

# The Deerfield Police Department Annual Report 2022

## **Mission Statement**

"We, the members of the Deerfield Police Department, are committed to excellence in law enforcement and are dedicated to the people, traditions and diversity of Deerfield. In order to protect life and property, prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime, we will provide service with understanding, response with compassion, performance with integrity and law enforcement with vision."

I am pleased to present to you the 2022 Deerfield Police Department Annual Report. The officers, supervisors, and staff continue to deliver a superior product to the residents of Deerfield.

## **Staffing**

The Deerfield Police Department is comprised of the Chief of Police, three (3) full-time police Sergeants, six (6) additional full-time and fourteen (14) part-time officers. Officers are organized into three shifts with two officers per shift who are accessible to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. On each shift, there is an officer assigned to the Old Deerfield area (District Two), and one officer assigned to South Deerfield (District One). This ensures that residents all across town get equal response and patrol time.

The Police Department also employs a full-time administrator who is responsible for handling day to day administrative functions including but not limited to: public information requests, payroll, bills, detail billing, emergency scheduling, equipment acquisition, fleet maintenance scheduling, speaking with citizens in the lobby, answering telephones.

Sergeant Brian Ravish continues to expand the School Resource Officer (SRO) position. He is teaching many different classes with faculty at Frontier Regional High School and overseeing internships for several students that are interested in Law Enforcement. Brian also continues to teach the RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) class, Forensics class, and pedal cars to teach about the dangers of drunk and/or drugged driving. Not only does Brian teach all aspects of use of force for our agency, he teaches many surrounding departments. Brian has been certified by the National Associations of School Resource Officers in both the Basic and Advanced SRO as well as the MPTC SRO training.

Officer Timothy Capuano moved from part to full time within our agency, completing the

twenty-two-week Municipal Police Training Committee Academy. In the past, we were known as a reputable training ground for part-time personnel who become exceptional full-time officers for our agency and others, however with new POST standards, there are no longer academies to train part-time personnel.

Our part-time personnel completed the MPTC Bridge training academy which along with their road experience and part-time certification, keeps them eligible within this new legislation to continue working. In a normal year, there are three to four part-time appointments, however with the new POST police reform standards that is no longer an option. We continue to navigate the challenges this creates within our agency.

The CSO Co-Response program continues to expand this year. We currently share Kaitlin Richotte with both Greenfield and Montague Police. Kaitlin is the Assistant Program Director for the Co-Response programs through Clinical and Support Options and helps in overseeing both the Franklin and Hampshire County Co-Response teams. Kaitlin holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a double minor in Criminal Justice and Substance Use as well as a Master of Arts with a focus in Forensic Mental Health Counseling. Kaitlin is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor. She is an outstanding asset to our community.

## **Equipment**

The police department continues to replace one cruiser annually. This is due to the mileage driven, idle time, and wear and tear on a vehicle. With two personnel on duty twenty-four hours a day, our annual mileage is around 140,000 miles. We continue to be conscious of our carbon footprint, moving towards eventually being a Hybrid fleet. The Hybrid cars are proving to use about half the fuel as the fully gas-powered cruisers.

We upgraded our outdated Taser system which were 8-10 years old and no longer serviceable. The new T-7 Tasers contain the latest technology and are high visibility yellow.

We have moved to using Electronic Citations, with in-car printers. In the past, we used hand-written carbon copy citations that required manual entry and mailing to the RMV. Electronic Citations are sent to the RMV at the time of issuance and are printed out in the car.

## **Calls for Service**

The Department is very active in responding to calls for service. Calls for service within

this area are defined as requiring a police action; this does not include mere directions, parties that come to our station to speak with officers, administrative duties such as LTC renewals, or questions. Officers also respond to all fire and ambulance calls. Officers are often first on scene and assist with rendering emergency medical aid and if needed, traffic control, and are authorized to drive the ambulance to a medical facility. The total number of assigned calls for service for the 2022 calendar year was 13,641. This is an average of 37 calls for service on the average day.

There were 150 arrests, 261 active investigations, 123 motor vehicle crashes, 1125 motor vehicle stops, and 463 medical emergencies in 2022. Our officers also helped in responding to over 200 mental health emergencies and worked diligently with Crisis Services to ensure that our residents received the best possible available care and follow up treatments. With the new program across all three towns, 65% of people were diverted from being arrested or being brought to the hospital for involuntary treatment.

Our Officers patrol all areas of the Town of Deerfield, watching for any unusual activity, while keeping all residents and visitors' safety in mind, making notifications to the utility companies as well as reporting any road hazards to the appropriate highway agency. We continue to have an open communication with business owners and perform business checks daily. Officers continue to perform vacant house checks and provide target traffic enforcement in problem areas. We respond to areas of concern brought up by citizens, and work to mitigate those problems through targeted enforcement.

Officers on road patrol perform law enforcement patrol activities including, but not limited to, arresting violators of the law, checking on property and persons, conducting security checks of buildings, and dwellings, investigating traffic crashes, and enforcing traffic offenses, such as Operating Under the Influence (OUI) investigations. Aside from road patrol, these officers also assist with criminal investigations, including searching for missing persons, runaways, and wanted persons. All of this activity is documented in reports, logs and calls for service as officers are responsible to present testimony and evidence in court.

The Police Department daily logs have been placed online. They are accessible on the Town of Deerfield website, Police Department Page, under "Police Logs". This allows the residents to view the day-to-day activities, as well as research events that may have transpired in your area.

## **Major Events**

Our officers continued to work every day throughout the end of the COVID-19 pandemic as we adjust to our new normal following safety guidelines and continuing to protect the community throughout these difficult times. We have seen an increase in mental health related calls, and as mentioned, have joined forces with Crisis Services to create a co-response program in which a CSO clinician can respond with police officer to calls that may not require involuntary hospitalization, but may require follow up and assistance.

