



Town of Waterford, Connecticut, Police Commission Meeting Agenda

Training Room at the Waterford Police Department

10/10/2023 5:00 pm

Call to order and establish quorum:

Pledge of Allegiance:

Public input:

Acceptance of minutes: September 11, 2023 Regular Meeting

Tom and Diane Harrington Recognition

Gordon "Smitty" Beals Recognition

Presentation of Exceptional Service Award to Detective Carroll and Investigator Zaldivar

Correspondence:

- a. Thank you letter from Ryan McNamara, Director of Recreation & Parks
- b. Thank you from Lakes Pond Baptist Church

Traffic Commission Review:

Chief's Report:

- a. K9 Reports for September
- b. Youth Report for September
- c. Investigative Services Report for September
- d. Training Report for September
- e. Records Report for September
- f. Community Service Officer Report for September

- g. Patrol Report for September
- h. Animal Control Report for September
- i. Community Engagement Report for September

Executive Session for interviews of Sergeant candidates and new hire candidates

Old Business:

- a. Police Chief Selection Process
- b. Recording of Commission Meetings

New Business:

- a. Annual Report DRAFT
- b. Review of 2024 Meeting Schedule



MINUTES
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
September 11, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioner C. Gamble, Commissioner R. Brule, Commissioner M. Gelinas,
Commissioner Dimmock via phone

ABSENT: Commissioner T. Sheridan

DEPARTMENT: Chief M. Balestracci, LT N. VanOverloop, LT D. Ferland,
LT P. Flanagan, Traffic Officer J. Nickerson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

PUBLIC INPUT:

CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH A QUORUM:

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

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Gelinas and seconded by Commissioner Brule to accept the minutes from the August 14, 2023 Regular Meeting. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence was reviewed.

TRAFFIC COMMISSION REVIEW:

Traffic Report was received. Traffic Officer Nickerson commented that line painting on Fog Plain and Oswegatchie Roads will be completed this fall.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

- a. K9 Reports for August
August report was received.
- b. Youth Reports for August
August report was received.
- c. Investigative Services for August
August report was received.
- d. Training Report for August
August report was received.
- e. Records Report for August
August report was received.
- f. Community Service Officer Report for August
August report was received.
- g. Patrol Report for August
August report was received.
- h. Animal Control Report for August
August report was received.
- i. Community Engagement Report for August
August report was received.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Police Chief Selection Process – The town attorney will address concerns soon regarding the police chief job description. Commissioner Dimmock asked if a representative from the Personnel Review Board should be present at the next BOPC meeting to be included in further discussion. Chief Balestracci said he would extend the invitation to the PRB.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Recording Commission Meetings – Commissioner Dimmock would like to see all meetings recorded and available on YouTube for anyone to view at anytime. Chief Balestracci explained that the current meeting room located in the Police Department

does not have the required infrastructure to make that possible and suggested moving the BOPC meetings to Town Hall once the infrastructure installation project there is complete. He mentioned that there will be a cost associated with storage of the recordings. This topic will remain on the agenda for further discussion.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Gelinas and seconded by Commissioner Dimmock to enter into Executive Session at 5:16 p.m. Chief Balestracci was included in the Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 5:48 no votes or actions were taken while in Executive Session.

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner Gelinas and Seconded by Commissioner Dimmock to extend an offer to candidate Dylan Luce for the current vacancy, contingent on the candidate successfully completing the hiring process and background investigations. Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Gelinas and Seconded by Commissioner Dimmock to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:



Diane Driscoll
Recording Secretary



Kelsey S Harrington Foundation
Diane and Tom Harrington
Waterford, Connecticut

The Waterford Police Department and Board of Police Commissioners wish to thank you for your partnership and community investment.

The Kelsey S Harrington Foundation continues to have a positive impact on our community and their significant contributions to the Waterford Police Department have not only better prepared our agency to deal with emergencies, but have also helped to make Waterford a safe town to live, work and visit.

The foundation's partnership with the Waterford Police Department delivers on the foundation's mission statement to provide opportunity for community involvement with a goal to allow children to interact on a social, recreational and educational basis.

Thank you for your partnership and for being a great community neighbor, you truly espouse the Waterford Police Department motto "In the Community Interest."

Chief Marc Balestracci
Waterford Police Department



Gordon "Smitty" Beals
Waterford Fire Police
Waterford, Connecticut

The Waterford Police Department and Board of Police Commissioners wish to thank you for your continued partnership and community dedication.

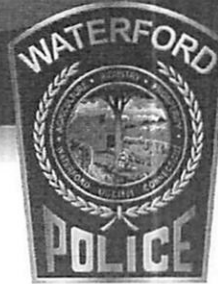
Smitty Beals continues to have a positive impact in our community and his significant contributions to the Waterford Police Department have not only better prepared our agency to deal with emergencies, but have also helped to make Waterford a safe town to live, work and visit.

For over 20 years, Smitty Beals has served in the Waterford Fire Police service, now holding the rank of Captain. He helps organize large scale events in town, responds to emergency incidents and has committed countless hours to the safety of our community and to the other members that he leads.

Thank you for your partnership and for being an extraordinary emergency services responder for the Town of Waterford, you truly espouse the Waterford Police Department motto "In the Community Interest."

Chief Marc Balestracci
Waterford Police Department

WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



Exceptional Service Award

Presented to

Raymond Carroll
Detective

Waterford Police Case #2023-01208

On Friday July 14, 2023 at approximately 6:00 PM, Detective Carroll (Captain) and Investigator Zaldivar (Crewmember) overheard a PAN-PAN transmission on VHF radio channel #16 transmitted by the United States Coast Guard. PAN-PAN is the international standard urgency signal that someone aboard a boat, ship, aircraft, or other vehicle uses to declare that they need help and that the situation is urgent. They reported that a windsurfer was in distress ½ mi. off of Black Point in Niantic. Det. Carroll and Investigator Zaldivar were quick in their response and located the windsurfer approximately 450 yards east of Black Point (41.289607, -72.191319).

The windsurfer was holding onto his board and was exhausted from his efforts due to the sea and wind conditions. The wind was blowing approximately 15 mph with gusts up to 20 mph with the seas 2-3 ft. Investigator Zaldivar utilized a rescue throw bag and threw it to the windsurfer. Investigator Zaldivar pulled the windsurfer to a safe location alongside the boat. Both Investigator Zaldivar and Detective Carroll worked together to bring the windsurfer on board. The windsurfer was safely transported to shore at the Jetty of Osprey Road in Niantic. The windsurfer declined medical attention once on shore.

Due to their safe response, marine training and skills, the windsurfer was quickly retrieved from the water preventing any further dire consequences.

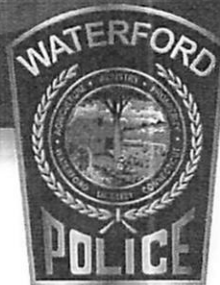
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christopher M. Gamble".

Christopher Gamble
Chairman Board of Police Comission

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marc Balestracci".

Marc Balestracci
Chief of Police

WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



Exceptional Service Award

Presented to

Taylor Zaldivar
Investigator

Waterford Police Case #2023-01208

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Christopher Gamble
Chairman Board of Police Comission

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Marc Balestracci".

Marc Balestracci
Chief of Police

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD



WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886

September 18, 2023

Waterford Police Department
Attn: Marc Balestrucci, Chief of Police
15 Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT 06385

Dear Marc,

On behalf of the Waterford Recreation and Parks Commission, we would like to thank you for your assistance at our summer concert series. Your time and presence at the concerts gave the community reassurance of safety while enjoying a fun night out with family & friends. This year our concerts averaged **over 1,000 listeners** at each event and the compliments around your services were overwhelming. We are very proud to hold this event every summer and once again would like to thank you for being a part of our 2023 Waterford Beach Summer Concert Series.

Best Regards,

Ryan McNamara, Director
Waterford Recreation and Parks
24 Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT 06385



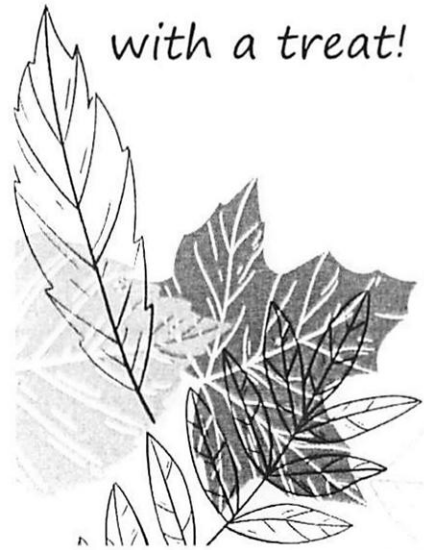
With Thanks



We appreciate your sacrifice and commitment to our community. We specifically would like to thank Detective Carroll, Sergeant Ardevich, and Investigator Zaldivar for their work on our recent break-in. We know everyone plays a vital role and we wanted to say "thank you" with a treat!

Praying for you,

Lakes Pond Baptist Church
and
Baptist Bible Academy



WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAFFIC REPORT

• September 2023 •

Traffic Complaints:

The Traffic Officer (TO) received complaints involving Mullen Hill Road, Gallup Lane and Niles Hill Road.

Construction Reviews

Preconstruction plan was approved for the site work for the Chipotle building at 122 Boston Post Road.

A preliminary review for a hotel at 295 Willetts Ave was completed but further discussions will be needed. Hotel would be "extended stay" with 122 efficiency rooms.

Upcoming Events

October 1st- ARC Road Race- Pleasure beach area and Great Neck Road- no significant traffic impact.

October 7th- Terri Brodeur Marathon- Uses Rope Ferry Road to Gardiners Wood Road to Pleasure Beach. No significant traffic issues

October 15th- Addy's Run- 5k within Pleasure Beach- No traffic issues

Stop Sign Request

A four-way stop sign request was received for the intersection of Ridgewood Ave and Birch Street. The complaint appears to be driven by "high speeds" during summer traffic. I have found a line of site issue involved with the intersection and will seek to remediate it. Further review will be needed before presenting data for the commission to review.

Waterford Ambulance

Waterford Ambulance has moved into a new building located at Route 1 and Niantic River Road. They are requesting some new signage and possible road paintings for the new building, to help the ambulances enter and exit the roadway safely. The cost incurred will be the responsibility of Waterford Ambulance. Once a budget is secured, a proposal will be brought to the commission.

Training

T.O. instructed in annual rifle qualification and less lethal shotgun training, as well as instructing at LEC recert.



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



K-9 Activity Report

September 2023

K-9 Ozzy

Monthly Uses: 6

2023 Uses: 50

K-9 Tico

Monthly Uses: 3

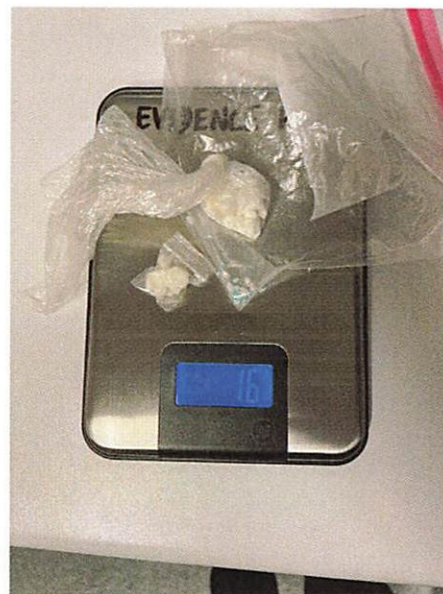
2023 Uses: 3



K-9 Usage

Ozzy

- ♦ K9 Ozzy and Off. Genung responded to East Lyme for a mutual aid assist on a narcotics search. K9 Ozzy alerted on the exterior driver's door and then once inside of the vehicle alerted on a backpack on the front passenger seat. Located in the bag was 16 grams of crack cocaine (evidence photo attached to the right).
- ♦ K9 Ozzy and Off. Genung conducted a K9 demonstration at the Fall Festival hosted by Camp Harkness.



