

# The Deerfield Police Department Annual Report 2020

## 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 2020 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 full-time police Sergeants, five (5) additional full-time and fifteen (15) part-time officers. Officers are organized into three shifts of two officers per shift who are accessible to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year. On each shift, there is an officer assigned to Old Deerfield area (District 2), and one officer assigned to South Deerfield (District 1). 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: public information requests, payroll, bills, detail billing, emergency scheduling, equipment acquisition, fleet maintenance scheduling, and answering both the lobby and telephones, as well as other duties.

Sergeant Brian Ravish continues to expand the School Resource Officer (SRO) position, now teaching many different classes with faculty at Frontier Regional High School. Brian also continues to teach the RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) class. 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 Association of School Resource Officers in both the Basic and Advanced SRO.

During January, one new part-time police officer was appointed; Gregory Moretti. We continue to be a reputable training ground for part-time personnel who are then taken as full-time candidates by other agencies. This exceptional reputation leaves us with constant movement on the lower half of the part-time roster. On a normal year, there are three to four part-time appointments due to these movements.

### 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.

In 2016, the police department entered into a two-year lease agreement for a 2017 Harley Davidson motorcycle. In 2019, Annual Town Meeting allocated funding to purchase the motorcycle. A special thank you to Eaglebrook School as they have gifted the Town the full amount to purchase the motorcycle, \$13,000, in calendar year 2020. We highly value our relationship with Eaglebrook and the community as a whole.

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The regional computer system comprised of over twenty police departments in Franklin County is working extremely well. The 450 MHz emergency communication system was originally built and expanded upon in 2004-2008. The system is outdated and parts are no longer in production. This leaves the repair personnel searching for parts on EBay and several other websites. As the appointed member of the oversight committee on behalf of the Franklin County Chiefs of Police Association, I continue to represent all police departments' interests countywide. The current plan is to migrate to a State 800 MHz platform that was originally designed in the early 1990's for the State Police. Western Mass. was additionally built out in 2011 to be digitally P25 compliant. Therefore, the system reflects very reasonable coverage within the county. I am happy to update that this project is moving along extremely well, with a grant being released in November of 2020 for all subscriber units. Current subscriber count to replace between fire, police, and EMS is 1,303. This grant was for more than three million dollars. I anticipate the radios rolling out in March thru July of 2021.

This project in partnership with the State will save Franklin County communities in excess of ten million dollars.

### **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 or questions. Officers respond to all fire and ambulance calls. Officers assist at these scenes with traffic control, rendering medical aid, and if needed are authorized to drive the ambulance to a medical facility. The total number of assigned calls for service for the 2020 calendar year was 14,284. This is an average of 39 calls for service on the average day.

There were 144 arrests, 209 active investigations, 1,960 motor vehicle stops, 197 motor vehicle citations issued, 68 parking tickets, and 320 medical emergencies in 2020.

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.

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, including 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 through the Department's website, on the bottom right hand corner, under "Weekly 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**

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a contagious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The first case was identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. It has since spread worldwide in Calendar year 2020, leading to an ongoing international pandemic.

Symptoms of COVID-19 are variable, but often include fever, cough, fatigue, breathing difficulties, and loss of smell and taste. Symptoms begin one to fourteen days after exposure to the virus. Most people (81%) develop mild to moderate symptoms (up to mild pneumonia), while 14% develop severe symptoms (dyspnea, hypoxia, or more than 50% lung involvement on imaging) and 5% of patients suffer critical symptoms (respiratory failure, shock, or multiorgan dysfunction). At least a third of the people who are infected with the virus remain asymptomatic and do not develop noticeable symptoms at any point in time, but can spread the disease. Some patients continue to experience a range of effects—known as long COVID—for months after recovery and damage to organs has been observed. Multi-year studies are underway to further investigate the long-term effects of the disease. (Wikipedia)

In April, May and June there was near a total shut down of society in an attempt to contain the outbreak. Only critical personnel were required to report to work; medical field, fire, police, ems, etc. During these months, full-time personnel were switched to twelve-hour shifts, four days on, four days off, limiting the part-time personnel to near zero coverage. The goal was to reduce the risk of anyone interacting with the police department and to create a backup force in the extreme event of an infection.

In December, the Federal Drug Administration gave emergency approval to two vaccine manufacturing companies; Pfizer and Moderna. Both have provided data sets indicating a ninety-five (95) efficacy rate of their vaccine. Both companies require an initial shot and then a booster shot after approximately four weeks.

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT**

The Deerfield Police Department is committed to equality for all individuals we serve. We stand against racism, discrimination, and inequality in our community. We continue to work towards long term systematic solutions to inequality. We believe every person should feel safe, valued, and secure in his or her daily lives. The Deerfield Police Department embraces the “Reaffirming and Restructuring the Governor’s Task Force on Hate Crimes” as signed into executive order on November 6, 2017, and immediately adopted the four recommendations put forth by the Task Force.

We also value the rights of victims in the community, and honor the “Victim Bill of Rights” as drafted by the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance. We use careful consideration when balancing the public’s right to know and the privacy rights of a victim. We will not re-victimize crime victims by sharing their personal information or details that could lead to identification. We adopt the same philosophy when posting public information during on-going investigations. We strive to maintain balance of the integrity of an investigation and finding and sharing verified facts with the public.

We strive to be innovative with the future of policing that the social justice movement in the nation has called for. We are working on collaborative responses with social service networks to better serve persons who are experiencing a mental health crisis, or those who have an opioid addiction disorder. We invite and welcome all members of the community to meet us and get to know who is serving and protecting the diverse Town of Deerfield.

## **TRAINING**

**December 31, 2020, Governor Charles Baker signed the Criminal Justice Reform Act into law.** There are several major changes coming in calendar year 2021; elimination of the part-time police academy, one training standard for all police officers – thereby eliminating the vast majority of part-time personnel in the State, modification of Use of Force Standards, creation of eighteen (18) Commissions and Task Forces to report their findings back, all police departments will be required to be certified (eight minimum criteria listed in the law, however Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission – Certification is 159 criteria), all police officers will be required to be certified and recertified every three years, additional training for School Resource Officers, creation of a POST Commission (Police Officer Standards and Training), and the creation of the Division of Standards which is the investigatory arm of POST.

A lot of forward thinking proactive steps, however 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 town police departments (population 500-3,000) will cease to exist.

## **GRANTS**

Grants continue to be scarce in law enforcement with the vast majority going to large cities with exceptionally high crime data statistics. Sergeant Harry Ruddock applied for and we received a \$12,000 traffic safety grant. Five thousand is dedicated to enforcement patrols where personnel are assigned to high impact areas to address traffic safety. The second part of the grant is \$6,000 for equipment. I am pleased that we have received this grant two years in a row thanks to Sergeant Ruddock.

## **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, shelter in place drills, and annual reviews of school safety documents and plans.

## **FOCUSED AREAS**

Completing the radio migration to the digital 800MHz CoMIRS State system.

On January 1, 2018, I started as the President of the Franklin County Chiefs of Police Association. I was re-elected in December of 2019 for calendar year 2020. 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 serving 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.

Sincerely,

John P. Paciorek, Jr.  
Chief of Police  
Asst. 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.