



Town of Waterford, Connecticut, Police Commission Meeting Agenda

Town Hall Auditorium

3/9/2026 5:00 pm

Call to order and establish quorum:

Pledge of Allegiance:

Public input:

Acceptance of minutes: February 9, 2026 Regular Meeting

Acceptance of minutes: March 4, 2026 Special Meeting

Correspondence:

Traffic Commission Review:

Chief's Report:

- a. K9 Reports for February
- b. Youth Report for February
- c. Investigative Services Report for February
- d. Training Report for February
- e. Support Services Report for February
- f. Patrol Report for February
- g. Animal Control Report for February
- h. Community Engagement Report for February

Old Business:

- a. Police Commissioner Association information discussion

New Business:

- a. Flock Discussion
- b. Executive Session for police officer candidate interviews and possible action



**MINUTES
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

February 9, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioner M. Gelinas, Commissioner C. Gamble, Commissioner J. Dimmock, Commissioner T. Sheridan

ABSENT: Commissioner R. Brule

DEPARTMENT: Chief M. Balestracci, LT N. VanOverloop, LT D. Ferland, Sgt. Michael Fedor, Traffic Officer M. Devine, Training Officer M. Bellos, Officer E. Fredricks, Officer J. Jordan

CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH A QUORUM:

Commissioner Gelinas called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the General Meeting Room of the Waterford Police Department. A Quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC INPUT:

Quaker Hill resident Helen Kwasniewski spoke about concerns regarding some residents plowing snow from private driveways across public roadways onto neighboring properties. She noted that it is unfair to burden neighbors with additional snow piles.

The Officer of the Year award was presented to Officer Julie Jordan

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Sheridan and seconded by Commissioner Dimmock to accept the January 8, 2026 Special Meeting minutes. Motion passed.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Gamble and seconded by Commissioner Dimmock to accept the January 12, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence was reviewed.

TRAFFIC COMMISSION REVIEW:

Traffic Report was received.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

- a. K9 Reports for January
January report was received.
- b. Youth Reports for January
January report was received.
- c. Investigative Services for January
January report was received.
- d. Training Report for January
January report was received.
- e. Support Services Report for January
January report was received.
- f. Patrol Report for January
January report was received.
- g. Animal Control Report for January
January report was received.
- h. Community Engagement Report for January
January report was received.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Interns Caleb Cobb of Mitchell College and Kian Gordy of WHS introduced themselves to the Commission.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Dimmock and seconded by Commissioner Sheridan to enter into Executive Session, including Chief Balestracci at 5:29 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:15 p.m. No votes or actions were taken while in Executive Session.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Sheridan and Seconded by Commissioner Dimmock to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:



Diane E. Driscoll
Recording Secretary



**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

March 4, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioner R. Brule, Commissioner M. Gelinas, Commissioner J. Dimmock, Commissioner C. Gamble, Commissioner T. Sheridan, Human Resources Director Christine Walters

DEPARTMENT: Chief M. Balestracci, LT David Ferland, LT N. VanOverloop, LT P. Flanagan

CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH A QUORUM:

Commissioner Gelinas called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Police Department Executive Conference Room.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Dimmock and seconded by Commissioner Brule to enter into Executive Session, including Chief Balestracci and HR Director Christine Walters at 5:01 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:04 p.m. No votes or actions were taken while in Executive Session.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Sheridan and seconded by Commissioner Dimmock to appoint Lieutenant David Ferland to Chief of the Waterford Police Department, effective upon Chief Balestracci's retirement on March 27, 2026, and contingent upon an agreeable contract between the Town of Waterford and Lieutenant David Ferland. Motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSION STATEMENT ON ACTION TAKEN

The Town of Waterford Board of Police Commissioners is pleased to announce the appointment of Lieutenant David Ferland as the next Chief of Police for the Waterford Police Department, effective Friday, March 27, 2026, contingent upon an agreeable contract between the Town of Waterford and Lt. David Ferland.