Tico

- ♦ K9 Tico and Off. Surdo completed their initial training course and were certified in Patrol work as well as Narcotics detection on 9/16/23.
- ♦ K9 Tico and Off. Surdo attended their first K9 demonstration at the fall festival hosted by Camp Harkness.
- ♦ On 9/28/23 K9 Tico responded to 277 W. Main ST East Lyme, CT for a narcotics search. Tico alerted to the left rear bumper/trunk area of the vehicle. Upon searching the vehicle there were no narcotics located in the vehicle but several empty baggies were located.

Monthly Training

- ♦ Monthly K-9 training was conducted on 9/12/23 and 9/26/23 in obedience, tracking, article search, building search, area search, narcotics detections, and apprehension work.



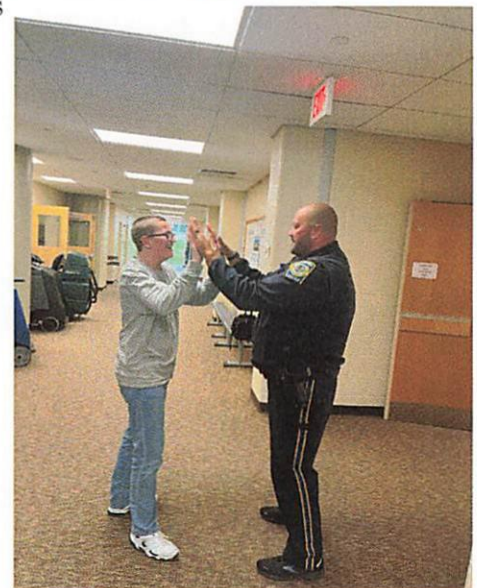
THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Youth Office Activity Report



September 2023

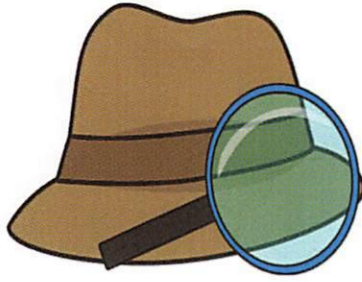
- ♦ SRO Malbaurn assisted the WHS school psychologist with a risk of injury to a minor report. A case number was pulled and DCF was notified regarding the investigation.
- ♦ SRO Malbaurn investigated an incident in which pepper spray was allegedly sprayed in the air at the WHS soccer game. There were no injuries and upon reviewing school cameras there was no corroborating evidence.
- ♦ SRO Malbaurn assisted the WHS administration as well as the superintendent's office with a custody issue involving a newly enrolled WHS student.
- ♦ SRO Malbaurn investigated a fighting incident which occurred in the bathroom at WHS. Both students were arrested as a result of the investigation. One was referred to the juvenile review board and the other was referred to the juvenile court.
- ♦ SRO Lane worked with the administration at Great Neck School and Quaker Hill School to perform "lockdown drills" at both schools.
- ♦ SRO Lane attended Youth Promise Meetings as well as several parent meetings at the three elementary schools.
- ♦ SRO Lane attended the Safety Committee meeting via Zoom.



Month at a Glance

- 6 – Home Visits
- 5 – CAD Report
- 3 – Case Reports
- 2 – Arrests

SRO Lane & SRO Malbaurn 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 between the department and the youth in our community.



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Investigative Services Division



September 2023

In the month of September 2023 the Investigative Services Division worked or assisted with 25 active investigations.

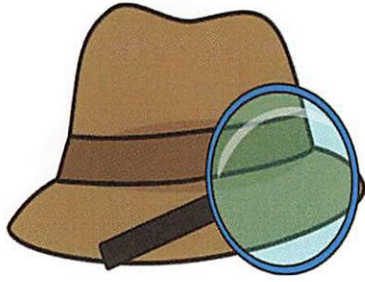
Current Active Investigations (21 Cases):

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

Homicide—1	Pistol Permits—5
Burglary—4	Background Investigation—1
JV Sex Assault—3	Monogram Scam—1
Untimely—4	Fraud/Larceny 1—1
Juvenile Complaint—1	ID Theft—1

Year to Date Statistical Report

Case Numbers	Search Warrants	Background Checks	Arrests	Sex Assaults
86	24	8	19	14
Ex-Parte's	Auto Theft	Burglary	Unattended Deaths	Robbery
0	3	8	5	1



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Investigative Services Division



September 2023

September 2023 Updates:

Sergeant Richard Avdevich is now assigned full time to the Investigative Services Division. In his first full week Sergeant Avdevich along with Investigator Zaldivar took it upon themselves to follow up on a burglary that had occurred at Lake Ponds Baptist Church. They located a subject in an abandoned building behind the church area who had items on him that were taken from the church during the burglary. Though Lakes Ponds Baptist Church ultimately decided not to press charges the case was solved due to their diligence.

The Investigative Services Division has also seen an uptick in Juvenile Sexual Assault cases this month with four cases coming in from various locations in the month of September.

Officer Bonkowski and I conducted a safety inspection at the request of Regal Cinema. We assisted them in locating areas that could be of concern in the case of an emergency and going over there protocol to responding to emergencies.

September 2023 Investigations:

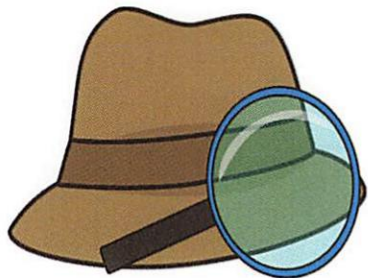
Detective Bonkowski has been working on an overdose death investigation from our town with connections to other surroundings cities in the area. This case may not result in an arrest due to lack of probable cause but the information gained may prove valuable in the future.

Detective Carroll is in the process of investigating two Juvenile Sexual Assault cases. One of the cases involves surrounding areas and the possibility of trafficking is also being investigated. The other involves a sexual assault from Hopkinton Rhode Island and whether or not a Risk of Injury charge from Waterford should be added due to failure to report the incident.

Detective Carroll assisted the East Lyme Police Department in a fatal motor vehicle investigation in there town.

Investigator Zaldivar investigated a sexual assault report from the Friendship School involving a child and an employee that has been placed on leave. This investigation is ongoing.

Detective O'Connell conducted and completed a background investigation on a police candidate for the Waterford Police Department.



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Investigative Services Division



September 2023

September 2023 Investigations (continued):

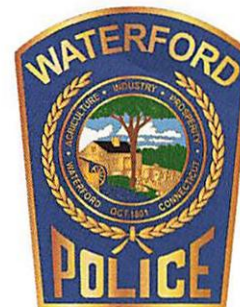
Detective O'Connell assisted the Patrol Division in processing a firearm for evidence at the courts request in a case involving a motor vehicle stop in which a firearm was located in 2022.

Task Force Report:

In the month of September, the VCTF executed 1 search warrant resulting in the recovery of narcotics in Norwich. VCTF along with probation conducted warrant follow ups which led to the arrest of two outstanding violent offenders. Lastly, VCTF had 11 other narcotics and warrant related arrests.



TRAINING REPORT SEPTEMBER 2023



New Officer Updates

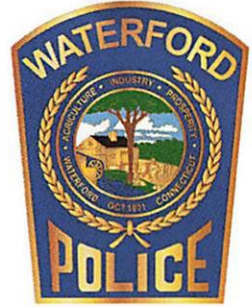
Hiring Process: The Waterford Police Department continues its efforts in recruiting and hiring. The hiring process for entry level and certified officers is open and will remain open for the next several months. Recruit Dylan Luce successfully completed his polygraph examination and is continuing forward in the process. A physical agility examination for prospective candidates is scheduled for October 1, 2023

Recruit Status: Officer David Diogo transferred from the New London Police Department and is currently in a modified, four week period of Field Training. Recruit Officer Andrew Reed has progressed to Phase 3 of Field Training.





TRAINING REPORT SEPTEMBER 2023



Officer Brown and Officer Bushwack attended a Basic SWAT Operator school. The training was hosted by the Montville Police and highlighted the academic and practical aspects of basic SWAT operations.

Officers Colkos, Robinson and Donovan attended a two day De-Escalation Training Program. The training, hosted by the New London Police Department, offered de-escalation tactics adopted to lower use of force incidents within law enforcement.

Officers Scarpa, Brown, McComie, Charron and Ewing attended an in house Less-Lethal shotgun course. Officer Jake Nickerson instructed the course utilizing existing shotguns, converted to discharge cloth covered beanbags as a less-lethal option. Officers were instructed on the proper operation, as well as effective placement areas of the beanbag projectiles for compliance, while minimizing potential injury.

Officer Zachary Caler began training as a certified Drug Recognition Expert. Officer Caler will undergo a three-week training to detect and identify the various types of drug impaired driving.

Officer Christopher Robinson attended a 5-day IPMBA Police Cyclist course. Officer Robinson successfully completed his training earning a Police Cyclist Certification.

Officers Genung, Ewing, Swarr and Barrows attended a one-day Street Cop training. The training, hosted by the East Lyme Police Department, provided officers with the skills needed to identify the latest drug and drug paraphernalia trends reported by other police departments. The training concentrated on motor vehicle stops, as the most common area for contact.

The Waterford Police Department Records Department

Activity for SEPTEMBER 2023

This activity reflects daily activity for the reporting month inclusive of; administrative and court paperwork or processing, contact with members of the public, and state or federal mandated reporting requirements.

Ticket/Written Warning Entries	Freedom of Information Requests	Motor Vehicle Accident Entries	Warrants (Entering or clearing)	Phone calls	Walk in Lobby Window	Background Check Requests
203	127	27	35	135	135	8

Protective Order Entries	Officer Tasking Requests	Case Erasures	State/Federal Report Entries	Supervisor Tasking Requests	DCF Requests
47	25	198	0	27	16

Court Request	Case Copies	Abstracts
36	3	260

- Records staff processed a FOI request for a few years' worth of complaints for a civil/child custody issue in the State of New York, as the child and one parent live in Waterford
- A request by a news agency was made for information regarding stolen motor vehicles for the 2023 calendar year in Waterford, seeking the date, time, location stolen and location recovered. This is an example of requests frequently made that can be time consuming through research, rather than a more basic request to copy and send a specific report.



CSO Monthly Statistical Report September 2023



Waterford Arrests

#

Adult	20
Juvenile	2
Total Processed	22

Fingerprints

#

Pistol Permits	5
Employment	27
Miscellaneous	1
Peddler / Precious Permits	1
Total Fingerprints	34

Firearms

#

Firearms Transfer	71
Pistol Permits Issued	6

Initial Complaints (3A's)

#

Total	41
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- CSO's covered 61 shifts during the month.
- CSO Glenn resigned from her position as she accepted a new job with the Judicial Marshalls
- A group of CSOs conducted refresher training in handcuffing, prisoner control, and defensive tactics, as well as prisoner processing and warrant follow-up procedures.
- Interviews were conducted for new CSO's and five conditional offers were extended to candidates.



