



Town of Waterford, Connecticut, Police Commission Meeting Agenda

Training Room at the Waterford Police Department

4/14/2025 5:00 pm

Call to order and establish quorum:

Pledge of Allegiance:

Public input:

Acceptance of minutes: March 10, 2025 Regular Meeting

Correspondence:

- a. Letter from Chief Keith L. Mello, Chairman, POSTC
- b. Email from Mark Greczkowski, Director of Operations, Waterford Ambulance Service

Traffic Commission Review:

Chief's Report:

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

Old Business:

- a. Recording of Commission Meetings

New Business:

- a. Discussion and tour of locker rooms
- b. Executive Session for case review



**MINUTES
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

March 10, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Commissioner R. Brule, Commissioner T. Sheridan

DEPARTMENT: Chief M. Balestracci, LT N. VanOverloop, LT D. Ferland,
Traffic Officer M. Devine, Training Officer M. Sylvestre, Officer I.
Donovan

CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH A QUORUM:

Commissioner Dimmock 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:

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Gelinas and seconded by Commissioner Dimmock to accept the February 10, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes. Commissioner Gamble abstained. Motion passed.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Gamble and seconded by Commissioner Gelinas to accept the February 25, 2025, Special Meeting minutes. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence was reviewed.

TRAFFIC COMMISSION REVIEW:

Traffic Report was received.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Recording Commission Meetings – Nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Gamble and seconded by Commissioner Gelinas to authorize Chief Balestracci to complete out-of-series transfers through August 31, 2025, with the understanding that he advises the Commission of the transfers. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Gelinas and seconded by Commissioner Gamble to adjourn the meeting at 5:17 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:



Diane E. Driscoll
Recording Secretary



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL
ACCREDITATION AWARD**

March 6, 2025

Chief Marc Balestracci
Waterford Police Department
41 Avery Road
Waterford, CT 06385

Dear Chief Balestracci:

On behalf of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, we commend you and your agency for demonstrating a commitment to professional excellence in policy and practice. It is a privilege to award Waterford Police Department State Tier III Accreditation.

The State Tier III Accreditation award represents your agency's thorough self-evaluation which concluded with an independent audit of state assessors and appointed members of council assigned to the Police Officer Standards and Training Accreditation Subcommittee.

This award also represents your agency's ongoing acceptance of the obligation to continue the quest for professional excellence by working toward the fulfillment of any future standards set forth by POST-C that may be applicable to your agency.

Congratulations and thank you for your continued support to enhance Connecticut Law Enforcement. We commend you and all the members of the Waterford Police Department for demonstrating a commitment to General Management Standards in policy and practice.

Respectfully,

Chief Keith L. Mello
Chairman, Police Officer Standards and Training Council

From: Mark Greczkowski <operations@waterfordambulance.org>

Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 1:30 PM

To: Marc Balestracci <mbalestracci@waterfordct.org>; David Ferland <dferland@waterfordct.org>

Subject: Letter of Appreciation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization.

Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe.

Chief & LT,

On March 12, 2025, EMS was dispatched to a call on Hunts Brook Road regarding a person reported to be not breathing. The WAS and WFD teams responded, and upon our arrival, your team was performing CPR and gathering essential information for us. I want to thank each of them for their efforts; they were eager to assist in providing the patient with the best chance for survival.

Some may have questioned the decision to dispatch your team to critical or uncertain incidents, but my team and I fully support your choice. We appreciate your team's presence to provide updates and help us in any way possible.

Thank you for prioritizing what is best for your community. Please let me know if your team needs any supplies or additional training. We would be happy to support you in these continued efforts!

Regards,

Mark Greczkowski NRP, EMSI
Director of Operations

V - 860.477.9301 Ext 102

M - 860.448.5642

E - Operations@WaterfordAmbulance.org

**Waterford Ambulance
Service, Inc. (WAS)**

**454 Boston Post Road,
Waterford, CT 06385**



The Waterford Police Department

Traffic Officer Report

March 2025



LINE OF SIGHT ISSUES:

- No new reports

DOT RELATED ISSUES.

- Nothing new to report at this time.

PARKING COMPLAINTS:

- No recent ongoing parking complaints have been received.

ENFORCEMENT RELATED COMPLAINTS:

- Complaint of speeding on Perkins Farm Road. Officers have spent time on this roadway in an attempt to identify the problem. Radar black box was utilized and some higher speeds were observed. Officer Diogo was able to take enforcement action, based on video and complainant statement.
- Complaint of speeding on Old Colchester. Old Colchester has been scheduled into regular traffic enforcement.
- Report of erratic driving on Whaling Dr. Will continue to observe, no erratic driving observed at this time. Patrol had previously responded based upon complaints of person(s) in the neighborhood. Traffic unit will continue to follow up.
- Complaint of people running the red light on Route 156 at Millstone Power Plant. No violations have been observed during observation times. Ongoing observation/enforcement.