Lieutenant Ferland will assume leadership of the Department upon the retirement of Chief Marc Balestracci, who concludes his distinguished service to the Town on that date. Chief Balestracci's tenure has been marked by steadfast dedication, professionalism, and a deep commitment to public safety. The Board extends its sincere gratitude for his years of exemplary service to the community.

In accordance with the Town's approved policy governing the selection of a Chief of Police, the Board of Police Commissioners conducted a comprehensive and structured review process. This process included a thorough evaluation of qualifications, leadership experience, professional achievements, and demonstrated commitment to community policing. Lieutenant Ferland not only met all established requirements for the position but exceeded them, distinguishing himself through his proven leadership, depth of experience, and clear vision for the continued advancement of the Department.

The Board of Police Commissioners looks forward to working with Chief-Appointee Ferland as he leads the Department into its next chapter and remains committed to supporting the men and women of the Waterford Police Department in their service to the residents of Waterford.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Brule and seconded by Commissioner Dimmock to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:



Diane E. Driscoll
Recording Secretary



The Waterford Police Department

Traffic Officer Report

February 2026



LINE OF SIGHT ISSUES:

- Multiple complaints of line of sight issues regarding snow banks due to heavy snow fall and cold temperatures preventing melting. DPW worked to correct these issues with additional equipment to remove snow.

DOT RELATED ISSUES.

- NONE TO REPORT

ENFORCEMENT RELATED COMPLAINTS:

- No significant complaints. Lots of snow and ice on the roads lead to less speeding and alternate violations were being looked for.

REQUESTS FOR SIGNS OR CHANGE OF ROADWAY FEATURES:

- No new requests

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- No upcoming events

UPCOMING ROAD CONSTRUCTION WITH CLOSURE:

- No large new projects taking place in the near future have been brought to my attention.

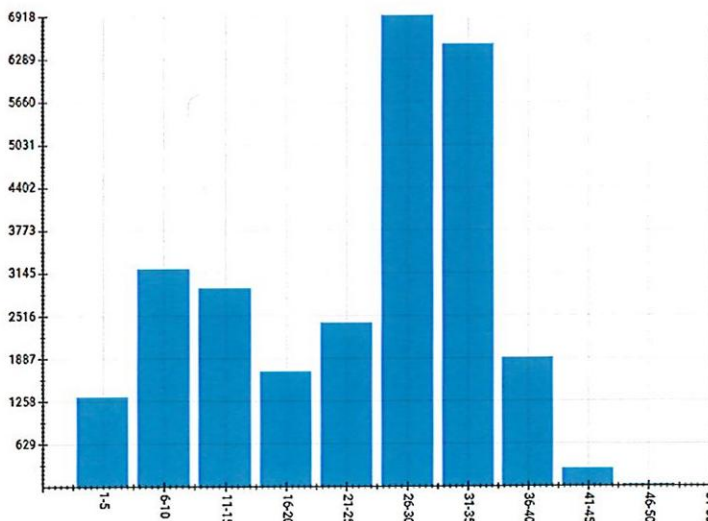
TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT: 143 Total Traffic Stops

Officer	Devine #88	Reed #93	Charron #89	TOTAL
Infractions	2	40	21	63
warnings	13	36	26	75
misdemeanor	0	3	2	5

SPEED TRAFFIC SIGN DEPLOYMENT:

Three solar powered speed signs are currently deployed around town at the below listed locations:

1. Great Neck Road (Route 213) southbound at Great Neck School. (25 mph zone)



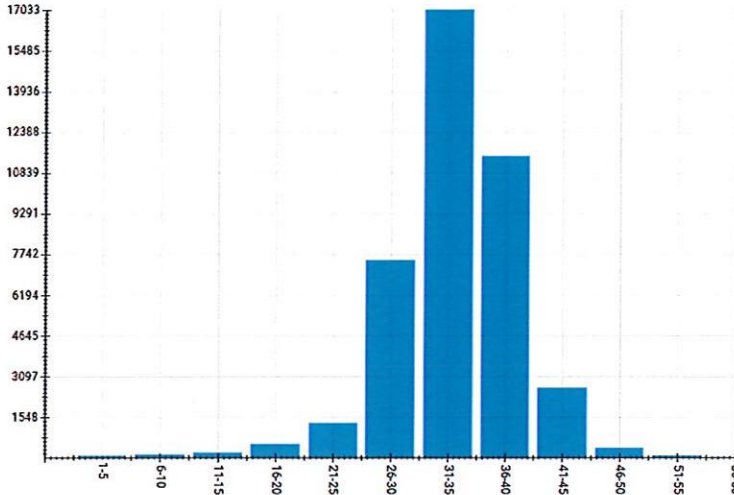
Speed (mph)	Count
1-5	1323
6-10	3202
11-15	2912
16-20	1690
21-25	2413
26-30	6918
31-35	6498
36-40	1890
41-45	254
46-50	20
51-55	2



The Waterford Police Department Traffic Officer Report February 2026

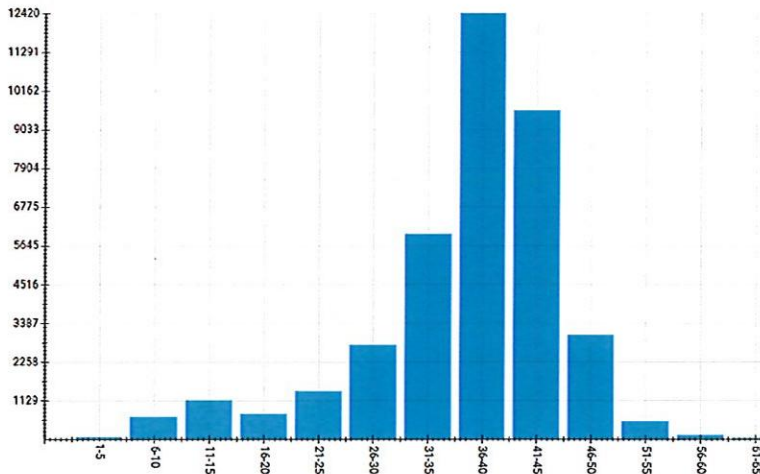


2. Clark Lane southbound near Clark Lane Middle School (30 mph zone)



Speed (mph)	Count
1-5	70
6-10	124
11-15	192
16-20	530
21-25	1318
26-30	7530
31-35	17033
36-40	11474
41-45	2665
46-50	374
51-55	60
56-60	11
61-65	1

3. Vauxhall St. southbound south of Hickory Lane. (35 mph zone)



Speed (mph)	Count
1-5	47
6-10	645
11-15	1118
16-20	723
21-25	1398
26-30	2728
31-35	5995
36-40	12420
41-45	9584
46-50	3038
51-55	525
56-60	109
61-65	16
66-70	7
71-75	2
76-80	1

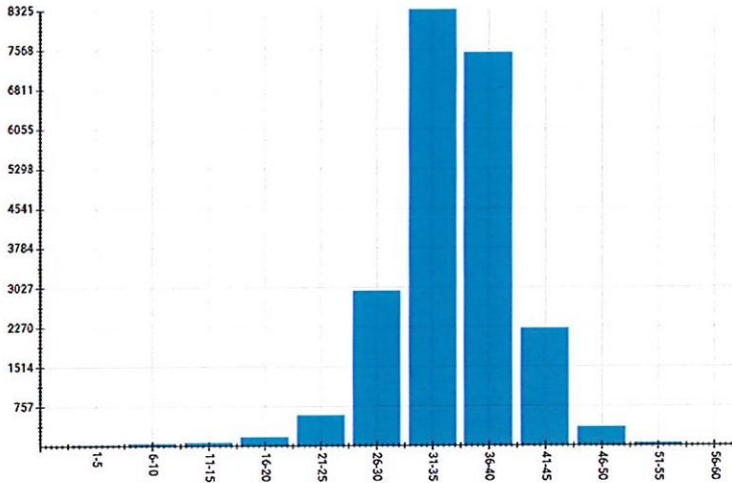


The Waterford Police Department Traffic Officer Report February 2026



3. Old Norwich Road, southbound prior to Totoket Rd.

(30 mph Zone)