Patrol Report

Commissioners Activity Report

September 2023



Marine Patrol Rescues Kayaker

On 9/4/23 Sgt. Firmin and Off. Caler were on marine patrol when they encountered a kayaker in distress off of the Ocean Beach / Waterford Beach area. The kayaker was clinging to his kayak which had rolled over/filled with water. The male was hauled out of the water and onto the patrol boat. His kayak was righted and drained before the subject was safely returned to his vessel.

On 9/18/23 the WPD police boat (Sgt. Farrior / Off. Bushwack) responded to a 911 call for a man in distress in the Niantic River. The man, who was intoxicated, and had fallen off of his kayak and was struggling to stay above water. WPD personnel, working with WFD personnel, removed the subject from the water and he was safely brought to shore on the WPD police boat.



Car Break Suspect Caught on Pine ST

On September 25, 2023 at 0831 hours day shift was dispatched to the Pine ST area for a suspicious male reported to be going through unlocked vehicles. Upon arrival Sgt. Michael Fedor located the suspect. Based on his actions the male was detained. It was later determined that he broke into numerous cars in New London and Waterford. Various stolen merchandise was recovered. The suspect was taken into custody and charged with the thefts from a motor vehicle (Larceny Sixth Degree).

Patrol Calls for Service Monthly Snap Shot:

Total Service Calls	2460
Case Numbers	147
Arrests	60
Juvenile Arrests	2
Larcenies	32
Arrest Warrants	5
Domestic Violence Investigations	7
Traffic Crash	44
DUI Investigations	3
EDP/Welfare Check	35
School Checks	136
Motor Vehicle Stops	413
Written Warnings	114
Infractions	44
Verbal Warnings	241
Misdemeanor	14

SELF INITIATED MOTOR VEHICLE ACTIVITY BY BADGE NUMBER





Stolen Moped Recovered:

On September 14, 2023 Officer Diogo (on his first day of FTO Training) and FTO DiFusco were on routine patrol in the area of the Crystal Mall. They observed a suspicious motor vehicle and made routine contact with the male operator. After a brief investigation it was learned that the moped had been reported stolen out of the city of New London in May of 2022. The vehicle was seized and towed from the scene. The suspect was taken into custody and charged with Larceny Fifth Degree (by possession) (C.G.S. 53a-125a).



Larceny Arrest: Stolen Check

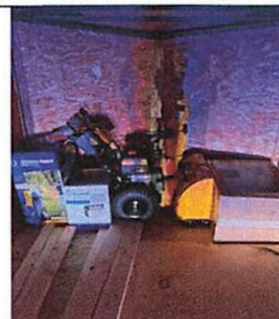
On September 11, 2023 midnights responded to an address on Mullen Hill RD for a suspicious motor vehicle. It was determined that the vehicle had broken down and it was ultimately towed from the scene. A short time later a nearby resident reported that his RING camera captured footage of a female suspect entering his property and stealing a check off of his front door. Patrol units flooded the area and located the female suspect a short time later walking East on Fog Plain RD. The female suspect was taken into custody for Simple Trespass and Larceny in the Sixth Degree. The stolen check was recovered and returned to the victim.

Welfare Check / Drug Overdose

On September 6, 2023 at approximately 0954 hours day shift was sent to an address in Ridgewood Park to conduct a welfare check. Officers on scene had negative contact at the front door but began to make phone calls, check with neighbors, and investigate further. Ultimately officers made the decision to open the front door based on the exigency present. A male subject who had taken a large quantity of prescription pills was found semi-conscious on the living room floor. Officers provided medical aid to the subject until EMS arrived. The subject was transported to the hospital and an emergency committal was completed.

MV Stop leads to Recovery of Stolen Trailer

On 9/22/23 Off. Caler stopped a suspicious U-Haul during the midnight shift. The operator was found to have an extraditable warrant out of Rhode Island. The trailer attached to the U-Haul contained various merchandise to include a snow blower / additional commercial equipment. The trailer was determined to be stolen out of Johnston, RI. The operator was taken into custody and the investigation remains open into the recovered items.



In the Community Interest





THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Animal Control Report



September 2023

- On September 9th a female pit bull mix dog was humanely euthanized due to aggression issues. The dog had been found roaming near the Connecticut Humane Society in Quaker hill. Many dogs are "dumped" in that area of town. This dog showed aggression toward other dogs, cats and food aggression. Sadly there was too much liability associated with the dog to safely adopt it back out into the public. As always, animal control officers were present during the procedure to calm and comfort the dog as she passed.



- For several weeks, animal control officers have been helping a senior citizen in Quaker Hill administer insulin shots to her cat daily as her husband is in the hospital and she has no other family.
- On September 11th the ACO worked with several Town of Waterford employees and a turtle expert to address the concerns with numerous turtles crossing the roadway by the duck pond project. Construction workers are now collecting the turtles that are located and turning them over to the ACO.s, who are keeping the turtles in totes and kiddie pools at the dog pound until the project is complete and they can be released back to nature.



	Waterford	East Lyme
Calls for Service	105	35
After Hour Call Outs	1	5
Tickets issued	0	0
Warnings issued	0	0
Dog Bites	1	1
Animals Redeemed	2	4
Animals Adopted	1	0
Animals DOA	1	0
Euthanized	1	0
Total Processed	5	4
Money Taken In	\$160	\$20
Donations	\$80	\$5



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



Community Engagement Report September 2023

Internship: Intern Mackenzie Andrews shadowed Dispatch Day Shift, Day Shift Patrol, Dispatch Evening Shift, and the Records Department. She observed rifle qualifications and received a tour of the Connecticut POST Academy. She helped out at the Senior Services Program Fair and the Waterford Police Union Pickleball Fundraiser.

Special Olympics Efforts: Attended Over the Edge and the monthly Torch Run Council meeting. The Waterford Police Department raised \$1,169.00 for the Plane Pull Event.

Interaction with Senior Services: Visited Bayview Health Care and multiple Waterford Senior Services classes. Attended the Senior Services Luncheon and Program Fair.

Domestic Violence Follow-ups: Conducted 3 follow-ups with DV victims.



Assistance to Youth Officers: Brought donated school supplies to the Waterford Country School and the Lakes Pond Baptist School. Visited Clark Lane Middle School students on their Yearbook Picture Day. Spoke about traffic stop safety at Rae's Driving School.

Camp Harkness Fall Fest: Attended event for Hodges to interact with attendees and handed out free school supplies. Organized a Patrol K-9 Demo for the event.

Officer Wellness: Visited the Hartford Police Department after their loss of an officer. Attended the Believe 208 Run that was dedicated to the memory of Officer Lapkowski.

K-9 Officer Hodges: Attended the Groton Town Dog Fair, the Niantic Touch-a-Truck, Waterford Fire K-9 Ginger's Birthday Party, Yale University's Wellness Event, and the Alzheimer's Association Walk. Visited Waterford Town Hall and the Groton Senior Center. Went to Bedford Hills Correctional Facility to speak to the inmates that raised Hodges. A report on Hodges and other CT Facility K-9s was published in Connecticut Public Media.

Rotary Club: Attended the monthly meeting. Visited multiple Waterford Schools for the Rotary Dictionary Project.

Interaction with Youth Services: Attended multiple after school programs.

Autism/Cognitive Issues Programs: Completed follow-up telephone calls for all registered participants of both programs.

Recruiting: Started a partnership with the US Coast Guard where our recruitment pamphlets will be distributed to attendees at their Transition Assistance Program.

DRAFT



TOWN OF WATERFORD CONNECTICUT POLICE DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023

**"TO PROTECT AND SERVE THE PUBLIC, PREVENT CRIME, AND PROVIDE
PROFESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES TO OUR COMMUNITY."
-Waterford Police Department Mission Statement-**



WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT FY 2022/2023



Waterford officers volunteering in the CT Special Olympics Torch Run

INTRODUCTION

The Waterford Police Department is a 49-member community oriented police agency with many of the current Waterford Police Officers living and paying taxes in the Town of Waterford. The department provides exceptional service to the town and works closely with other town departments to keep our community safe and engage residents in various outreach efforts.

During Fiscal Year 2022/2023, under the guidance and direction of the Board of Police Commissioners and Chief Marc Balestracci, the Waterford Police Department continued to fulfill its motto, *"In the Community Interest."*



BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS



The Board of Police Commissioners is comprised of members (L to R) Christopher Gamble, James Dimmock, Mark Gelinas, Thomas “Tony” Sheridan and First Selectman Robert Brule.

The Waterford Police Commission is a civilian oversight board, empowered under Connecticut state statutes and Town of Waterford, Connecticut ordinances. Connecticut state statute 7-276 details the authority of the Police Commission, but the members are appointed by the town's Representative Town Meeting and comprise of two members from each of the Democrat and Republican Town Committees, as well as the Town's First Selectperson.

The members of the Police Commission are all volunteers, with the exception of the First Selectperson, and make the final decisions regarding hiring, promotions, demotions and certain civilian complaints.



**Chief
Marc Balestracci**

Chief Marc Balestracci conducts admin meetings each week with the administrative team of the Waterford Police Department to review the state of the department's budget, request updates from department leaders and to assign and update tasks as appropriate.

In FY 2022-2023, the administrative team consisted of Investigative Services Lieutenant Tim Silva, Patrol Services Lieutenant David Ferland, Administrative Services Lieutenant Nicole VanOverloop, Administrative Sergeant Troy Gelinas, Training Officer Nicolas Surdo, Office Coordinator Diane Driscoll and a representative from the IT department.

Staff meetings are held quarterly with all Lieutenants, Sergeants and assigned personnel to discuss department needs, personnel and equipment, morale considerations, training issues, budget parameters, scheduling, building and vehicle issues and assignments. Improving communication is a priority and these regularly scheduled meetings assist in that effort.