REQUESTS FOR SIGNS OR CHANGE OF ROADWAY FEATURES:

- Request for crosswalk at Goshen Road and Great Neck Road, to cross Goshen Road. The ultimate decision would belong to CT DOT as Great Neck Road (Route 213) is a state road. The area where a crosswalk would be located is only 175' from another crosswalk, which crosses Goshen Road. Based on Connecticut law, this intersection is considered an unmarked crosswalk and pedestrians have the same right to cross as a marked crosswalk.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

No upcoming events

UPCOMING ROAD CONSTRUCTION WITH CLOSURE:

No large projects anticipated

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT: 340 Total Traffic Stops

Officer	Devine #88	Diogo #95	Reed #93
Infractions	22	106	62
warnings	30	66	32
misdemeanor	3	1	7

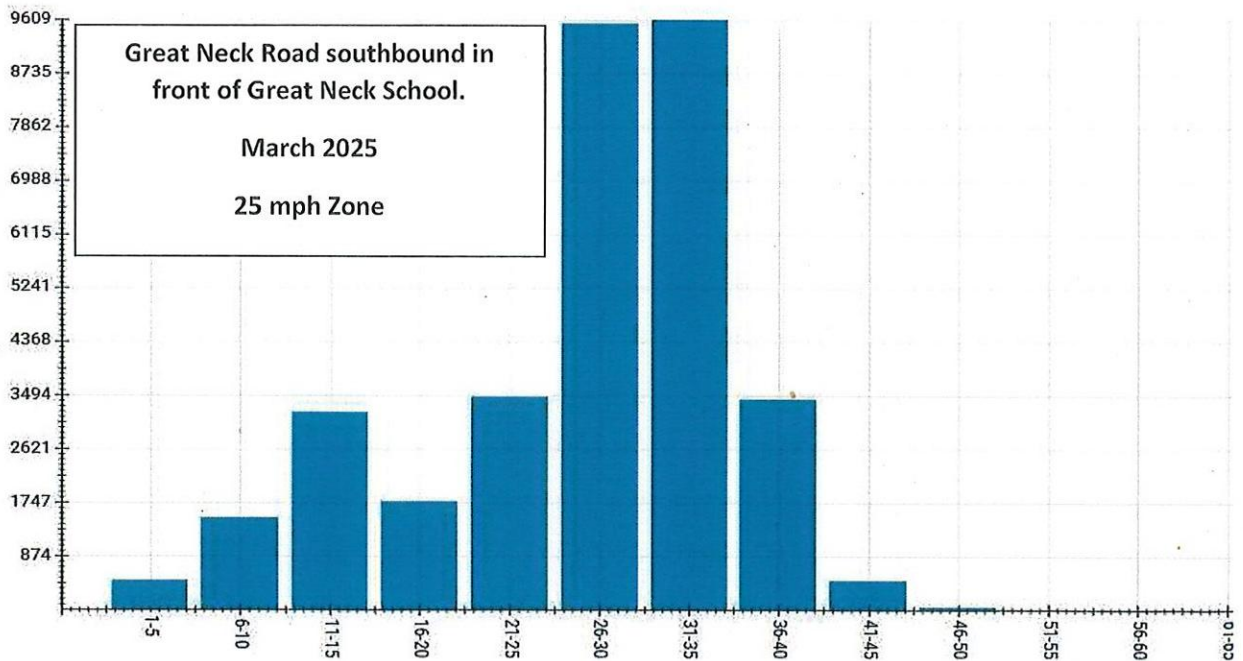
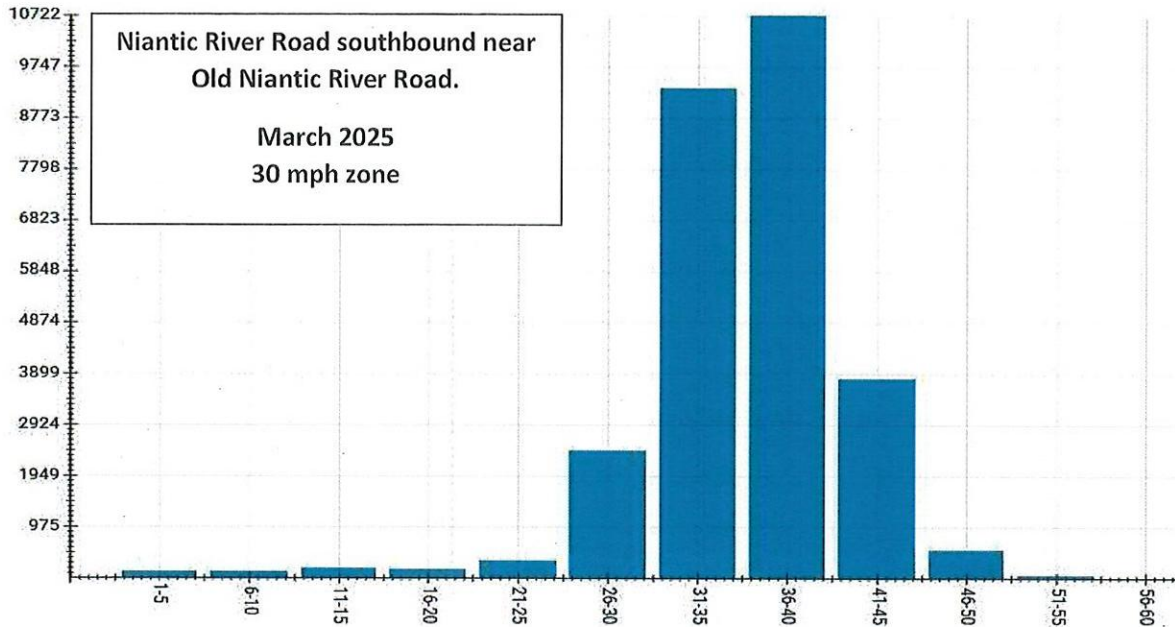


