident. Wilkins was taken into custody and transported to the Brattleboro Police Department where he was processed, cited and by court order released with additional conditions of release to appear in Windham County Superior Court at a later date for the offense of Criminal Contempt. The next day, the Brattleboro Police responded to the same residence in town for a report of a dispute. Subsequent investigation led to the arrest of Wilkins for once again violating his court ordered conditions of release by being in contact with the a female. Wilkins was taken into custody and transported to the Brattleboro Police Department where he was processed, cited and released with new conditions of release to include abiding by all previously set conditions. After being released it was reported that Wilkins made contact with the same female, again violating his court ordered conditions of release. Wilkins was located and taken into custody for the offense of criminal contempt. Wilkins was processed, cited and released to appear in Windham County Superior Court to answer to the offense.

Brattleboro Police were called to Brattleboro Probation and Parole for a subject who had violated his court ordered conditions of release. When police arrived they found that Robert Benedict had violated his court ordered 24 hour curfew and his condition stating he is not to drink alcohol. Benedict was taken into custody and transported to the Brattleboro Police Department for processing. Benedict was held on \$2500 bail and will be seen in Vermont Superior Court Franklin Criminal Division to answer to the charges.

Brattleboro Police observed a vehicle come to a stop on Putney Road near the North Bridge with the operator yelling at passing motorists. Brattleboro Police conducted a motor vehicle stop on the vehicle. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the operator, Gilbert Ramirez, was operating the vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. Ramirez was transported to the Brattleboro Police Department where he was cited to appear at the Windham County Superior Court to answer his charge.

Officers responded to a business on Main Street in Brattleboro for a reported theft. Upon arrival they met with management who stated that they had surveillance video of a female removing items from the shelving displays and leaving the store without paying for them. A register receipt was provided which indicated that the value of the stolen items totaled \$198.42 including tax. The female was identified as Tonya Camolli. She was later located and issued a citation ordering her to appear in Windham County Superior Court to answer to the charge of Retail Theft.

Officers responded to a report of a Citizen Dispute on Flat Street in the Preston Parking Lot. Upon arrival officers broke-up a physical altercation between Todd J Maskell, Tanya J Maskell, Tamsyn A. Butler Maskell and Brandon Jenkins. Todd J Maskell, Tanya J Maskell, Tamsyn A Butler Maskell all of Brattleboro were charged with Disorderly Conduct and were issued Citations ordering them to appear in Windham County Superior Court to answer to the charges.

Brattleboro Police Department received a report from a business in the downtown area stating that two males were suspected of engaging in drug related activity in the restroom of the business. An employee reported that the males had since left the business and were walking toward Flat St. Using the physical description provided; Jason Skibniowsky was located on Flat St. Although no evidence of drug use was observed, subsequent investigation revealed that Skibniowsky had a current no trespass order for the business in question. Skibniowsky was issued a criminal citation for the offense of Unlawful Trespass. Skibniowsky was released from the scene and will appear in Windham County Superior Court on to answer to the offense.

Brattleboro Police responded to a burglary that occurred at a business on Main St. An unknown subject, using a rock, broke one of the windows of the business, and proceeded to take all of the jewelry from the display case. Brattleboro Police are still currently investigating this incident. One subject has been arrested in connection to the burglary. Tiffany Leblanc was arrested as she noticed the broken glass and committed a crime of opportunity as she stole a remaining piece of jewelry. Video surveillance shows a male perpetrator. The male in the video is wearing blue jeans, a long sleeved blue shirt, and has a tan shirt covering his face. The male also has black shoes, with a white horizontal stripe. The male is white, and approximately 5 11, and appears slender. Leblanc was cited for retail theft, and will appear at Windham County Superior Court. Brattleboro Police received an anonymous tip regarding a recent burglary at a local Jewelry Store. The caller stated that a female involved in the burglary could be located at a residence on Canal Street. During a search officers located Crack Cocaine. McGirr was arrested and charged with the sale and distribution of Crack Cocaine. He was released on Conditions and issued a citation ordering him to appear in Windham County Superior Court to answer to the charges. The female was also located and the investigation into the Jewelry Store burglary is still under investigation.

Brattleboro Police responded to a 2 car crash on Putney Road at the Hannaford's intersection. The public alerted police that the driver who was the cause of the crash had driven away. Officer's arrived at the scene with 1 Officer securing the scene and verifying the status of the driver. The second officer went in search of the fleeing vehicle, locating it a short distance away. Both vehicles were heading north. The lead vehicle stopped for the red light when the second vehicle, operated by William Schroeder, did not stop and crashed into the back of the first vehicle and then drove away from the scene. EMS and the Brattleboro Fire Department arrived on scene to assist. Both operators were transported to Brattleboro Memorial Hospital with non-life threatening injuries. Putney road was shut down for approximately 1.5 hours with traffic being diverted around the crash scene. Schroeder was issued citations for Leaving the scene of an accident, Possession of a controlled substance, and negligent operation. He will appear at Windham County Superior Court to answer his charges.

Brattleboro Police responded to a residence on Elliot Street for a report that a male had been stabbed with a knife. Upon arrival, Police spoke with one half of the altercation and residents who were witnesses. The second half of the dispute had already been transported to BMH by a resident for a stab wound. One officer remained on scene, while other officers went to BMH to talk to the second half of the altercation. Through investigation and witness statements, it was determined that the male at BMH, Blake Pierce, was the dominant aggressor in the altercation. Since Pierce lives in the same residence as the other male, Pierce was placed under arrest for Domestic Assault. Pierce was treated at BMH for non-life threatening injuries. Once medically cleared, Pierce was transported to the Brattleboro Police Department, where he was processed, cited, and released on conditions. Pierce will appear in Windham County Superior Court to face his charge.

Brattleboro Police responded to business on Flat Street for the report of male acting belligerent and leaving the area. Through investigation it was determined that Steven M. Brown was screaming obscenities in a public area in the presence of staff members and members of the public. Brown was issued a citation to appear at the Windham County Superior Courthouse to answer to the charge of Disorderly Conduct.

Officers responded to a residence on South Main Street on a report of a Domestic Assault. Upon arrival, they could hear a male and female arguing inside the apartment. They knocked on the door and a female answered. She stated that she was having a verbal argument with her husband. She stated that the argument was only verbal today. She further stated that they had gotten into another argument the previous day and that Nicholas had physically assaulted her. Nicholas was arrested for the offense of Domestic Assault and transported to the Brattleboro Police Department where he was fingerprinted and photographed. He was released on Conditions and issued a Citation ordering him to appear in Windham County Superior Court to answer to the charge.

Brattleboro Police Department responded to a report of an active domestic dispute occurring at a residence. Upon arrival, Officers made contact with Adam J. Martin. During the investigation, Martin became assaultive towards the officers on scene and was subsequently sprayed with pepper spray and Tased. He was charged with Domestic Assault X 2, Attempted Assault on a Police Officer, Cruelty to Animals, Interference with Emergency Services, Burglary, Unlawful Mischief and Unlawful Restraint. Martin was ordered held in lieu of \$3,000.00 bail. He will appear in Windham County Superior Court, Criminal Division to answer the charges.

Special Meetings/Communications/Events:

Officer's and staff 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 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 2018 budget. Preparing supporting documents for FY19

Staffing:

The Department is currently down five positions.

Three candidates were extended a "conditional offer of employment" for the February 2018 academy class providing they successfully complete the background investigation, physical fitness test and orientation.

Applications and interviews for the remaining opening positions are ongoing.