Late in the fiscal year, with the retirement of Lt. Tim Silva, position adjustments were made and the current department layout will be reflected in some details below. (Updated September 2023)



Waterford Police Department Personnel & Structure



Board of Police Commissioners

Chief Marc Balestracci

Investigations Lieutenant
Nicole VanOverloop

Detective Sergeant
Richard Avdevich

Detective Todd O'Connell
Detective Leigh Bonkowski
Detective Raymond Carroll
Investigator Taylor Zaldivar

Court/Evidence Officer
Gil Maffeo

Task Force Officer
Raymond Rodriguez

Community Engagement Officer
Eric Fredricks (K9 Hodges)

Patrol Lieutenant
Patrick Flanagan

Patrol Sergeant Andrew Farrior
Patrol Sergeant Matthew Fedor
Patrol Sergeant Ryan Spearrin
Patrol Sergeant Michael Firmin
Patrol Sergeant Patrick Epps
Patrol Sergeant (TBD)

Ofc. Edwards	Ofc. Swarr	Ofc. Devine
Ofc. Winters	Ofc. Caler	Ofc. Charron
Ofc. Bunce	Ofc. Rodriguez	Ofc. Sangermano
Ofc. Girardi	Ofc. Bushwack	Ofc. Colkos
Ofc. Kryzstofiak	Ofc. Rogers	Ofc. McComic
Ofc. Surdo (K9)	Ofc. Barrows	Ofc. Reed
Ofc. Sylvestre	Ofc. Robinson	Ofc. Ewing
Ofc. DiFusco	Ofc. Brown	Ofc. Diogo
Ofc. Genung (K9)	Ofc. Donovan	Ofc. Luce

School Resource Officers
Daniel Lane
Norman Malbaurn

Traffic Officer
Officer Jake Nickerson

Administrative Lieutenant
David Ferland

Administrative Sergeant
Michael Fedor

Training Officer
Officer (TBD)

Office Coordinator Diane Driscoll
Secretary Jennifer Anderson
Accounts Receivable Valerie Clark
Data Technician Ashley Kuvent
Evening Secretary Joyce Brown
Custodian Allan Ostertag

Community Service Officers

CSO Ritchie	CSO Silva
CSO Mongeau	CSO Chrzanowski
CSO Ziolkowski	CSO Bertrand
CSO Hunt	CSO Glenn
CSO Bennett	CSO Brown
CSO Reynolds	CSO Bullock
CSO Griswold	

2022/2023 Fiscal Year Prominent Events

- In July of 2022, Officer Malbaurn was named the new School Resource Officer stationed out of Waterford High School
- On July 28, 2022, Officer Kyle McComic graduated the police academy and began his FTO program
- On August 3, 2022, a multi-agency training exercise was conducted at Quaker Hill Elementary School related to active shooter response from emergency services and the Board of Education
- On August 17, 2022, members of the Waterford Police Department made an arrest for the People's Bank robbery that took place in June
- In September of 2022, Niantic River Road was painted using optical speed bars and road diet plans as the first road to use this treatment as a speed mitigating effort



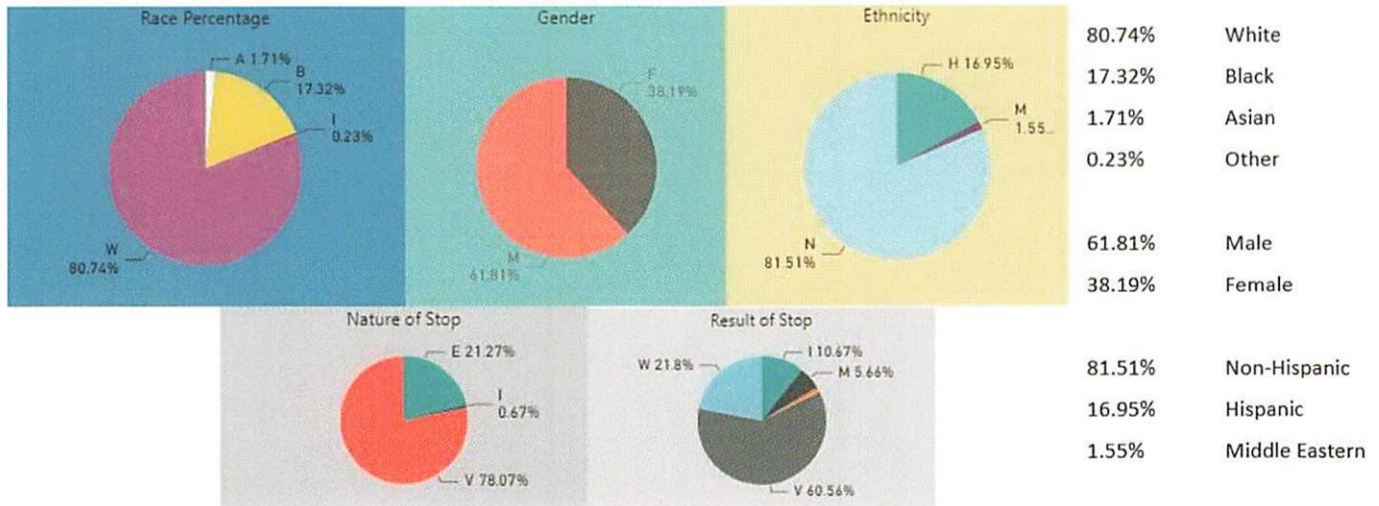
- On September 8, 2022, the Investigative Services Division served an arrest warrant in Quaker Hill resulting from a search warrant involving the transporting of controlled substances
- On September 12, 2022, the department launched its first ever community outreach video, featuring members from the department relaying critical information to the public
- In September, WPD offered pink patches as a fundraiser for Breast Cancer Awareness, raising \$1,020.
- On October 3, 2022, the Waterford Police Department again participated in an Autism Spectrum Traffic Stop practice event, allowing those on the spectrum to practice a safe traffic stop with police
- In October of 2022, the Waterford Police Department entered into an inter-local agreement with the Ledyard Police Department to share resources on a multi-town Special Response Team
- On October 31, 2022, the police department partnered with Waterford Fire and Ledge Light Health District to offer Naloxone (Narcan) at various town facilities for free
- In November of 2022, Officers Rogers and Colkos were certified as child-seat installation technicians, returning a service to the public that was once offered many years ago
- On November 8, 2022, members of the department's Accident Investigation Team responded to a major collision on RTE 85. An arrest was later made for assault, reckless endangerment and DUI
- The department supported the CT Special Olympics once again on November 12, 2022 by hosting a Tip-A-Cop at Longhorn's restaurant, raising \$2,720.
- On November 15, 2022, Officer Christopher Ewing started with the department after transferring from the Groton City Police Department.
- In December of 2022, Waterford PD and East Lyme PD entered into an inter-local agreement to share resources in the investigation of serious and fatal motor vehicle accidents
- In December of 2022, the Waterford Police Department began offering our building as a warming center in town to assist the community at all hours and relieve town staffing in other departments and buildings
- On February 1, 2023, four subjects were arrested after they engaged in pursuit, crashed and fled the scene on foot. The subjects, from NY, were arrested for trafficking personal information and using fraudulent checks at local banks
- On February 8, 2023, Andrew Reed was sworn in as our newest police officer
- On February 18, 2023, the Waterford Accident Investigation team was deployed to a double-fatal accident on Cross Road. The operator was later arrested for Manslaughter, Reckless Endangerment and DUI
- On March 10, 2023, Waterford officers were engaged in pursuit from a subject who had just carjacked a vehicle in New London. The suspect crashed on Rte 85, fled on foot and was apprehended after a short foot pursuit onto Douglas Lane.
- On March 20, 2023, our agency began accepting digital payments from the public for various services
- On March 21, 2023, our agency arrested a subject involved in a crash on Rte 85 for possession and manufacturing of illegal drugs, criminal possession of a firearm and various other offenses including DUI
- On June 5, 2023, Lt. Timothy Silva retired after 25 years of service
- On June 8, 2023, Lt. David Ferland graduated from the FBI National Academy program in Virginia
- On June 14, 2023, Sgt. Patrick Flanagan was promoted to Lieutenant and Officer Patrick Epps was promoted to Sergeant



**WATERFORD POLICE TYPES OF CALLS, USE OF FORCE*,
AND CAR STOP DATA FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023**

Category	Number	Change from previous fiscal year
Arrests	990	-8.3%
Calls For Service	27,829	+3.4
Case Numbers	2,270	-2.4%
Motor Vehicle Stops	4,331	-10.6%
EDP/Welfare Checks	490	+18.9%
Larceny/Shoplifting	348	+14.8%
Domestic Violence	113	-18.7%
Assault	11	-50%
Drug Overdose	11	+10%
Impaired Driving	85	+3.6%
Missing Person	194	+92%
School Checks	801	+7.5%
Motor Vehicle Crashes	793	+4%
Walk-in Complaints	590	+21.9%
Alarms	903	-10.4%
Residence Checks	1,954	-14.2%
Suspicious Person/Vehicle	793	+2.8%
Stolen Cars	24	+26.3%

Motor Vehicle Stop Statistics



Waterford Police Department Use of Force – (multiple types of force can be used in one incident)

Total UOF Incident	Verbal commands	Takedown	Control Hands	Firearm Display	Pointed Firearm	Taser Laser Only	Taser Usage	K9	Pepper Spray	Strike	Restraint Chair
30	28	9	16	5	3	3	1	7	1	1	0

Waterford Police Department Use of Force by gender/race

	Black	Hispanic	White	Totals
Female	2	3	5	10
Male	6	4	10	20



**Each use of force by an officer requires the completion of a State of Connecticut/ Police Officers Standards and Training-C Use of Force report, in addition to a narrative report from every officer involved. All uses of force are first reviewed by the on-duty supervisor for their determination if the use of force was justified and within policy. The report is then forwarded to a Use of Force committee, which consists of four Use of Force instructors who are certified in the various methods of force, including firearms, defensive tactics, and less lethal force options. The Use of Force committee reviews the Use of Force and all associated reports and evidence, making a determination of whether or not the use of force was within policy. The Use of Force incident is then forwarded to a Lieutenant for review to determine if it was justified. Any use of force that is deemed not justified and/or not within policy is forwarded to the Chief of Police for review. The Chief of Police receives all notifications for use of force incidents immediately upon entry into our computer systems and can review any of them at any time.*

PATROL SERVICES



**Lieutenant
Patrick Flanagan**

The Patrol Division, which is now led by Lt. Patrick Flanagan, is the largest and most visible component of the Waterford Police Department, often serving as the first impression of the agency during interactions with members of the community. Patrol provides service to approximately 20,000 residents in addition to the numerous business owners, employees and visitors that enjoy what our town has to offer on a daily basis. Patrol coordinates and implements community policing initiatives and enforcement activities in the Town of Waterford in accordance with our mission “to protect and serve the public, prevent crime, and provide professional law enforcement services to our community.”

The Patrol Division is comprised of one (1) Lieutenant, six (6) Sergeants and twenty-seven (27) Patrol Officers. Patrol services are organized into three (3) shifts: Midnight, Day and Evening, with a varying number of officers assigned to each shift based on the time of year, level of activity and budgetary guidelines. Each shift has a two (2) Sergeants assigned with differing days off to ensure consistent supervision at all times. The town is delineated into three (3) separate patrol zones to ensure adequate coverage for all areas of town. Zones A and C consist primarily of residential neighborhoods, parks, beaches and schools. Zone B houses the town’s largest retail developments and a youth facility that caters to troubled juveniles.

During the 2022/2023 fiscal year, the police department handled 27,829 calls for service, representing a 3% increase over the previous year. Patrol services deals with a wide variety of calls, ranging from criminal investigations and civil disputes to assisting people who need different services such as medical, psychological and/or financial assistance.

In addition to these duties, officers perform security checks of businesses and residences, conduct security walk-throughs of the public schools and one private school, locate wanted persons and enforce traffic offenses including impaired driving investigations. They also assist the public with other non-criminal situations such as missing persons, juvenile runaways and have the ability to deploy Naloxone to combat opiate related overdoses and deaths.



The Town of Waterford has numerous wooded areas and is also a shoreline community, which the department must use specialized equipment to navigate. The presence of a large number of retail establishments along with a nuclear power facility, a racetrack, two interstate highways, a railway system, a town beach and state parks combine to keep Waterford Police Officers busy throughout their shifts. All of these areas are patrolled with 20 marked and unmarked patrol vehicles equipped with Mobile Data Computers (MDCs), 4 All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), 1 Regional Marine Patrol Boat, 1 jet ski, 5 bicycles and a mobile command vehicle. Years ago, the department obtained a Humvee type vehicle through the military surplus program, which it uses for community events and storm responses. Patrol services continues to mark its patrol vehicles with a “black and white” color scheme to reflect a more traditional police service while capturing the essence of community policing.