The Waterford Police Department Traffic Officer Report March 2025



SPEED TRAFFIC SIGN DEPLOYMENT:

The two solar powered speed signs have remained in place at the below listed locations:



1 COUNT



The Waterford Police Department Traffic Officer Report March 2025

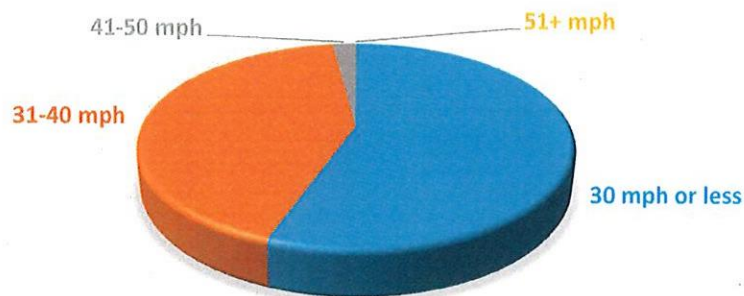


Battery Powered Signs:

Battery powered speed feedback signs were placed on Clark Lane in each direction prior to the Clark Lane Middle School. The signs were in place from March 20, 2025 to March 25, 2025 and March 31, 2025 to April 6, 2025. Some of the vehicles data on the northbound recorder was corrupted and the early march data was not retrievable. Hour by hour Data indicates that the average speed falls slightly above the 30 mph speed limit. The southbound hour by hour data shows that the average speed southbound is slightly above 33 mph. The speed limit here is 30 mph and is entering a school zone.

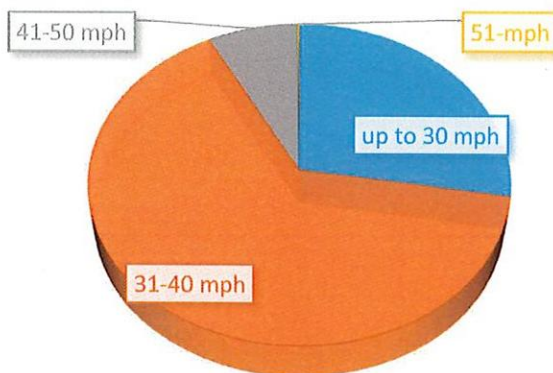
Speed	Vehicles
30 mph or less	11455
31-40 mph	8728
41-50 mph	428
51+ mph	8

