

To: Brattleboro Selectboard
Via: Peter Elwell, Town Manager
From: Michael Fitzgerald, Chief of Police
Date: 2 October 2017

SUBJ: SEPTEMBER 2017 MONTHLY REPORT

Summary of Major Activities /Work Projects:

Officers responded to 899 calls for service/incidents along with making 41 arrests resulting in 51 criminal charges. Included in the calls for service were 6 Overdoses with 0 resulting in fatalities. 28 motor vehicle citations were issued along with 372 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 business on Bridge St. for an assault and robbery. Investigation revealed that Korbyn Bacon asked a female to borrow her phone then grabbed onto her purse pulling her to the ground. Bacon ran off into Hinsdale with her purse. The female suffered injuries and was taken to Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center where she received treatment for her injuries. Bacon was issued a citation to appear at Windham Superior Court to face the charges.

Brattleboro Police went to a residence on Central Street in search of Brandon Porter who had an active warrant for his arrest. When they encountered him, he made an attempt to flee. A brief struggle ensued between Police and Porter who was eventually placed in handcuffs. A search of Porter revealed that he was in possession of Regulated Drugs without a Prescription. Porter was charged with Resisting Arrest and Possession of Controlled and Regulated Drugs without a prescription. He is scheduled to appear in court to answer to the charges.

Brattleboro Police responded to an office on Springtree Road for the report of a male driving a vehicle while his license was criminally suspended. With assistance from the State of Vermont Department of Corrections it was determined that Robert Schauer was Operating with a Criminally Suspended License. Schauer was issued a citation to appear at the Windham County Superior Court to answer to the charge.

Brattleboro Police conducted a motor vehicle stop on Canal Street for a traffic violation. Subsequent investigation revealed that the passenger Susan Yeates had just made a purchase of prescription drugs from a local residence. A search of Yeates revealed that she was in possession of Regulated Drugs without a Prescription. Yeates was charged with Possession of Controlled and Regulated Drugs without a prescription. She is scheduled to appear in court to answer to the charges.

While on patrol Brattleboro Police observed a vehicle with defective equipment. Brattleboro Police conducted a motor vehicle stop on the vehicle on Elm Street. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the operator, Travis Allen, was operating the vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and operating a motor vehicle while having a Criminally Suspended Driver's License. Allen was transported to the Brattleboro Police Department, where he was cited to appear at the Windham County Superior Court to answer his charge.

Brattleboro Police were called to a residence on Central Street for a report of an intoxicated male, later identified as Colton Bratton, who had climbed a ladder to an upstairs apartment, pushed in the A/C unit, and had made entrance into the apartment. The resident did not want Bratton arrested, however wanted him out of the apartment and issued a No Trespass Order for the residence. Bratton was issued a No Trespass for the residence, and sent on his way. Within half an hour the resident called police again, stating that Bratton had climbed the ladder again, and was attempting to enter the residence via the A/C unit again. Upon arrival, police searched the area, and eventually located Bratton. Bratton was subsequently placed under arrest for Unlawful Trespass of an Occupied Dwelling. Bratton was transported to the Brattleboro Police Department, where he was held until sober, and released on Court Ordered Condition of Release. Bratton will appear at Windham County Court to answer his charge.

Brattleboro Police were conducting a Search Warrant on a home located on Brook Street. During the search, officers found small glassine baggies containing a Cocaine Base. Susan Yeates was issued a Citation ordering her to appear at the Windham County Superior Court to answer to the charge.

Brattleboro Police responded to the Whetstone Walkway for a report of a male, later identified as James Neveu, sleeping on the park bench. When Officers arrived they located Neveu asleep on the bench, with empty alcohol containers around him. Neveu was instructed to leave, and issued a citation for Unlawful Trespass. Neveu left, leaving his trash behind. Neveu will appear at Windham County Superior Court to answer his charge.

Brattleboro Police observed a female crying on Birge Street. Investigation revealed that she had been robbed of her wallet while giving two males a ride. The males were later located and identified as Walter Swift and Nicholas Digioia. They were both issued citations to appear in court for Larceny from a Person.

The Brattleboro Police Department responded to a residence on South Street for a report of a 25 year old male that was out of control. Upon arrival, officers learned that the male may have obtained a firearm and fled the scene. Officers conducted a search of the area and later located the male on Western Avenue. The male was taken into custody for a mental health evaluation. No weapons were located. None of the officers or the subject was injured during this incident.

Officers of the Brattleboro Police Department responded to a report of a family dispute at a residence on Oak Street. Investigation showed that Donald Wilkins assaulted a 47 year old female by grabbing her neck and throwing her. The female victim was transported to the hospital by Rescue Inc for non-life threatening injuries. Wilkins was arrested and held until sober. Wilkins was issued conditions of release and a citation to appear at court to answer to the charge of Domestic Assault and Interfering with Access to Emergency Services.

Brattleboro Police responded to a local business in The Town of Brattleboro for a female that was demonstrating aggressive behavior. Upon investigation it was determined that Christine Samson-FitzHenry of Brattleboro was causing a disturbance by throwing objects and screaming insults to an employee. Samson-FitzHenry was issued a trespass from the business and a citation for disorderly conduct. Samson-FitzHenry will appear in Windham Superior court to face the charge.

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 2018 budget.

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.