Speed (mph)	Count
1-5	15
6-10	40
11-15	48
16-20	163
21-25	568
26-30	2952
31-35	8325
36-40	7509
41-45	2234
46-50	335
51-55	45
56-60	4
61-65	1



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



K-9 Activity Report

February 2026

K-9 Ozzy

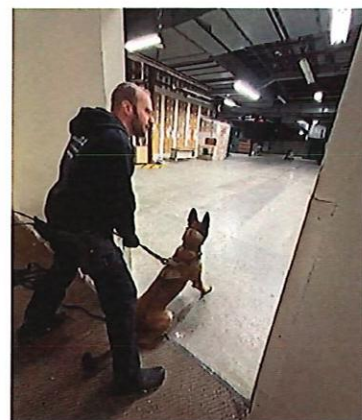
Monthly Uses: 1

2026 Uses: 1

K-9 Tico

Monthly Uses: 3

2026 Uses: 4



K-9 Usage

Ozzy

- ♦ On February 19, 2026 Officer Surdo conducted a motor vehicle stop and Officer Genung was the back up officer. While speaking with the occupants, they both had conflicting stories as to where they were going. K9 Ozzy was deployed for an open air sniff of the exterior of the vehicle and he displayed alert behavior. K9 Ozzy was deployed for an interior sniff of the vehicle and he again showed alert behavior. A hand search of the interior of the vehicle was conducted and narcotic paraphernalia was located.

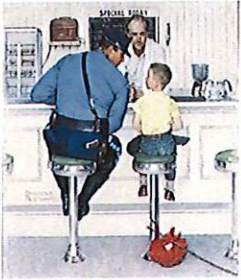


Tico

- ♦ On February 13, 2026, Officer Surdo and K9 Tico were requested to assist the Ledyard Police Department on a motor vehicle stop. K9 Tico was deployed for an exterior open air sniff of the vehicle where he showed alert behavior. A search of the vehicle netted negative findings for narcotics.
- ♦ On February 26, 2026, Officer Surdo conducted a motor vehicle stop and deployed K9 Tico for an open air sniff of the vehicle and he did not show alert behavior.

Monthly Training

- ♦ Monthly K-9 training was conducted on 2/10/2026 and 2/24/2026 in obedience, tracking, article search, building search, area search, narcotics detections, and apprehension work.



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Youth Office Activity Report



February 2026

- ♦ SRO Malbourn, SRO Lane, Lt. Flanagan, Sgt. Fedor, and Off. Boxley attended a juvenile review board Referring Agency Training hosted by the Connecticut Youth Services Association. This training focused on identifying cases appropriate for referral and understanding eligibility criteria.
- ♦ SRO Lane attended SRT training which was hosted at CLMS and went over district wide school safety procedures with the regional team.
- ♦ SRO Winters assisted the Oswegatchie Administrative team with a juvenile EDP on February 19, 2026.
- ♦ SRO Malbourn and SRO Lane attended several middle school and high school winter sporting events after hours.
- ♦ SRO Winters attended the Oswegatchie School science night on 2/12/26.
- ♦ SRO Lane co-taught three classes at CLMS on the dangers of "Sexting".
- ♦ SRO Malbourn met with a parent and made a family referral to an in school counselor with ESS (Effective School Solutions).
- ♦ SRO Malbourn assisted WHS school admin / juvenile probation with a student who will be attending Project Courage (substance abuse program).



Month at a Glance

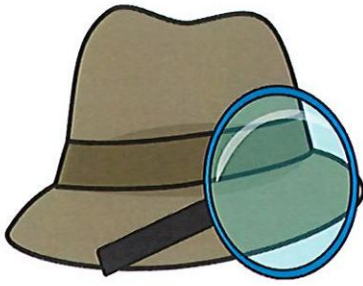
Home Visits: 0

CAD Report: 0

Case Reports: 2

Arrests: 0 / JRB Referrals: 0

SROs Lane, Malbourn and Winters continue to meet and talk with students on a daily basis for school, personal, and social related topics in an effort to develop lasting relationships b/w the department and the youth in our community.