CLARK LANE NORTHBOUND
MARCH APRIL 2025



CLARK LANE SOUTHBOUND
MARCH APRIL 2025

Speed	Vehicles
up to 30 mph	16532
31-40 mph	38723
41-50 mph	4592
51-mph	103





THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



K-9 Activity Report

March 2025

K-9 Ozzy

Monthly Uses: 4

2025 Uses: 7

K-9 Tico

Monthly Uses: 4

2025 Uses: 5



K-9 Usage

Ozzy

- ♦ K9 Ozzy was deployed for a track to locate a domestic violence suspect possibly armed with a knife. K9 Ozzy tracked from the residence towards an open field. As K9 Ozzy searched through the open field they located the suspect exiting the field. Officer Genung gave the suspect verbal commands and he was taken into custody without incident.
- ♦ K9 Ozzy and Officer Genung assisted Connecticut State Police on a motor vehicle stop. K9 Ozzy was deployed for an open air sniff of the vehicle. K9 Ozzy displayed alert behavior on the vehicle and attempted to jump into the vehicle. Located inside the vehicle was "crack" cocaine and a smoking pipe. A suspect was arrest for these items.

Tico

- ♦ K9 Tico and Officer Surdo assisted members of the Waterford Police Department and officers from the East Lyme Police Department in multiple narcotics searches this month.



Monthly Training

- ♦ Monthly K-9 training was conducted on 3/11/25 and 3/25/24 in obedience, tracking, article search, building search, area search, narcotics detections, and apprehension work.



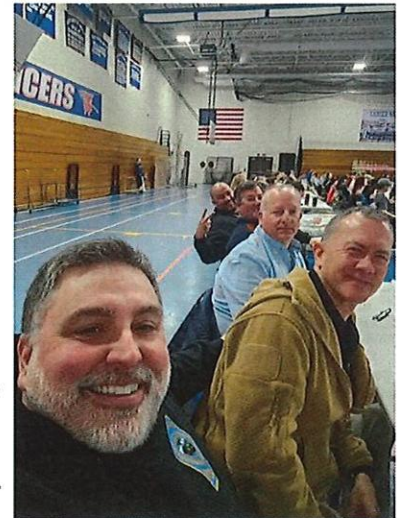
THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Youth Office Activity Report



March 2025

- ♦ On March 7th SRO Malbourn, SRO Lane, and SRO Winters attended a Waterford Schools Districtwide training on Restorative Accountability held at Waterford High School with all district teachers.
- ♦ On March 21st SRO Malbourn was notified that our dispatch center had taken an anonymous call about a suicidal student. After utilizing the Power School system, Off. Malbourn was able to locate the student's class. The complaint was validated and the student was sent to the hospital for an emergency examination.
- ♦ On March 18th SRO Lane was notified of a "Gaggle" alert by Waterford's IT department. SRO Lane investigated further, spoke with the student's mother, and was able to provide services.
- ♦ SRO Malbourn assisted WHS school administrators with a missing Air Pods case utilizing the school camera system. The Air pods were located.
- ♦ SRO Winters taught three Youth Promise classes at the elementary schools.
- ♦ SRO Lane visited a St. Joseph's student (parents gave permission) based on a larceny incident involving a 5th grader at a Neil Hoelck Basketball Game.



Month at a Glance

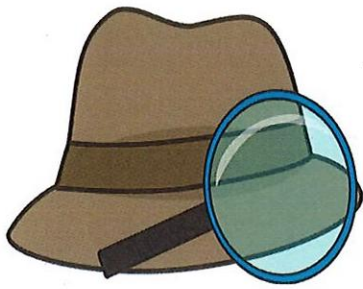
2 – Home Visits

8 - CAD Report

2 - Case Reports

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



March 2025

In the month of March 2025 the Investigative Services Division worked or assisted with 13 investigations.

Current Active Investigations (16 Cases):

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

Homicide—1	Pistol Permits—1
Burglary—4	Sex Assault—1
Larceny—1	Robbery—1
Illegal Weapon—1	Skimmer—1
ID Theft—1	Narcotics—2
Untimely—2	

Year to Date Statistical Report

Case Numbers	Search Warrants	Background Checks	Arrests	Sex Assaults	
17	13	3	4	2	
Ex-Parte's	Auto Theft	Burglary	Unattended Deaths	Robbery	
0	0	2	3	1	



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Investigative Services Division



March 2025

March 2025 Updates:

During the month of March Investigative Services held a Basic Crime Scene Roll Call training. This PowerPoint was created by Detective Bonkowski. The Roll Call training is intended as a refresher for seasoned officers as well as new information for newer officers on how to protect and maintain a crime scene with limited contamination as well as other tactics.

Sergeant Avdevich and Lieutenant VanOverloop made contact with numerous retail businesses in the month of March. The contacts are made to continue good relationships with our retail partners as well as check for "skimming" devices and provide educational assistance. This will be conducted quarterly.

