

The Deerfield Police Department Annual Report 2021

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 2021 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 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 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: 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 in the role as School Resource Officer (SRO), now teaching many different classes with faculty at Frontier Regional High School. Brian also continues to teach the RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) class, Forensics class, and pedal cars to teach about the dangers of drunk 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.

This year, four new part-time police officers were appointed to replace members that moved on to work full-time at other agencies. These new officers are: Andrew Habel, Dylan Husted, Timothy Capuano and James Fitzgerald. We continue to be a reputable training ground for part-time personnel who become exceptional full-time officers for our agency and others. 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, however with the new POST police reform standards, part-time certified police officers will be phased out within the next few years.

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, and utilize two hybrid cruisers, moving towards eventually being a hybrid fleet. A third hybrid cruiser was ordered in April, however did not arrive prior to the end of 2021.

The regional computer system comprised of over twenty police departments in Franklin County is working extremely well and helps agencies work together and work with our regional dispatch to increase communication, response time, and safety for our officers. This year, we received a grant to replace our Mobile Data Terminals (MDT) in our cruisers and now have the capability to issue electronic citations, which go directly to the RMV electronically and therefore eliminate costs in processing. Funds allocated at Annual Town Meeting for this replacement, in 2020, could be cycled back to certified free cash.

The 450 MHz emergency communication system was originally built and expanded upon in 2004-2008. The system is now 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 county-wide. All county emergency personnel (63 agencies) have moved to the new 800 MHz CoMIRS (Commonwealth Interoperable Radio System) radio system, including over 1,300 units, with the help of a grant for more than three million dollars. This project in partnership with the State saved 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, parties that come to our station to speak with officers, or questions. Officers 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 2021 calendar year was 13,279. This is an average of 36 calls for service on the average day.

There were 215 arrests, 268 active investigations, 92 motor vehicle crashes, 1304 motor vehicle stops, 216 motor vehicle citations issued, and 463 medical emergencies in 2021. Our officers also responded to over 100 mental health emergencies and worked diligently with Crisis Services to ensure that our residents get the best possible care and follow up treatments available. We continue to work to increase communication between Crisis Services Clinicians and the Police to provide the best possible care.

Our officers patrol all areas of the Town of Deerfield, watching for any unusual activity, while keeping the safety of all residents and visitors' 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, 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 are available on the Deerfield website. **<https://www.deerfieldma.us/police-department/pages/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

Our officers continued to work every day throughout the COVID-19 pandemic following safety guidelines and continuing to protect the community throughout these difficult times. We have seen an increase in mental health related crisis, and as mentioned have joined forces with Crisis Services Organization (CSO) to pilot a co-response program in which a CSO clinician can respond with a police officer to calls that may not require involuntary hospitalization, but may require follow up and assistance. These CSO clinicians split their time between Montague, Greenfield, and Deerfield.

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 state wide database to identify high-risk candidates who have overdosed in multiple jurisdictions and connect them with services.

Deerfield Officers assigned with the Northwestern District Attorney's Anti-Crime Task force participated in multiple multi-agency investigations into the trafficking of narcotics within Hampshire and Franklin County as well as within the Town of Deerfield. Because of one of these investigations, the Task Force seized over 5 kg of cocaine and over \$80,000 cash and made multiple arrests. These officers continue to work diligently to conduct thorough investigations and keep illegal and dangerous narcotics out of our community.

The major construction on Greenfield Road (Routes 5&10) by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation created quite the traffic congestion this summer from the Whately Town line to South Deerfield Fire Department, but our officers worked diligently to keep traffic flowing in a safe manner and helped communicate delays through our Facebook Page as we tried to keep up to date with changing technology to keep everyone informed.

Social Justice Movement

The Deerfield Police Department continues to be 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 their daily lives. The Deerfield Police Department continues to embrace the "Reaffirming and Restructuring the Governor's Task Force on Hate Crimes" as signed into executive order on November 6, 2017. We 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 victims of crime by sharing their personal information or details which 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 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 someone who has 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 happening this year and in calendar year 2022; 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. 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 town police departments (population 500-3,000) will cease to exist.

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

Sexual Assault Investigations including trauma-informed response to victims of all ages, nationalities, and disability status.

Clandestine Lab Identification and Safety including how to identify possible lab activity, materials used in the manufacturing of methamphetamine, safety measures and proper procedure and resources for disabling clandestine labs and other explosive materials.

Reid Method of Interview and Interrogations specifically seeking and determining truthfulness in speaking with suspects and witnesses.

Advanced Narcotic Investigations, an intensive 80-hour program put on by the Massachusetts State Police and Massachusetts Army National Guard including specialization in various roles of narcotics investigations, confidential informants and undercover buys, surveillance and communications and raid planning and execution.

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

All officers completed in-service training to include Firearms, Use of Force, Responding to Pandemics and Similar Emergencies, Legal Updates, CPR and First Responder, Mass Gatherings, Domestic Terrorism, Human Trafficking, Cultural Competency, and Responding to Emergencies of Individuals with Mental Illness.

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. Six 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'm pleased that we have received this grant four 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 an 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 was re-elected in December of 2021 for calendar year 2022. 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 concerns, we are available 24/7, 365 days a year.

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.