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Investigative Services Division



February 2026

In the month of February 2026 the Investigative Services Division worked or assisted with 14 investigations.

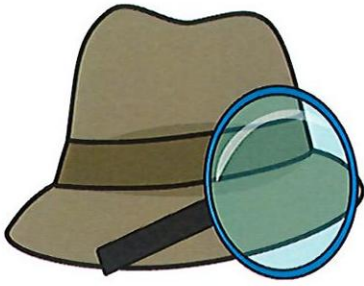
Current Active Investigations (32 Cases):

(These numbers do not include assist's to the Patrol Division)

Homicide-1	Pistol Permits-5
Burglary-6	Skimmer—1
Robbery-2	Fraud—5
ID Theft—1	Larceny —4
Untimely—2	Stolen Vehicle—1
Child Abuse/Neglect —1	Narcotics—1
Juvenile Sex Assault—2	

Year to Date Statistical Report

Case Numbers	Search Warrants	Background Checks	Arrests	Sex Assaults
5	10	0	1	4
Phone Extract	Auto Theft	Burglary	Unattended Deaths	Robbery
4	0	2	2	1



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Investigative Services Division



February 2026

February 2026 Updates:

In February the Waterford Police Department hosted our region's monthly Intelligence Meeting. The meeting is lead by Investigator Bushwack. This is an opportunity for local law enforcement departments and their partners to share information regarding crimes occurring in the area. The New Haven District of the FBI also provided a one hour training on nihilistic violent extremism. This is a crime in which young teens are groomed over a long length of time on social media to either conduct acts of violence and/or engage in self harm.

Detective Bonkowski attended a one day online training titled Review of Forensics Principals hosted by the National Computer Forensics Institute through the United States Secret Service.

Detective Bonkowski also attended a five day training at the University of New Haven titled Digital Forensics.

February 2026 Investigations:

Investigative Services began drug surveillance on a residence in Waterford. This surveillance resulted in a drug arrest in a parking lot when Detectives observed a vehicle with two occupants providing and using drugs with each other while stationed in the parking lot. This was unrelated to the initial drug surveillance.

Detective O'Connell was assigned to investigate a robbery at the Price Cutter on RTE 32 in which a firearm was displayed. The same male subject then committed robberies in Norwich and Montville. The Montville and Waterford Police Department were quickly able to identify a suspect. The suspect confessed to the Montville robbery and was arrested on site at his residence in Montville. It was determined that the firearm arm displayed was a facsimile. Detective O'Connell prepared an arrest warrant for the male subject which has been signed.

Detective Carroll was assigned to the Post Academy for a simunitions training day with recruit Morgan. He was also assigned to qualify Officer Ramos at the firing range upon completion of the LEC Academy.

Investigator Bushwack was assigned a juvenile sexual assault in which a juvenile female, while in the hospital, reported being sexually assaulted by her mother's ex-boyfriend years before when she previously resided in Waterford. A forensic interview is being planned.

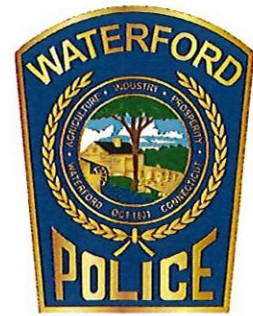
Detective Bonkowski was assigned to investigate an alleged sexual assault between a wife and husband approximately two years ago when the couple was residing in Waterford, CT. This case is ongoing.

Detective O'Connell was assigned an untimely death of an adult female. This case appears to be an accidental overdose though toxicology is still pending. This case is not suspicious in nature.

THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



TRAINING REPORT FEBRUARY 2026

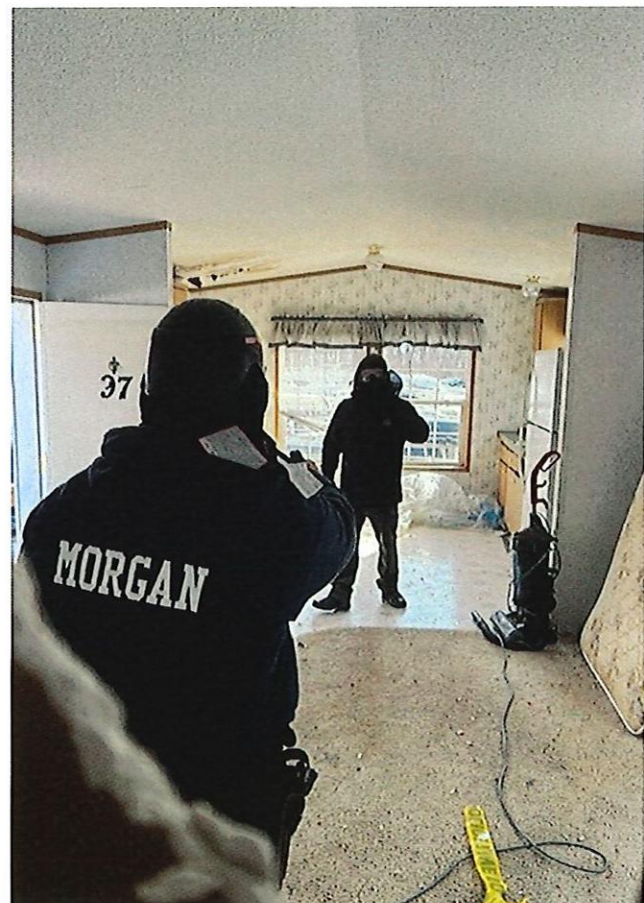


New Officer Updates

Hiring Process: The Waterford Police Department continues its efforts in recruiting and hiring. Training is holding an active hiring process to fill one current vacancy and an additional vacancy in the next month.

Recruit Status: Recruit Ramos graduated from the Law Enforcement Council Eastern Regional Police Academy. Recruit Ramos has started her Field Training and is currently in Phase 1 doing 25% of the work.

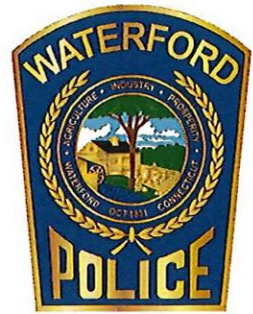
Recruit Morgan has completed his twenty first week at the Connecticut Police Academy located in Meriden, CT. Recruit Morgan is scheduled to graduate from the academy on March 18th.



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



TRAINING REPORT FEBRUARY 2026



Sergeant Nickerson trained all the supervisors on how to use the 40MM Launcher. This is a non-lethal use of force option that launches projectiles up to 50 yards to subdue suspects.

A handful of supervisors attended a first amendment auditor training. This training reviewed many different ways and approaches to handling and talking to first amendment auditors to help prevent any issues that may arise.

Detective Carroll went to the POSTC Academy in Meriden to assist with their simunitions training. This training is a scenario based training with many different kinds of scenarios. Recruits use simunition guns with simunition rounds to act as if they are shooting an actual gun during their scenarios. The rounds are similar to bb's or pellets.

Sergeant Nickerson attended the POSTC Academy in Meriden to assist with their low light shooting. This shooting day is in the dark and low light conditions to help recruits learn and understand the differences between shooting during the daytime and the nighttime.

Recruit Ramos took a three hour online LINX new user training. This training familiarizes officers with how to use LINX. LINX is a law enforcement information exchange website that assists officers in finding suspects using reports from other agencies, as well as known associates just to name a few.





Support Services Report

February 2026



Records Activity

FOI Requests	114	5%
Warrants	34	-3%
Phone Calls	141	-3%
Walk in Assists	112	1%
Background Checks	10	-33%
Protective Orders	54	26%
Officer Tasking Requests	83	60%
Case Erasures	498	50%
DCF Requests	8	33%
Court Requests	4	-50%
Abstracts	278	26%
Video Requests	15	-21%
Reports Accepted	176	2%
CISS Arrest Packets	37	16%

- * The CSOs covered 62 shifts were covered this month.
- * Records participated in a Valentine's Day event the police department with grade school children
- * Records has attained a 99% compliance rate with Clean Slate Erasures.