Sergeant Avdevich attended an EMT refresher course hosted by Emergency Training Services out of Mystic, CT. This will extend his EMT certification until 2027.

Detective Carroll testified at the New London Superior Court in regards to a sexual assault case that went to a jury trial. His testimony stems from a sexual assault allegation against a male subject assaulting a child at the subjects residence in 2023.

Detective O'Connell has been working with the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) in regards to two (2) robberies that occurred in Waterford in December of 2024 and January of 2025. Detective O'Connell applied for and received a confirmatory DNA search warrant in regards to the active robbery investigation at Bestway Gas Station on RTE 1.

March 2025 Investigations:

After a months long investigation lead by Detective Bonkowski in regards to a report of drug activity from a residence in Waterford, Investigative Services assisted by patrol conducted a search warrant on the residence. As a result of the search warrant illegal drugs and related materials were seized. A male resident of the home was arrested for distributing and possessing the illegal drugs along with a female occupant.

Investigative Services was assigned to an untimely death of a twenty seven (27) year old female. This case is not suspicious in nature and has been closed after it was confirmed by the Medical Examiners Office as reported by the family that the female had been ill.

Investigator Zaldivar assisted patrol with an investigation regarding a "ghost gun" that was located in a rental vehicle that had been towed to a mechanic in town. The case will be under further investigation but at this time it is unknown where the "ghost gun" originated.

Detective O'Connell sat on a panel geared towards fraud prevention for the elderly. This panel is hosted by Charter Oak Federal Credit as a crime deterrent.

Investigative Services assisted patrol in the arrest of a male subject who we held an active arrest warrant for in regards to illegally possessing firearms. The arrest was completed without issue.

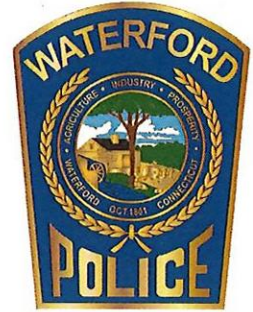
Officer Bonkowski assisted patrol in a repeated case of graffiti to businesses in the south end of town. Though a suspect has been tentatively identified there currently is not enough probable cause and will be under further investigation.

Detective Carroll has been assigned to investigate a report of voyeurism and distribution of images without consent. This case is still under active investigation.

THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



TRAINING REPORT MARCH 2025

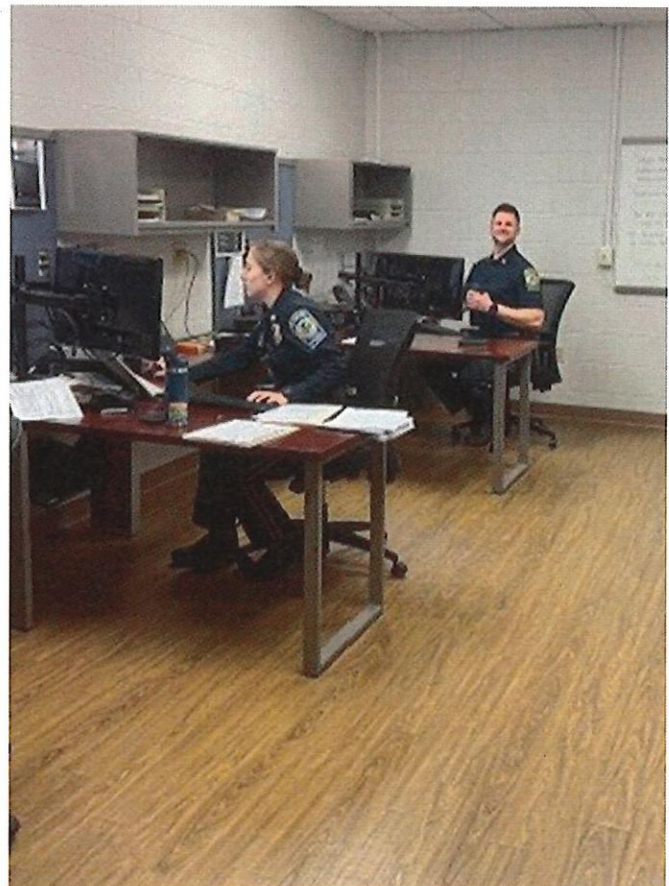


New Officer Updates

Hiring Process: The Waterford Police Department continues its efforts in recruiting and hiring. Training is continuing with the new hiring process to fill two current vacancies, and two more upcoming vacancies.

Recruit Status: Recruit Boxley successfully completed all field training requirements and was certified by the Police Officers Standards Training Council.