Patrol Services works cooperatively with other law enforcement and governmental agencies and non-profit groups including Senior Services, Emergency Management, Youth and Family Services, Recreation and Parks, the Department of Children and Families and Safe Futures (which provides domestic violence counseling services). These types of partnerships as well as the continued regional Southeastern Connecticut Marine Patrol that provides maritime safety, equipment and training, have allowed reduced individual department costs through the sharing of resources.

MARINE PATROL



**Sergeant
Michael Firmin**

The Waterford Police Department Marine Division, which is led by Sgt. Michael Firmin, continues to partner with the East Lyme Police Department to operate a regional marine patrol vessel. Both towns share responsibility with staffing, maintenance and fuel costs. The Southeast Marine Patrol vessel patrols the navigable waters of both communities to include the Niantic River, Niantic Bay, Long Island Sound, Fishers Island Sound and the Thames River.

The Southeast Regional Marine Patrol is available for service calls year round and staffed by each department separately with a Captain and Crewmember on various weekdays, weekends and holidays from late May thru September.



**Detective
Leigh Bonkowski**

Detective Leigh Bonkowski, who assists Sergeant Firmin with the leadership of the marine patrol, holds extensive training, experience and USCG licensing.

During this boating season the Marine Division:

Conducted 31 marine patrols.

Officer Devine and Officer McComie received their initial crewmember training.

Assisted with a multi-agency security zone in the Thames River for the Department of Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas' visit to the United States Coast Guard Academy graduation on May 17, 2023.



Provided maritime security for Sailfest, East Lyme Day Fireworks, the Niantic Bay Triathlon, the New London Cup Paddle Board Race, and the Maritime Heritage Festival.



Recovered a distressed windsurfer near Black Point.

Responded to a boat fire off of the shore of Old Saybrook, CT.

Assisted the USCG by responding to a vessel aground on the south side of Fisher's Island.

Assisted a capsized kayaker near Ocean Beach.

Enforced multiple speed and wake violations in the Niantic River.

Assisted the Waterford Harbormaster as needed.

Responded to several complaints within the Millstone Security Zone.

Maintained a high visibility presence, conducted vessel safety inspections and assisted disabled boaters.

Educated kayakers regarding the importance of labeling their kayaks to prevent unnecessary search and rescue response and provided "If Found Stickers."

Sergeant Firmin and Detective Bonkowski participated in monthly meetings at the New London Marine Group Region 4 regarding the safety and security of the maritime environment for the areas of Long Island Sound and the Port of New London. The group is currently working to update its CONOPS "Concept of Operations Plan" for all maritime responses within the region.

K9 UNIT

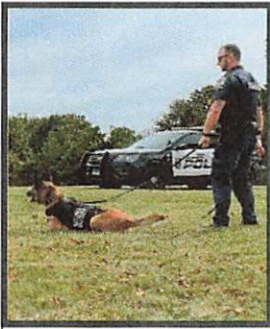


**K9 Officer
Patrick Epps and
K9 Neo**

The 2022/2023 fiscal year was once again a successful year for the Waterford Police Department's K9 Unit.

K9 Neo (Six-Year-old German Shepherd/Belgian Malinois mix) and Officer Epps, are a dual-purpose team which is trained in patrol work and narcotics detection. Throughout the year, the team was involved in the location of missing persons, numerous criminal arrests and narcotics finds.

On March 11, 2023 a suspect committed an armed carjacking in New London, CT. Officer Epps located the vehicle in Waterford and attempted to stop it. The vehicle fled and engaged Officer Epps in pursuit. The vehicle later crashed and the suspect fled on foot into the woods. As Officer Epps was searching the area, he observed the suspect coming out of the woods. Officer Epps removed K9 Neo from the back of the cruiser, which caused the suspect to surrender immediately. The suspect was then taken into custody without incident. A firearm was later located inside the vehicle and ammunition the suspect attempted to discard was recovered in the woods. On June 14, 2023, Officer Epps was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and subsequently retired K9 Neo. The Waterford Police Department congratulates Sergeant Epps on his promotion, and wishes K9 Neo a happy and healthy retirement.



**K9 Officer
Nicholas Genung
and K9 Ozzy**

K9 Ozzy (Four -Year-old Belgian Malinois) and Officer Genung, are also a dual purpose team trained in patrol work and narcotics detection. Throughout the 2022-2023 fiscal year, K9 Ozzy and Officer Genung have tracked and located individuals including criminal suspects, emotionally disturbed persons and missing persons. They have also had several narcotics finds resulting in arrests (not only in the Town of Waterford, but also for surrounding agencies on mutual aid requests).

On March 20, 2023 an individual known to the Waterford Police Department fled in his vehicle from evening shift officers on two (2) separate occasions when officers attempted to conduct motor vehicles stops. The vehicle was later found broken down on Cross Road and unoccupied. The subject was located on foot and had a loaded magazine in his pocket, but no firearm was located on him or in the vehicle. K9 Ozzy and Officer Genung conducted an article search in the woods near the area where the subject's vehicle broke down, and located a firearm buried under a fallen tree. It was

later determined that the magazine located on the individual fit the firearm K9 Ozzy located. In April of 2023, K9 Ozzy and Officer Genung attended a building search/tactics course in East Hartford, CT. This course included several different scenarios that put K9 teams to the test in high stress situations and provided instruction on integrating K9s into tactical teams.

The K9 units continue to provide support to Patrol Services and Investigative Services and were used in a variety of capacities throughout the fiscal year. This includes various searches for missing persons/suspects, locating stolen items/article searches, conducting narcotics searches and apprehending wanted suspects.

The K9 units also provide a high level of officer safety by searching buildings and areas where criminals posing a high risk of danger may be hiding.

In order to keep up on their training and skills, both teams (Officer Epps/K9 Neo and Officer Genung/K9 Ozzy) train twice a month (16 hours) with the southeastern Connecticut regional K9 group which consists of teams from several local police departments. The teams benefit from working with the regional group, as they are able to train at various facilities and locations exposing the K9's to a variety of environmental situations.

Both K9 teams are certified by NAPWDA and CPWDA in patrol and narcotics (Dual Purpose Police K9's) and maintain these certifications with annual recertification tests.

The teams continued their yearly routine by attending Waterford High School's Criminal Justice class for a two-part demonstration (one part is a practical demonstration and the other part is done in the classroom) and Waterford Police Department Citizen's Academy. The teams also participate in the Camp Harkness Fall Fest, the Town of Waterford Harvest Festival, and the Youth Promise education program sponsored by the Waterford Youth and Family Services Bureau. This event, which is highly anticipated by the students at our elementary schools, is also a highlight for the K9 officers as they enjoy interacting with our youth and exhibiting the talents of our K9s.



K9 Usages:

Narcotics Searches: 45

Person Tracks: 27

Article Searches: 10

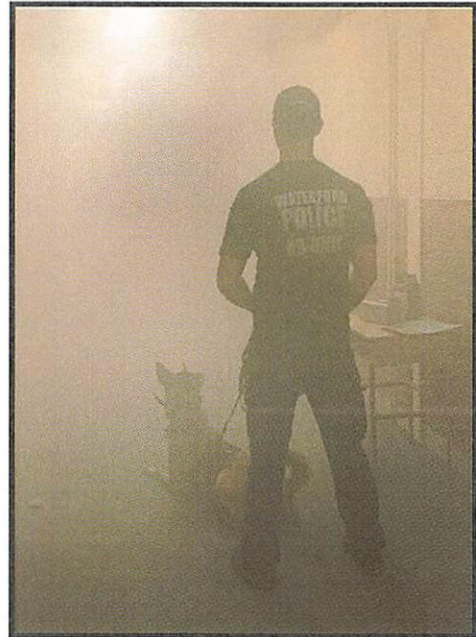
Area Searches: 0

Building Searches: 2

Criminal Apprehensions: 4

Community Service Events: 19

Total Usages: 107



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS



**School Resource Officer
Daniel Lane**

Youth Division Complaints: 83

School Events: 31

School Drills: 35

Home Visits: 29

Youth Arrests: 11



**School Resource Officer
Norman Malbaurn**

The School Resource Officers (SROs) are present in the school system all year with an officer assigned full-time out of the Waterford High School and the Clark Lane Middle School. These two officers also cover the Town of Waterford's three elementary schools, a magnet school and the Waterford country school

The SROs are responsible for school-based investigations, coordinating school based education programs (i.e. Youth Promise, Freshman Seminars and Health Class Seminars). They are responsible for working in cooperation with Waterford's Juvenile Review Board and reviewing all juvenile arrests that may not have to enter the juvenile court system. They also coordinate with the Department of Children and Families and Waterford Youth and Family Services to develop and deliver mentoring programs and diversionary options for all youthful offenders.



The officers address school security concerns to include the coordination and monitoring of lockdown drills, fire drills, shelter-in-place planning and evacuation drills. They also conduct vulnerability assessments to strengthen school safety and work cooperatively with the school system to implement necessary changes.

All juvenile cases that the Waterford Police Department investigates are forwarded to the two SROs for review. Once the review is complete, these officers process those case reports for their final destinations, to include juvenile court, diversionary programs and the records division for storage. During the summer months when school is not in session, these officers return to the Patrol Division.



TRAFFIC SERVICES



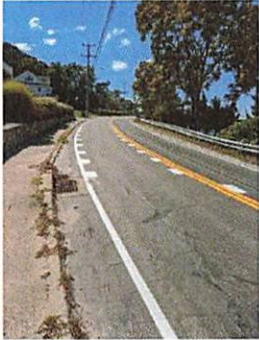
**Traffic Officer
Jake Nickerson**

The Traffic Officer remains the main point of contact for residents to request information, file complaints and air concerns regarding traffic safety. As a result, the Traffic Officer speaks directly to numerous residents on a daily basis, having a positive impact on community relations.

Most citizens are eager to receive information regarding traffic laws, best engineering practices, what mitigation techniques are effective and which ones are not.

After receiving substantiated complaints, a traffic study, traffic enforcement, additional signage requests or a combination of activities are allotted to alleviate the complaints and concerns. Several roadways have been monitored numerous times and have become a part of an automatic rotation of enforcement, signage and police presence, in an attempt to gain compliance from motorists.

To address complaints, the Traffic Office uses several key pieces of equipment to efficiently attempt to mitigate safety concerns on our roadways. Our large display boards were used extensively around town, to promote traffic safety, notify drivers of changes to the roadway traffic and events held by the town. They have proven to be a valuable asset. Working with our Public Works Department, temporary poles were placed throughout the town in troublesome "hot spots", so our large solar powered speed display signs could be utilized. Several new and repeat traffic studies were conducted on roadways throughout the town to monitor roadways. These studies help show what effects construction projects, speed enforcement and other variables have on local traffic. Our smaller battery powered speed display signs were used throughout the town to alert drivers to their speeds, as many motorists become accustomed to their daily commute and do not realize the speeds they are driving.