CSO Activity

Adult Arrests	21
Juvenile Arrests	0
Firearms Transfers	24
Pistol Permits Issued	5
Walk In Complaints	33

Fingerprints

Pistol Permits	7
Employment	14
Miscellaneous	3
Peddler/Precious Permits	5
Warrant Follow Ups	192



Patrol Report

Commissioners Activity Report

February 2026



Winter Storm Calvin

On February 22, 2026 Winter Storm Calvin arrived in our community bringing high winds, lots of snow, and a heavy impact to the town. The patrol division staffed additional officers for numerous shifts, shut down numerous roadways while emergency utility crews worked to restore power, and dealt with issues as they came up. In the aftermath of the storm officers ensured the roadways were safe and initiated several traffic stops for Failure to Remove Snow from a Motor Vehicle.



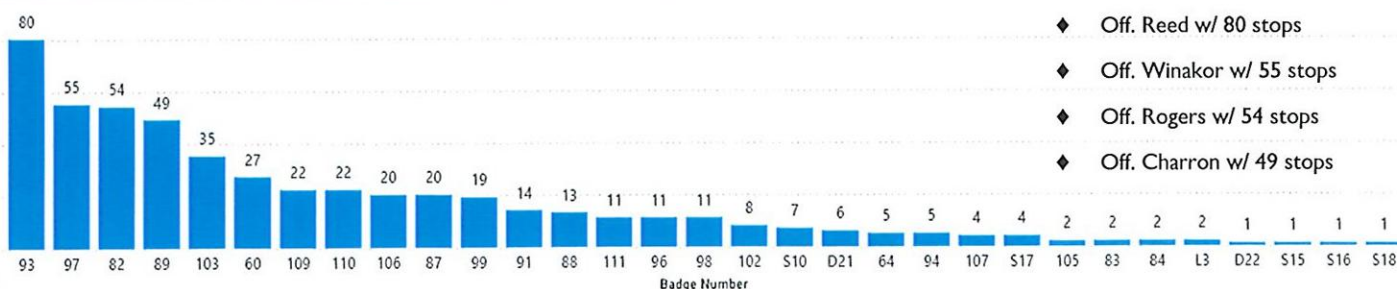
Retail Theft Crew hits Home Depot: Arrests Made

On 10/26/25 three male suspects went to Home Depot and brazenly stole in excess of \$3,000.00 worth of Milwaukee tools. Loss prevention advised they had recently been responsible for over \$50,000.00 worth of theft statewide. Off. Sabilia diligently worked the case obtaining three arrest warrants. On February 4, 2026 two of the suspects were taken into custody and charged with Larceny Third Degree.

Patrol Calls for Service Monthly Snap Shot:

Total Service Calls	2424
Case Numbers	124
Arrests	68
Juvenile Arrests	0
Larcenies	29
Arrest Warrants	11
Domestic Violence Investigations	9
Traffic Crash	42
DUI Investigations	6
EDPI/Welfare Check	30
School Checks	50
Motor Vehicle	514
Written Warnings	274
Infractions	85
Verbal Warnings	135
Misdemeanor	17
Other	3

SELF INITIATED MOTOR VEHICLE ACTIVITY BY BADGE NUMBER



**DV Incident Leads to Multiple Arrest**

On February 5, 2026 day shift responded to an apartment complex in town for a domestic disturbance. A male and female were located and both were placed into custody for disorderly conduct. Both subjects failed to show up to court the following day. On February 11, 2026 officers responded to their residence and took both subject into custody for failure to appear in court. The two individuals were also in violation of "conditions of release" which barred them from being together. Both subjects were also arrested for Violation of Conditions of Release (C.G.S. 53a-222) and held on bond until their appearance at the Superior Court.

FLOCK Hit: Domestic Suspect Taken into Custody by Warrant

On January 19, 2026 Off. Rogers responded to a local urgent care facility to take a domestic violence complaint from a subject at the facility. After an investigation took place an arrest warrant was obtained for a suspect that lives in Quaker Hill, CT for Violation of a Protective Order (C.G.S. 53a-223*). The suspect was uncooperative for several weeks and initially refused to turn herself into the police department. On February 2, 2026 the suspect's vehicle hit on the RTE 1 at Willetts AVE Flock camera and officers immediately responded to the area where she was located. The subject was taken into custody and then released on bond.