Recruit Mack was sworn in and started with the department on March 24th to conduct orientation and training prior to the academy. Recruit Mack is scheduled to start the Connecticut Police Academy at POST-C in Meriden on April 4.

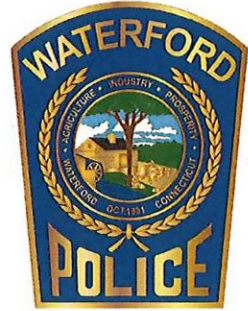


THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



TRAINING REPORT

MARCH 2025



Officer Ewing and Sergeant Avdevich attended a four-day EMT refresher training. This training allows them to stay certified as EMT's in the State of Connecticut and train other officers here on various medical topics like CPR and the use of AEDs.

Sergeant Farrior, Sergeant Firmin, and Sergeant Michael Fedor attended a three-day Connecticut Chapter of the FBI Regional Command College at Foxwoods Resort and Casino. This is a training intended for supervisors and it is focused on topics like command leadership and managing the law enforcement image. Some of the topics covered are morale and team building, various views on leadership, effective listening, crisis communications, and managing the media issues surrounding modern-day law enforcement to name a few.

Sergeant Caler attended a week long First Line Supervision training. This training covers various topics that supervisors need to know. Some of the topics covered are legal issues in internal affair investigations, supervisory liability, communicating effectively, how to lead, resolving conflicts, goal setting, and delegating effectively to name a few. This is a class that all supervisors attend once they are promoted.

Many officers attended a one day Leading without Rank course that was hosted here at the Waterford Police Department. This class was specifically designed for non-supervisors that want to learn how to effectively lead and be good supervisors down the road.

Sergeant Avdevich, Sergeant Epps, and Sergeant Michael Fedor attended a one day course on Crowd Control Management. This class was geared specifically towards supervisors and covered topics relating how to supervise and manage patrol staff at events that involve large crowds and gatherings.





Support Services Report

March 2025



Records Activity

FOI Requests	136	84%
Warrants	40	-9%
Phone Calls	183	-6%
Walk in Assists	151	8%
Background Checks	8	-33%
Protective Orders	24	26%
Officer Tasking Requests	85	20%
Case Erasures	273	-3%
DCF Requests	20	-17%
Court Requests	9	50%
Abstracts	301	-16%
Video Requests	21	-9%
Reports Accepted	87	-40%

- * The CSOs covered 77 shifts during the month, equating to 616 hours of shift coverage.
- * CSO Bertrand conducted fire extinguishers inspections in the cruisers and identified which needed service.
- * Records personnel completed a significant FOI request involving multiple investigations and supplemental information including, reports, phone calls, emails, and video footage.
- * Records personnel finalized the destruction of cases from 2013 in accordance with the State of Connecticut Library Records Retention Schedule

CSO Activity

Adult Arrests	22
Juvenile Arrests	1
Firearms Transfers	47
Pistol Permits Issued	4
Walk In Complaints	22

Fingerprints

Pistol Permits	14
Employment	16
Miscellaneous	3
Peddler/Precious Permits	1
Warrant Follow Ups	270



Patrol Report

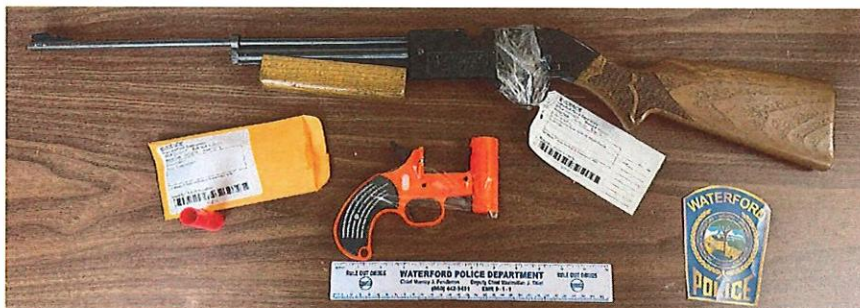
Commissioners Activity Report

March 2025



Disturbance At Brookside Mobile Home Park

On March 13, 2025 Off. Boxley, Off. Bushwack, and Sgt. Farrior responded to the Brookside Mobile Home park for a disturbance between neighbors (both of whom were under the influence of alcohol). It was determined that one involved party was a convicted felon and is disqualified from possession any type of firearm. A flare gun and pellet gun were seized (see photo below) from the residence. A subsequent warrant was prepared by Off. Boxley and the suspect was taken into custody on March 25th for Criminal Possession of a Firearm (C.G.S. 53a-217).