The Traffic officer works closely with Public Works to address safety issues along the roadways. The main point of concern is dealing with line of sight issues at intersections that result from overgrown trees and brush. After speaking to the homeowner, Public Works is frequently contacted to clear the obstructions to make the intersections safer.

The Traffic Officer was also heavily involved in planning for the safety of the Waterford Day Parade, from both traffic and security viewpoints. Working with town agencies, the parade was conducted safely and with minimum impact on surrounding businesses and traffic. The parade is the largest event, as far as labor and coordination is concerned, the town holds every year.

Part of the responsibilities of the Traffic Office is to review construction plans and proposals on behalf of the Chief of Police. The reviews are completed to ensure that the plans take into account impacts on local traffic, line of sight issues, parking lot guideline adherence and general public safety issues.

Some of these reviews are large in scale and require several updates to become compliant with our town's standards. Some plans require contact with the State DOT and several meetings to ensure the adherence to State traffic engineering standards.

The Traffic Office works closely with numerous town departments including Planning and Zoning, Fire Marshal, Public Works and others during these reviews, before forwarding them to Chief Balestracci for his approval. Some of the large projects include the additional 400 housing units on Willetts Ave, a large industrial park on Gurley Road, a large-scale housing development on Route 85 and several other stores and restaurants. Some of the town projects include line painting on roadways to mitigate speed (road diets), new stop signs and other additional signage approved by the traffic commission.

Along with the responsibilities of the Traffic Officer position, the Traffic Officer is engaged in training numerous classes for new recruits and the recertification program run by the Law Enforcement Council. These classes revolve around the topics of Reponse to Aggression decision-making, report writing, arrest and control tactics, firearms, patrol rifle, less lethal projectiles and Use of Force law. The Traffic Officer is also very active in training "in-house", helping our officers obtain the new skills and information needed to remain effective in the changing law enforcement profession.

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES



**Lieutenant
Nicole VanOverloop**

In the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the Investigative Service Division was comprised of one (1) Lieutenant, three (3) Detectives, one (1) Investigator, one (1) Task Force Officer and a Secretary. The Court/Evidence Officer as well as the Community Engagement Officer and K9 Hodges also report to the Investigative Services Division.

The Task Force Officer was assigned to work with the Connecticut State Police Violent Crimes Task Force. This is a one-year assignment with the possibility of being extended.



The Division was supervised by Lieutenant Tim Silva and Detective Sergeant Michael Fedor for the majority of the fiscal year, until Lieutenant Silva's retirement in June 2023. At this time, Lieutenant Nicole VanOverloop took over command of the Investigative Services Division. In September 2023, Sergeant Michael Fedor finished his three-year assignment in Investigative Services and Sergeant Richard Avdevich took over the role of Detective Sergeant for a three-year assignment.

The Investigative Services Division is responsible for investigating major criminal incidents within the Town of Waterford, along with state and national cases that have ties back to Waterford. The Division routinely works with other agencies to investigate cases that have crossed jurisdictional boundaries.

The Division conducts necessary background checks for pistol permit applications as well as conducts weapons compliance investigations on persons prohibited from possessing firearms. The division performs address compliance checks on sex offenders and persons on the Deadly Weapons Offender Registry as needed as well.

Investigative Services also conducts background investigations for any person or organization that conducts door-to-door sales of goods or services within the Town's borders. Once vetted, those who have passed the process are issued permits to show residents that these vendors are within compliance of the Town Ordinance.

The Investigative Services Division investigated multiple crimes during the fiscal year. These crimes included high value jewelry thefts and commercial burglaries. In one case, Division members were able to connect a burglary suspect to a jewelry larceny from the Crystal Mall in the amount of \$90,000. The Investigative Services Division also conducted numerous sexual assault investigations; one resulting in the arrest of a high-ranking military member. Other cases of interest involved further follow-up in Colorado and New Jersey for a cold case murder that is still being actively investigated by the Waterford Police Department.

Case Numbers: 259

Arrests: 22

Burglaries (Residential and Commercial): 8

Search Warrants: 32

Unattended Death Investigations: 10

Sexual Assaults: 21

Pistol Permit Background: 146

Robberies: 2

Auto Thefts: 3

The Investigative Services Division is also responsible for completing and submitting annual reports to State and Federal agencies for statistical purposes and related to criminal procedure. These reports include sexual assault investigations, use of Ex-Parte orders for internet and cellular records, overdose related deaths and federal asset forfeiture accountability.



Special Response Team (SRT):

During this fiscal year, the Waterford Police Department continued to advance the Special Response Team's abilities. The department obtained equipment, such as a drone that is especially assigned to the team to assist in scenarios such as barricaded subjects. The SRT team added and is continuing to train three new members this year. They train with the Ledyard Police Department, who we have an Inter-local agreement with, allowing the two teams to work together as one if needed to deploy.

The SRT team is working on expanding the Inter-Local agreement to potentially add departments such as East Lyme, Montville and Groton City, which have started to train with us monthly. Waterford's team consists of 13 members with an additional two highly trained negotiators. They respond to calls such as high-risk warrants, barricaded subjects, instances needing large perimeters and any other events deemed appropriate.

TASK FORCE OFFICER



**Task Force Officer
Raymond Rodriguez**

Investigative Services works closely with the State of Connecticut Violent Crimes Task Force, which investigates reports of criminal activity that could be violent in nature.

Officer Raymond Rodriguez is currently assigned to the State of Connecticut Violent Crimes Task Force (VCTF).

Investigative Services oversees the Officer assigned to the (VCTF). VCTF utilizes a regional approach to combatting violent crimes through the investigations of crimes such as the sale and use of illegal substances, human trafficking, gang related crimes and other violent criminal activity by partnering law enforcement officers from neighboring communities. Officers assigned to VCTF are sworn in under the State Police and are provided powers of arrest for the entire State of Connecticut. Agencies who have officers assigned to this task force are able to share resources such as personnel and equipment, which provides a benefit to the operating budget and taxpayers.

Additionally, participating towns may receive asset forfeiture funds through the sale of items lawfully seized as a result of these investigations.

Task Force Operations/Results:

During this fiscal year, the VCTF along with Officer Rodriguez has conducted the following:

- 21- Search and Seizure Warrants (Most search and seizure warrants resulted in fentanyl, "crack" cocaine, heroin and various controlled dangerous substances being seized.)
- 172- Arrests (on site/warrants)
- 7- Firearms seized
- 8- Recovered Stolen Vehicles

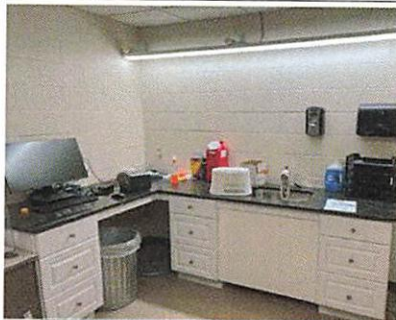


Court/Evidence



**Court/Evidence Officer
Gil Maffeo**

Officer Gilbert Maffeo remains the Waterford Police Department Court and Evidence Officer. Officer Maffeo took over responsibility for the Waterford Police impound lot, which was historically assigned to the Traffic Officer. As the vehicles are seized as evidence, the Court and Evidence Officer now works directly with New London Superior Court in managing the vehicles held and released.



In fiscal year 2022-2023, the evidence area at the Waterford Police Department began much needed renovations. The area now consists of modern, refrigerated and secure evidence storage as well as critical improvements to lighting, decontamination and office spaces. Officer Maffeo, and his assistant Officer Peter Barrows, worked to ensure the renovations were conducted without risking the evidence associated with pending criminal cases.

We continue to have a great working relationship with the State of Connecticut Forensics Lab and Firearms Unit. They have continued the Covid-19 policy of requiring an appointment for all evidence, firearms and toxicology submissions and the Court/Evidence Officer works with them for the timely delivery of appropriate items each month.

Approximately 329 items were taken into evidence, whereas only 259 items were disposed of during the fiscal year. Eleven trips were made to the lab in Meriden, two drugs burns were completed and three firearms disposals were also completed during the fiscal year.

ADMINISTRATION



**Lieutenant
David Ferland**

The Administrative Services section of the Police Department is led by Lieutenant David Ferland and assisted by Administrative Sergeant Troy Gelinas. Administrative Services encompasses the Records, Community Service Officers, Chaplains and Training functions of the Waterford Police Department.

The Records Department is tasked with all records for the Police Department, along with numerous requests for services, which are listed below. They are often the first point of contact for those entering the police department and provide service with empathy, efficiency and integrity to align with the standards the police department diligently upholds.

Records Department: The Waterford Police Department Records Division is staffed by, Joyce Brown, Valerie Clark and Ashley Kuvent. They are often the first point of contact for those entering the police department and provide service with empathy, efficiency and integrity to align with the standards the police department diligently upholds.



Highlights:

January 1st, 2023: received the order of erasure under CT General Statute 54-142v (Cannabis Erasure); the Records Dept. completed erasure of 200+ charges from the State's websites, Waterford's in house electronic record system, physical case jackets and WatchGuard system.

Substantial increase in requests for Body Worn Camera recordings from the public, courts and surrounding agencies. Body Worn Camera and DashCam Recordings have quickly become the most complex source of public information available since the introduction of the police accountability act and often require several hours of viewing and redactions prior to releasing to those who requested it.

FOI request for a 1998 homicide that involved scanning and redacting 600+ pages of documents and photographs.

FOI requests for a motor vehicle accident involving two fatalities and one arrest. Information was provided under the current legislation to the New London Superior Court, U. S. Navy, legal representation for both victims and the suspect and family members of the victims. Over nine hours of Body Worn Camera and DashCam recordings were reviewed and provided to the court.

Department Policies and Procedures: The Waterford Police Department gained Tier 1 Accreditation in February 2023, which is the first step of the State accreditation requirement, in compliance with the police accountability law. This project was completed by Sergeant Troy Gelinis, in his role as the Administrative Sergeant. The policies and procedures of the department are continually reviewed and updated to ensure compliance with changes in the law, model State policies and practices consistent with the ever-changing role of law enforcement.

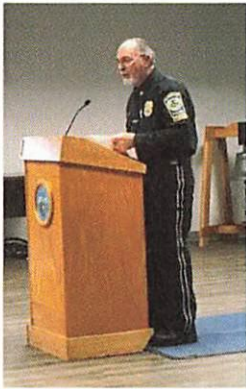
Schedule: The schedules of all 49 police officers, 5 full-time clerical staff, 17 CSOs and the custodian are the responsibility of the Administrative Services Division. This task involves not only ensuring the proper coverage of patrol, but also the coordination of trainings, overtime, personal time off, as well as coverage and representation at community events.

The Records Department was responsible for the following transactions in fiscal year 2022/2023:

Tickets Entered (written warnings, summons, infractions, parking)	1,900
Freedom of Information Act Requests/ Including Insurance Requests	1,947
DOC/Court/DCF requests	176
Motor Vehicle Accidents (data entry/MUCC)	868
Patrons assisted at lobby window	1,565
Warrant Data Entry	659
Background Checks	109
Abstracts from Court	3,267
Case Copies	51
Protective Order Entries	534
Phone Calls from Public	2,245
Case Erasures	2,611
Court Requests	302
Police Tasking	809



CHAPLAIN PROGRAM



The Chaplain program is a non-denominational program consisting of four volunteers that are rooted in our community and rotate through one-week on call periods. They meet monthly at the police department, with our Administrative Sergeant serving as a liaison, to determine their on-call schedule, discuss services they have provided and work towards developing additional ways they can assist the department and the community.