Our officers are also working with the Opioid Task Force Connect Program which connects those who have experienced or witnessed Opioid overdoses with free and confidential support programming within 72 hours of an Opioid overdose. This program also includes a database that is state wide to identify high risk candidates who have overdosed in multiple jurisdictions and connect them with services.

The Deerfield Police Department continued to have officers assigned to the Northwestern District Attorney's Anti-Crime Task Force (NDATF) throughout 2022. As of July 1st, 2022, the Deerfield Police Department committed an officer, on a full-time basis, to the NDATF.

As a result, multiple arrests and search warrants were executed within the Town of Deerfield, as well as other participating municipalities. Overall, the arrests and search warrant executions conducted by NDATF personnel in 2022 resulted in multiple felony arrests, seizures of trafficking weight quantities of narcotics, seizures of large amounts of US Currency, as well as the seizures of illegal firearms and ammunition.

During the course of 2022, investigators with the NDATF initiated 130 cases resulting in 95 arrests in our area. The NDATF also applied for, and were granted, 92 search warrants. As a result, arrests and search warrant executions made by the NDATF produced the following seizures:

- MDMA/Ecstasy- approximately 2.757 kilograms
- Cocaine/Crack cocaine- approximately 3.128 kilograms
- Heroin/Fentanyl- approximately 14,024 bags/dosage units & 1 kilogram
- Methamphetamine- approximately 13.15 kilograms
- Counterfeit/prescription pills- over 500 pills
- Psilocybin- approximately 270 grams
- Marijuana- over 600 lbs.

- Firearms- 7
- Vehicles- 1
- US Currency- \$362,044.80

Of the cases, arrests, and seizures conducted/made by the NDATAF during 2022, a notable amount involved residents or frequent visitors of the Town of Deerfield. These investigators continue to work diligently and conduct thorough investigations to keep illegal and dangerous narcotics out of our town.

## **Training**

**December 31, 2020, Governor Charles Baker signed the Criminal Justice Reform Act into law.** We continue to navigate the changes to our and other small agencies with the elimination of the part-time police academy– thereby eliminating the vast majority of part-time personnel in the State. In addition there have been modifications of Use of Force Standards, as well as many additional requirements for Police Officer certification. These changes will have a large financial impact on the vast majority of communities under ten thousand, and more especially Deerfield’s size and smaller. Many of the small towns police departments (population 500-3,000) will cease to exist.

This year, members of our department attended specialized training in:

Crisis Intervention including the CIT conference to learn advanced de-escalation methods and programs that are available through the mental health system.

Firearms training trailer that included night time, low light, blue light, and scenario based training that included changes of force.

Cyber Crimes Conference to learn about ever changing technology and how it is being used in criminal activity as well as how to use technology in investigations to solve and prove crimes.

School Shooters and Teen Killers training that looked into the similarities, differences, ideology, and patterns behind these terrible incidents so we can learn to intercept early warning signs and prevent violence in young people.

All officers completed in-service training that include Firearms, Use of Force, Legal

Updates, CPR and First Responder, Trauma Informed Policing, Preventing Officer Crisis, Duty to Intervene, and Frontline Digital Evidence.

## **Grants**

Grants continue to be scarce within law enforcement with the vast majority going to large cities with exceptionally high crime data statistics. Sergeant Harry Ruddock applied for and received a traffic safety grant dedicated to enforcement patrols assigned to high impact areas to address traffic safety. This grant also includes a stipend for equipment, used to purchase more speed sign boards around town. I'm pleased that we have received this grant two years in a row thanks to Sergeant Ruddock.

Department of Mental Health grant covers the co-response program that we share with Greenfield and Montague. The grant covers a full time co-responding clinician from Clinical Support Options and the program is working to expand to hire more Co-Responders that will be covering more times of the day as we continue to see an increase in mental health and crisis related calls.

## **School Safety**

We are in constant partnership to make sure the schools are as safe as possible. As most are aware this is challenging since Deerfield has five schools; Deerfield Elementary, Frontier Regional High School, Bement, Eaglebrook, and Deerfield Academy. In total there are over 2,500 students in Deerfield. This does not include school staff. The schools including students and staff bring in a daily influx of over 4,000 people.

As part of school safety, we have an active partnership and leadership role in the four-town safety committee which is comprised of EMS, Police, Fire, and School Officials from all Union 38 schools and towns. This includes quarterly meetings, active shooter training, lockdown drills, and shelter in place drills. Annual review of school safety documents and plans.

## **Focused areas**

On January 1, 2018 I started as the President of the Franklin County Chiefs of Police Association. I am also the Franklin County appointed representative to the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Executive Board (since 2014). In addition, I serve as the police representative to the Western Mass. Homeland Security Council, which is a

Governor's appointment (since 2015). I was also appointed this year as the State Wide Law Enforcement Liaison on the State Child Fatality Review Team. There are eleven regional teams across the State that report their findings to the State Team.

As always, the Deerfield Police Department is dedicated to serve the community, residents and visitors of the Town of Deerfield. As the days, months, and years continue to pass, please do not ever hesitate to contact us if you have a question or concern, we are available 24/7 365 days a year.

Sincerely,

John P. Paciorek, Jr.  
Chief of Police  
Emergency Management Director

***“PROTECTING AND SERVING OUR COMMUNITY”***

***The Law Enforcement Oath of Honor***

On my honor, I will never betray my badge, my integrity, my character, or the public trust.

I will always have the courage to hold myself and others accountable for our actions.

I will always uphold the Constitution, my community and the agency I serve.