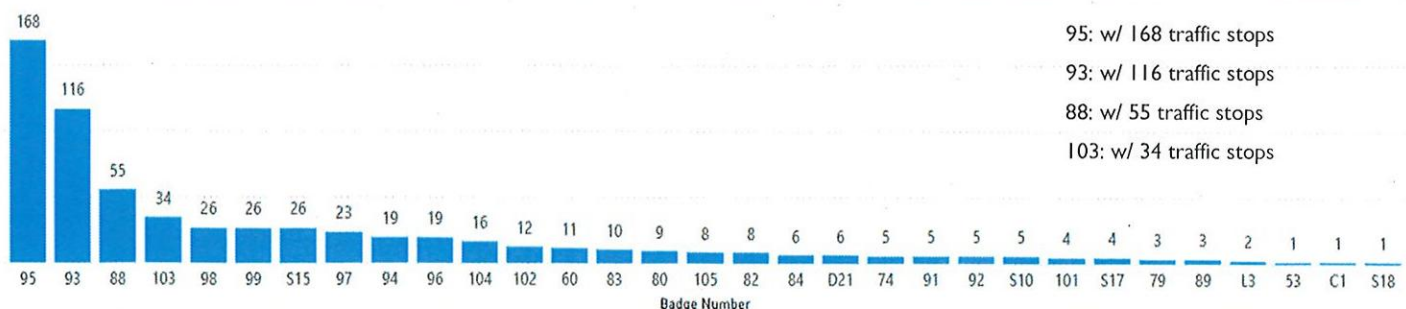
Disturbance at Basketball Game Leads to Multiple Arrests

On March 2, 2025 day and evening shift officers were sent to CLMS for a disturbance following a fifth grade basketball game. Through investigation, which included obtaining numerous statements and reviewing school security cameras, three suspects were taken into custody for Assault Third Degree and Risk of Injury to a Minor. The newly installed camera system played a vital role in this investigation. Police personnel on scene were able to quickly defuse a chaotic situation and arrest the proper perpetrators while a sergeant was reviewing footage from an off site location (WPD sergeant office).

Patrol Calls for Service Monthly Snap Shot:

Total Service Calls	2,764
Case Numbers	135
Arrests	79
Juvenile Arrests	1
Larcenies	31
Arrest Warrants	10
Domestic Violence Investigations	10
Traffic Crash	61
DUI Investigations	5
EDP/Welfare Check	32
School Checks	54
Motor Vehicle	637
Written Warnings	284
Infractions	223
Verbal Warnings	94
Misdemeanor	29
Other	7

SELF INITIATED MOTOR VEHICLE ACTIVITY BY BADGE NUMBER



**Suspicious MV: Flees Attempted Traffic Stop and Crashes in Montville**

On March 2, 2025 at 0420 hours Off.Arpin was on routine patrol monitoring traffic in the area of Norwich / NL TPKE and Lathrop RD. At this time he observed a vehicle traveling at very slow speeds North on Lathrop RD before turning into a driveway just prior to Norwich / NL TPKE. Off.Aprin, believing criminal activity may be afoot, ran the registration plate and learned that the vehicle had an expired registration. A motor vehicle stop was attempted and the vehicle immediately fled northbound on Lathrop RD. Off.Arpin did not pursue the vehicle but minutes later was advised by Montville Dispatch that the aforementioned vehicle had crashed in their town. Through his criminal investigation, Off.Arpin was able to track down the suspect and obtain a confession. The operator was charged with Engaging Police in Pursuit (CGS 14-223(b)) as well as numerous additional motor vehicle charges.

Larceny Complaint: Leads to Foot Chase and Warrant Arrest

On March 14, 2025 Off. Surdo, Off. Maselli, Off. Boxley, and Off. Rodriguez were sent to Wal-Mart for a larceny complaint. Upon arrival officers located the suspects loading merchandise into their vehicle. Upon contacting the male suspect he immediately took off running through the parking lot and jumped a fence before heading into a wooded area. Officers pursued on foot and quickly apprehended the suspect using only the minimum amount of force necessary to take the suspect into custody. It was determined that the suspect had 4 active PRAWN warrants. The suspect was taken into custody, held on bond, and then temporarily surrendered to Corrigan Correctional Facility before his arraignment.