Stolen Car in 2024 Leads to Arrest in 2026

On November 15, 2024 Off. Barrows took a stolen motor vehicle complaint in the lobby of the Waterford PD. The victim, who resides on S. Bartlett RD, initially lent the vehicle to a friend but it was never returned. On December 2, 2024 the vehicle was located in Norwich, CT and returned to the owner. After a lengthy criminal investigation Off. Barrows got an arrest warrant signed by a judge at New London Superior Court. On February 13, 2026 Off. Barrows responded to the courthouse and took the suspect into custody for Larceny of a MV.



In the Community Interest





THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Animal Control Report



February 2026



- On February 7, a dog that was picked up that had been thrown from a vehicle in 10 degree weather. Actively investigating animal cruelty case.
- Numerous reports of sick skunks and raccoons in the area, possible distemper outbreak
- On 2/22/26 ACO Yuchniuk spent the night at the shelter to ensure heat stayed on during the blizzard.
- ACO Ryan and Percy attended Coffee with a Cop, event at Waterford Library, Valentines Day at WPD, event at Groton Library and Special Olympics kick off at Mohegan Sun Casino

	Waterford	East Lyme
Calls for Service	59	32
After Hour Call Outs	2	3
Tickets Issued	0	0
Warnings Issued	2	0
Dog Bites	2	5
Animals Redeemed	3	3
Animals Adopted	1	1
Animals DOA	0	0
Euthanized	0	0
Total Processed	4	4
Money Taken In	\$45	\$25
Donations	\$15	\$10

"Speaking for those who have no voice"



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Engagement Report February 2026



Internship: Intern Caleb Cobb shadowed SRO Winters, Dispatch, Traffic Officer Charron, SRO Malbourn, CSO Ziolkovski, and Evening Shift Patrol. Cobb received a tour of the Groton Town Police Department. Intern Kian Gordy shadowed SRO Lane, Court/Evidence Officer Barrows, Traffic Officer Charron, Day Shift Patrol, Investigative Services, Evening Shift Patrol, and Dispatch. Gordy received a tour of the East Lyme Police Department. Both interns attended a Commissioner Meeting.

Interaction with Youth Services: Spoke about Citizenship at Youth Promise.

Special Olympics Efforts: Attended the monthly Torch Run Council Meeting. Fundraising for the Southeastern CT Police Penguin Plunge Team. Organized officers to attend the Torch Run Kickoff Event where Waterford Police received a Level of Excellence Award.



Domestic Violence Follow-ups: Conducted 1 follow-up with a DV victim. Hosted the CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence Quarterly Meeting.

Officer Wellness: Assisted at the POST Police Academy OC Exposure Day. Organized Oswegatchie First Graders to come to the police department to give out Valentine's Day Cards to officers. Attended a funeral for a family member of a Waterford Police Officer and had Hodges interact with the family.

Hodges T-Shirt Contest: Organized a contest for Clark Lane Middle School students to create Hodges T-Shirt Designs. The winning students will get free Hodges T-Shirts and lunch with SRO Lane, Officer Fredricks, and K-9 Hodges. Visited CLMS school multiple times and participated in the morning announcements to promote the contest.

K-9 Officer Hodges: Went to WFSB Channel 3 News for their Super Bowl Prediction Segment. Attended Chelsea Groton Bank's Blood Drive, Waterford Library's "Take You Child to the Library" event, Groton Town Library's Valentine's Day event, and Mystic Aquarium's Freezin' for a Reason Kickoff.

Assistance to Youth Officers: Provided a tour of the Waterford Police Department to Waterford Cub Scouts.

Interaction with Senior Services: Attended the Valentine's Day Senior Luncheon. Visited senior living facilities to drop-off flowers and chocolates to residents.

Rotary Club: Attended monthly meeting.

Recruiting: Held a recruitment session at Central Connecticut State University.