The Chaplains undertake various tasks to assist our agency and the community during times of illness, injury, or death, with a primary function of assisting officers in the delivery of death notifications. Additionally, they provide funeral, wedding and other services and often maintain relationships with community members they assist during a time of need.

During the past year, the Chaplains were a tremendous support system for department members, both sworn and civilian, as we were hit with the tragedy of the unexpected death of one of our own officers. The Chaplains continue to be a resource for members of the department through individual conversations and guidance, as well as a consistent presence in support of officer wellness initiatives.

The current Chaplains; Joe Parise, Chuck Tyree, Gary Poorman and Benjamin Sheldon, can be frequently seen assisting the agency at community events such as the 5K road race, Tip-A-Cop Wal-Mart Food, Toy, and Clothing Drive, Harvest Fest and Shop-With-A-Cop at Target, providing holiday presents for families in need. They have organized breakfast and cookouts for officers as they continue to strive to support officer wellness initiatives.

Recognizing the continued value that the Chaplains provide, the department was able to provide them with an office at the department. This has allowed them to hold office hours to increase their presence around department members and to meet with individuals in a more private setting within the building.

Training



**Training Officer
Nicolas Surdo**

Training for the Waterford Police Department is overseen by Lieutenant Ferland and is managed by Officer Nicolas Surdo. The training department is a vital part of the daily operations of the police department. Training begins at the start of an officer's career and plays a major role to the end of that career. The Training Officer is responsible for recruitment, the selection process, initial academy training and a 400-hour Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTEP), in addition to in-service training and recertification for every officer.

Recruitment:

The Waterford Police Department continues to recruit only those who meet the standards set forth by the Law Enforcement Council (LEC), the Police Officers and Standards Training Council (POSTC) and the Waterford Police Department. The Waterford Police Department continues its efforts in recruitment by participating in outreach programs to include visiting collegiate institutions, attending the LEC testing dates to educate potential applicants about our agency and draw their interest to Waterford, hosting PATH programs, Internship programs and the CSO program. Efforts to expand the department's reach in recruiting this past year included accepting written testing for entry-level officers from the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA) as well as holding an open house for interested applicants.



New Hires:

Officer Andrew Reed was hired as an Officer after serving the department for many years as a CSO. Officer Reed attended the inaugural session of the Eastern Regional Police Academy held by Law Enforcement Council of Connecticut, of which the department is a member. This allowed Officer Reed to receive his training locally and learn from active police officers from the region, including several Waterford Police Officers.



Officer Christopher Ewing was hired as a lateral/certified police officer after serving several years with a different department in Connecticut. His current certification allowed for an abbreviated field training process and an expedited timeframe to have him working patrol on his own.

Continuing Training:

Training remains at the forefront of the Waterford Police Department and is critical for any successful agency. Our department believes that through training, in service or collegiate, officers will be better prepared to meet the needs of the community and have the knowledge and the resources available to them to assist in their decision-making at calls for service.

Officers are still required to attend mandatory trainings annually as well as tri-annually to meet POSTC standards to maintain their police officer certification. The Waterford Police Department has always met and exceeded these standards. The Waterford Police Department encourages officers to seek higher education and had five officers attending college to obtain degrees this fiscal year.

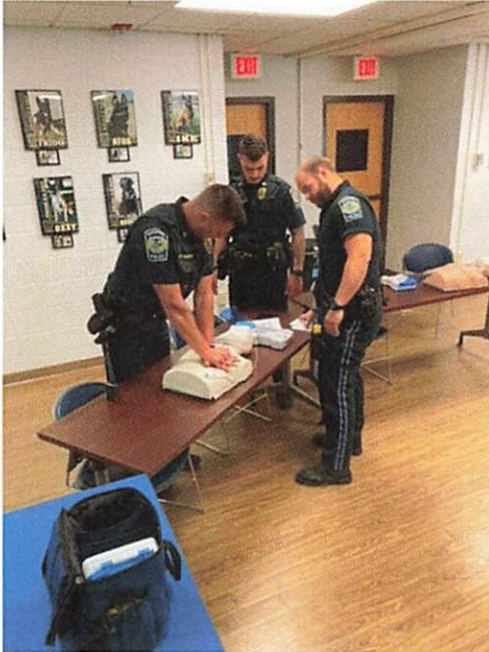
Officers continue to attend specialized trainings throughout Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Florida. Some of the most notable trainings officers attended this year were the FBI New England Regional Command College, Basic Interview and Interrogation, Connecticut Peer Support Training, Basic Crime Scene Procedure, and the Use of Force Summit. Chief Balestracci nominated Lieutenant Ferland to attend the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA, which is a prestigious 10-week leadership training course funded by the FBI. Lt. Ferland was selected and attended the training with high-level leaders from all over the United States as well as many other nations.

In-house trainings have been of the utmost importance and having certified instructors is critical to being able to host our own trainings and ensuring the agency is equipped with the right tools for the job. Scenario based training, putting officers in real-life scenarios that induce stress reactions, decision making, de-escalation and working together as a team will ensure the officers are well trained and the community receives a high level of service. Notable in-house trainings instructed by our own officers were handcuffing, all-terrain vehicle (ATV) training, Use of Force Reporting Guidelines, Method of Instruction, Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) and Advanced Driving Under the Influence (DUI).

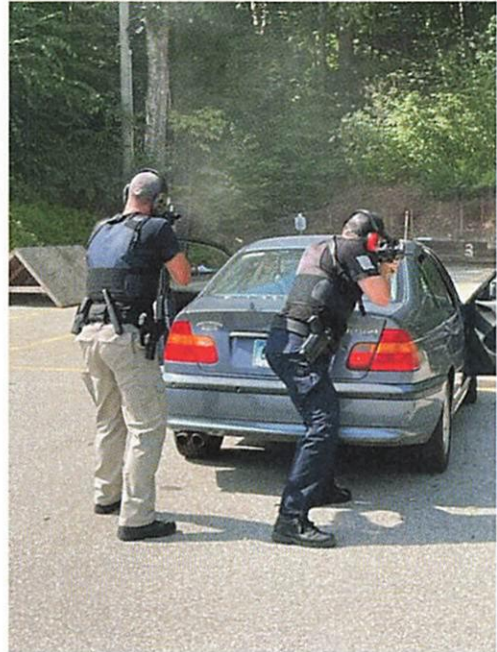
As we continue to respond to numerous calls for service regarding emotionally disturbed persons and those in crisis, the Waterford Police Department has made it a priority to have all officers attend Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). CIT is a five-day course where officers gain knowledge and resources on how to respond to these calls for service. All certified officers in the agency are CIT certified, and the one remaining trainee will attend the training at the conclusion of FTO.



The Waterford Police Department has continued to send officers to Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), which is a requirement for all new officers certified after January 2022. This class requires a prerequisite, which is an advanced DUI course or Standardized Field Sobriety Testing course. The police department has one (1) ARIDE/DRE instructor and three (3) DUI instructors, allowing us to host the training at no cost. All certified officers, including those not required, have successfully completed the course.



left:
CPR training
conducted in-
house for all
officers.



right:
Range training
for those assigned
patrol rifles.

TECHNOLOGY / COMMUNICATIONS



The Police Department continues to use the free smartphone application called "Neighbors." This app is free to anyone and allows for the sharing of any video or image relating to crime within the community at large. The platform also allows users the choice to anonymously or with permission, share videos with the police. The Police Department also has the ability to request users to check any surveillance cameras they have for a specific period and, if they choose, share that data with us. The platform is based on the social media model for information sharing and leaves the decision to share with the user. This free program has provided a cost effective way for the community to share real-time data with our agency without any financial impact on the taxpayer.

The Department continues to utilize the Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC) reporting system for motor vehicle crashes. These MMUCC reports meet the national standard for motor vehicle accident reporting and are filed electronically.

The Police Department continues to engage our citizens with social media, allowing them to learn what the Police Department does on a daily basis as well as learn who our officers are. The department maintains a website, a twitter (X) feed @waterfordpolice with approximately 5,000 followers and a Facebook page with approximately 20,000 users, facebook.com/waterfordpolice. Through these various outlets, the Waterford Police Department has solved numerous crimes and reunited victims with their property. The use of these outlets allow engagement with our community and continue to showcase transparency in our daily actions.



Technology is and will continue to be a major part of the Waterford Police Department due to the changing landscape of criminal investigations as well as the need to share information with other law enforcement entities and the public in a more efficient manner. Information technology is used in every facet of the police department, from the patrol investigations and motor vehicle accident reporting to records retention, evidence processing and investigative services investigations.

The Waterford Police Department works cooperatively with the Emergency Communications Center and the Town of Waterford Information Technology department to locate the best options available for the purchase and implementation of technology related products. This approach allows for new technologies to integrate seamlessly with the existing Town infrastructure while being presented in a manner that allows for a larger plan to be developed. Technology continues to increase faster than the Police Department can keep up with and lease options have been used in conjunction with cloud based technology to stay current.

The Police Department had a full-time Information Technology employee on-site to manage the ever growing technology needs of the public safety environment. This position, which was reclassified from a previous secretarial position, now works from town hall, but adds expertise to the previous technology team that includes officers and police administrators. This team is used to research, review and maintain software and other products that can make existing processes more efficient.

The department has used technology for the timely release of required information through social media and scanning documents directly to media sources which build trust within the community. These same processes also allow for better information sharing between law enforcement agencies giving us twice the impact for the same price. The Department continues to seek different ways to upgrade its systems to the way policing is conducted. The agency continues the use of in-car video and body worn cameras for patrol officers, which continue to be a valuable asset with court related documentation, investigative leads and enhancing transparency with the community. The agency currently uses a web based Records Management System with a unique user interface and enhanced reporting and customization capabilities. The RMS product allow officers to complete reports more efficiently in the field and return to other duties.

The Department continues to use the Naval Criminal Investigative Services (NCIS) "Linx" database, which allows Waterford officers to review police records from fifty other municipal and state police agencies in New England and over one thousand and four hundred agencies nationally.

UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE



The Waterford Police Department continued the use of an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Unit (Drone) and is utilizing a Yuneec H520 drone. The drone has both thermal and standard picture and video capabilities.

The drone is used for search and rescue, accident investigation, evidence recovery and other public safety needs. The Drone Unit includes five officers who hold Remote Pilot Certifications through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), allowing them to legally fly the drone for law enforcement purposes.

Members of the Drone Unit continue to work with the Accident Investigation Team capturing scaled scene photographs that can be imported and incorporated with scaled scene measurements of the AIT equipment. This tool provides the ability to capture an



image of the actual scene and a more finished presentation for court. The Drone Unit was used twice in 2023 to help reconstruct a serious injury motor vehicle accident as well as a fatal motor vehicle accident which occurred in town as well as being used for various other tasks.