Trespasser Arrested at Residence on Boston Post RD

On March 16, 2025 day shift officers were sent to 60 Boston Post RD for a trespassing complaint. Upon arrival Off. Robinson and Off. Barrows located an open rear door to the residence. Officers made verbal announcements and then began to systematically clear the dwelling. They located a subject, who they determined was squatting in the building, on the first floor. The suspect was taken into custody and charged with Criminal Trespass in the Second Degree. The property owner as well as town zoning officials were notified of the dilapidated state of the residence.



In the Community Interest





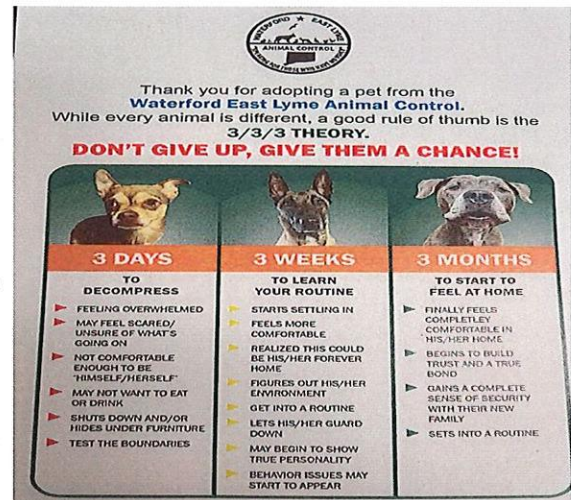
THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Animal Control Report



March 2025

- On 3/13/25 a cat was found severely injured, apparently after being hit by a vehicle. The cat was taken to the vet where the decision to euthanize was made.
- The ACOs developed an informational card to provide to people adopting shelter pets on best practices to allow the animal to have a smooth transition into their new home.
- On 3/23/25 "Miles" the surrendered Great Dane puppy was successfully adopted into a new home.
- On 3/29/25 the ACOs participated in the ground-breaking and dedication ceremony for the new animal control facility in Montville.



	Waterford	East Lyme
Calls for Service	104	45
After Hour Call Outs	5	1
Tickets Issued	0	0
Warnings Issued	0	0
Dog Bites	2	3
Animals Redeemed	3	2
Animals Adopted	7	1
Animals DOA	0	0
Euthanized	1	0
Total Processed	11	3
Money Taken In	\$310	\$190
Donations	\$15	\$110

"Speaking for those who have no voice"



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Engagement Report

March 2025



Internships: Intern Gavin Lermayer shadowed Investigative Services, Evening Shift Patrol, Dispatch, CSO Hunt, Traffic Officer Devine, Training Officer Sylvestre, and Day Shift Patrol. Intern Lermayer observed a recruitment class at Mitchell College. Intern Clara Mahoney shadowed Day Shift Patrol and Investigative Services. Both interns attended the Citizen's Academy and received tours of the POST Academy and Montville Police Department.

Citizen's Academy: 22 participants attended classes about the WPD's History, a WPD Tour, Motor Vehicle Enforcement, Patrol, Recruiting, Training, Search & Seizure, Accident Investigation, DUI, and DRE.

Shoreline Penguin Plunge: Raised \$1,726 for Special Olympics CT with other police facility K-9 handlers. Partnered with the Waterford HS Unified Team to plunge at the school.



Advance Services Programs: Conducting bi-annual follow-ups for all registrants.

Rotary Club: Attended Regional Meeting.

K-9 Officer Hodges: Helped organize Hodges' birthday celebrations at the Waterford Library and Great Neck School. Attended Waterford School's Employee Health Fair, Colchester Police Coffee with a Cop, New London Police Citizen's Academy, and Charter Oak Fraud Prevention Class. Held Read to Hodges at the Waterford Library.

Interaction with Senior Services: Organized officers to serve meals at the St. Patrick's Day Luncheon. Visited Bayview Health Care. Attended Groton Veteran Event.

Domestic Violence Follow-ups: Conducted 2 follow-ups with DV victims.

Officer Wellness: Visited the Yale Police Department after the untimely death of an officer. Attended that officer's funeral and a fundraiser event for his family. Visited New London Police for K9 Travelers' Birthday Celebration. Assisted at the Chaplain Breakfast.

Assistance to Youth Officers: Discussed citizenship at Youth Promise. Spoke about traffic stop safety at Rae's Driving School. Gave Lakes Pond Baptist School a tour of the police department. Gave students a ride to Great Neck School for a fundraiser. Participated in Quaker Hill School's Humane Society Fundraiser and Socks Fundraiser. Hodges interacted with WHS student that was in distress. Visited three schools and the Groton Library for Read Across the America.

Recruiting: Held a recruitment session at Mitchell College. Presented at Ledyard Middle School Career Day.