The drone has been used for multiple incidents in Waterford, as well as assisting neighboring agencies with mutual aid requests. Some of the uses other than for criminal and motor vehicle accidents include:

- Obtaining aerial photographs of neighborhoods for participants of the Cognitive Issues Program
- Inspections of town buildings
- Assist with event security during large scale events, such as the annual town parade

The Drone Pilots are now being phased into assisting the Special Response Team, as they hold certifications and can assist without reducing staffing from the highly trained SRT team.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS



CSO
Sherry Ziolkovski

The need for Community Service Officers (CSOs) was first realized in 1991, when the police department moved into its new and current building, which for the first time was separate from the dispatch center. This meant that there would be instances when the building was left unattended. In the past, if a member of the public came to the police facility, they were met with, at a minimum, a dispatcher. The migration to the new building removed this ability and required a sworn officer to be stationed in the building to meet with the public or monitor a prisoner that was being held for court. From this predicament, the CSO program was born.

The CSO program has evolved from several CSOs covering night and weekend shifts, to a full complement of 17 CSOs covering three shifts per day, seven days per week.

This program has a dual purpose; first and foremost, to provide a more cost effective intermediary between the public and services needed and the ability to monitor arrested persons. Secondly, to provide an environment to evaluate potential candidates for the position of police officer. The role of CSO has been a stepping stone leading into the law enforcement field. Since its inception, many CSOs have been hired as fulltime Waterford Police Officers, with most achieving rank in supervisory roles or assignment in specialized units. Many other CSOs have been hired by other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. The past year has been no exception with several CSOs being hired by surrounding agencies, including Norwich, Stonington, Montville and the State Police. With multiple CSOs moving forward in their law enforcement career, several new CSOs were hired during the past fiscal year.

The part-time CSOs are non-sworn personnel with no arrest authority. The CSOs complete a 24-hour in-house training course in various skills such as prisoner control, fingerprinting, processing of prisoners, paperwork, Records Management System (RMS) familiarization as well as an eight to ten shift field training process. They are also required to complete a 24-hour state mandated training on the use of the COLLECT/NCIC computer systems. The CSOs are required to be knowledgeable in officer safety, defensive tactics, data entry, booking procedures and first aid.



The duties of a CSO are many and varied, but their primary job functions include greeting residents and other members of the public, directing them to the appropriate services or personnel, searching, fingerprinting, photographing, caring for prisoners and building security. The CSOs also assist records personnel with clerical duties and are tasked with various assignments by supervisors and officers during their shifts. Additionally, CSOs conduct monthly follow-ups on all of the agency's active hardcopy and re-arrest warrants. These efforts have resulted in many warrants being served or vacated and has led to the discovery of information which has significantly benefited various cases.

A CSO in the building allows the officers and shift supervisors to remain on the road and available for calls for service. This uses a lower cost employee to monitor prisoners and greet the public who enter the police building, while keeping the more trained officers available to respond to emergencies.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



**Sergeant
Michael Fedor**

In Fiscal Year 2022/2023 the Waterford Police Department neighborhood watch program continued to grow, adding several new neighborhoods.

The current list of actively participating neighborhoods are as follows:

Pleasure Beach, North RD, Myrock Ave., Roxwood Rd., Windy Ridge, Clement St., Lamphere Rd., Trumbull Rd., Rope Ferry Condos and Totoket Rd.

The Neighborhood Watch meetings are held every month at the Waterford Police Department. Neighborhood Coordinators are encouraged to speak with their members to get input on what is happening and how we, working as a team, can work to address issues. Topics that are regularly discussed are: noise complaints, trespassing, burglaries, car breaks, narcotics, identity theft and speeding.

Through these meetings, we are able to coordinate efforts with other members of the police department, other parts of town government and private businesses to address concerns and in most cases, resolve issues.



Through email notifications, we have been able to reach large groups of people in specific neighborhoods to aid in criminal investigations shortly after an incident occurs. Not only does this potentially provide officers with crucial investigatory leads, but provides greater transparency into the actions of the police department.

We have found that those who attend the neighborhood watch meetings just want to know what is going on in their area. The use of email notifications has aided several investigations, most notably, obtaining home surveillance video of car theft suspects in the Please Beach area.

WPD Community Engagement Officer Eric Fredricks and K9 Hodges regularly attend our meetings to share information on upcoming events.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



**Community
Engagement Officer
Eric Fredricks**

The men and women of the Waterford Police Department contribute a significant amount of their time in support of many charitable community events. This year they collaborated with numerous town departments, local non-profit organizations and other community based groups.

As community outreach has become a priority of our department, we have assigned Officer Eric Fredricks as our full-time Community Engagement Officer. Officer Fredricks, along with his certified comfort dog Hodges, coordinate many opportunities for members of our community to positively interact with Waterford police officers. This assignment, in partnership with Puppies Behind Bars, provides a trained Comfort Dog to our agency at no cost and has delivered incredible results.

Community Engagement events and programs are supervised by Lieutenant Nicole Vanoverloop and are coordinated by Community Engagement Officer Eric Fredricks. The men and women of the Waterford Police Department contribute much of their time, including their own personal time, in support of many community activities. This year they partnered with Youth and Senior Services, Waterford Public Schools, Waterford Rotary, Camp Dash, Neighborhood Watch and other town agencies and local community organizations.

Some of these events are as follows – Coffee with a Cop, Bicycle Helmet Giveaway, Senior Lunch & Learns, Stuff-a-Cruiser, Tip-A-Cop, Shop with a First Responder, Torch Run, Blankets of Love for Seniors, National Night Out, Penguin Plunge and Camp Harkness Fall Fest. Several, but not all, of the community and volunteer efforts that Waterford Officers participated in are shown on the following pages.

A few of the programs we offer are; the Autism Awareness and Cognitive Issues Programs, Domestic Violence Victim Follow-ups, Waterford Police Citizen's Academy, Neighborhood Watch, Traffic Stop Safety Classes with Rae's Driving School and Crime Prevention Classes to Seniors and Youths.

Our officers also help raise money for charitable causes, including raising \$7,136.00 for the Connecticut Special Olympics, \$1,020 for Healing Therapies Thru Sharing (breast cancer awareness effort) and \$1,040 to Waterford Youth Services.

The Community Engagement Officer also assists with recruitment. The agency hosted 3 interns (Central Connecticut State University, Mitchell College and Waterford High School). A PATH program was held at the Law Enforcement Council of Connecticut location in Norwich, where 30 attendees learned about the process of becoming an officer. Multiple high schools, colleges and job fairs were visited as well to speak about our agency.



Officer wellness is a focus of the Community Engagement Officer and Comfort Dog Hodges as well. We encourage our officers to focus on self-care and home life balance as it will benefit them and our community. Officers are offered a variety of physical fitness recreational opportunities, from jiu-jitsu to softball. Some programs also include community engagement by adding the participation of Waterford students and other citizens.

Hodges, a comfort dog with years of training, was brought to our agency to improve officer wellness, victim support and community engagement. Hodges has been deployed to comfort victims and their family members after traumatic incidents on many occasions. Hodges has interacted with officers and other first responders during incident debriefs and he also engages with the community at numerous events such as K-9 Demos, Read to Hodges at the Library, Youth Promise Classes, Police Department Tours and visits to various organizations and community establishments.

Waterford Police Officers participated in the annual Torch Run to raise awareness for the Connecticut Special Olympics



Camp Dash and Camp Courant volunteers picked up trash on Miner Lane. Waterford Police, Fire & Ambulance were on hand to assist

Officer Fredricks read to a visitor at the Waterford Library's Read to Hodges Event





Waterford Police Officers, Starbucks employees and attendees of Coffee with a Cop at the Waterford Community Center

The 2023 Waterford Citizen's Police Academy class on their last day of the 11-week long program



Chief Balestracci spoke to attendees of the PATH Program on how to best prepare for police oral board interviews

Officer Rogers and Connecticut Correction Officers picking out presents with kids at Shop with a First Responder





K9 Hodges interacted with a Three Rivers Community College student after Officer Fredricks spoke about how to apply to the Waterford Police Department

Waterford Police Officers celebrated their win over the Waterford Fire Department in their annual softball game! (Win!)



Officer Fredricks and K9 Hodges visited seniors at their luncheon at Waterford Beach

School Resource Officer Dan Lane led Great Neck School students on a tour of the police department.





Sergeant Michael Firmin, Officer Stephen Rogers and Community Service Officer Alex Hunt accept a gracious donation of toys at Stuff-A-Cruiser event

Officers spend time with a local family whose young son is going through difficult medical procedures



Children spending time with Hodges while visting the police department

The police department opened several times as a warming and cooling center to assist the town with 24/7 access for our residents





LOOKING FORWARD

The Waterford Police Department continues with several major efforts as it transitions from last fiscal year and into the 2023-2024 year.

In May of 2023, the Board of Police Commissioners approved the request from Chief Balestracci to increase the size of the department, from 49 sworn officers to 52. This increase, if funded, will allow our agency to address two long standing concerns and be best prepared for the numerous construction projects on-going in town.

Although almost every police department in the State of Connecticut, and in the United States, is facing major challenges in recruiting, we will continue to maintain high standards as we look to fill anticipated vacancies in coming months. We have adjusted our processes to remain competitive, but have not lowered the standards.

The department continues to explore the State of Connecticut radio system. Emergency managers in town have been working towards identifying the benefits, costs and concerns as a request to the town is anticipated. The timing of a potential move to the State system is critical as Waterford's current system is reaching end-of-life in most areas and will need significant investment and improvements.

The department is transitioning to the NEXGEN CAD/RMS system. This transition, which provides significant cost savings to the town, aligns our department with most other police departments in Connecticut. It also provides conveniences with the State of Connecticut and with other local agencies.

The department is part of a Town Safety Project that is currently presenting before town boards. This significant project, if approved, will allow the department to better manage major incidents in all town buildings while also communicating more effectively with residents and visitors. Part of this project includes upgrades to the police department cameras in and around the police building that are currently well beyond their life expectancy.

As we have Mutual Aid agreements with most of the departments in eastern Connecticut, we have started to focus on specific Inter-Local Agreements. As we currently hold agreements with the Town of East Lyme (Marine Patrol and Accident Investigations) and the Town of Ledyard (Special Response Team), we are looking to expand on these agreements with a few neighboring agencies if it serves in the best interest for the Town of Waterford and the Waterford Police Department. These agreements allow for the sharing of resources during major incidents and/or very complex investigations. To date, these agreements have proved quite valuable.



On January 2, 2023, the Waterford Police Department was rocked by the tragic untimely death of Waterford Police Officer Adam Lapkowski #56.

The members of the Waterford Police Department continue to embrace his family, cherish his passion and carry-on his legacy.

Our agency will never forget Adam's service to our community and our department. We will also never forget his friendship and leadership to each of us individually. We are committed to continuing his legacy at the department and supporting his family.





RETIREMENTS

Lieutenant Timothy Silva



Congratulations to Lieutenant Timothy Silva on his retirement from the Waterford Police Department. Your contributions to our department, the town and the region, were significant and your impact will endure.



CONCLUSION

The Waterford Police Department is focused on providing the best level of service we can for those who live, work and visit our town. We hold our motto of "In the Community Interest" to heart and truly believe in the community outreach and partnership methods of policing. We hope you have found this annual report informative. If you have any questions, they may be directed to Police Chief Marc Balestracci at mbalestracci@waterfordct.org.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____

Board of Police Commissioners

Marc Balestracci, Chief of Police

Commissioner Christopher Gamble, Chairman

Commissioner James Dimmock, Vice-Chairman

Commissioner Mark Gelinas, Secretary

Commissioner Thomas A. Sheridan

Commissioner Robert Brule, First Selectman