



Town of Waterford, Connecticut, Police Commission Meeting Agenda

Training Room at the Waterford Police Department

9/9/2024 5:00 pm

Call to order and establish quorum:

Pledge of Allegiance:

Public input:

Acceptance of minutes: August 12, 2024 Regular Meeting

Correspondence:

- a. Thank you letter from Rich and Julie Muckle
- b. Community Policing Award from the New England Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc.

Traffic Commission Review:

Chief's Report:

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

Old Business:

- a. Recording of Commission Meetings

New Business:

- a. CCSU student intern Juliana Giortzakos introduction
- b. Review of FY 2023-2024 Annual Report
- c. Executive Session for police officer candidate interview



MINUTES
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
August 12, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Commissioner T. Sheridan

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

CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH A QUORUM:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC INPUT:

Quaker Hill residents, Tina DuBosque and Bryan Sayles, submitted letters to be entered into the minutes.

A presentation on speed enforcement was made by Staci Noto of TrafficLogix.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Gamble and seconded by Commissioner Brule to accept the minutes from the July 8, 2024 Regular Meeting. Commissioner M. Gelinas abstained. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence was reviewed.

TRAFFIC COMMISSION REVIEW:

Chief Balestracci commented on the great job Officer Devine did coordinating road closures and security for the Waterford Day Parade.

Traffic Report was received.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Recording Commission Meetings – The furniture has been repaired and reinstalled. No bids were received for the combined audio/video part of the project. They will now go out to bid individually.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Retail Theft Initiative – Chief Balestracci introduced the Waterford Police Department Retail Theft Initiative program. Sergeant Patrick Epps and Officer Andrew Reed will be leading the program to develop relationships with retailers in town in order to improve security and decrease theft. The program is expected to be up and running in late September.
- b. Discussion of Survey Results – There was a brief discussion of the first set of results from the South Central Chiefs of Police Association survey that the Waterford Police Department is participating in. Chief Balestracci noted that the WPD uses most if not all of the retention strategies listed in the survey.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Gelinas and seconded by Commissioner Gamble to add firearms transition discussion to New Business. Motion passed unanimously.

Chief Balestracci explained that the firearm transition process was brought before and approved by all town boards. This transition included trading in retired firearms for a savings to the Town of \$13,500. The Chief said that this process will move forward as is, as it would be improper to change the plan after being approved and presented at public meetings to all the relevant town boards. The Chief believes that in the future when new firearms are needed, discussions should be had on other disposal methods for retired firearms.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Gamble and Seconded by Commissioner Gelinas to adjourn the meeting at 6:01 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:



Diane E. Driscoll
Recording Secretary

August 12, 2024

To: Town of Waterford Board of Police Commissioners

From: Tina DuBosque, Quaker Hill, CT

Re: Disposal of Town Police Handguns

Dear Police Commissioners

I feel that the current method of disposal of Town Police handguns is an issue worth debating and working to change.

This is **not** a Second Amendment issue.

It is an issue of responsibly retiring Town Police handguns.

The handguns being retired are not permanently destroyed, but temporarily disabled. This means that they can be made whole again and put out on the used gun market. The Town of Waterford benefits financially from this current disposal program.

These retired handguns can, and do, fall into the hands of those who wish to use them for criminal activities. There are other licensed, acceptable methods currently in use to responsibly dispose of retired handguns, in ways that permanently disable them, rendering them unsaleable, out of reach of the criminally minded.

I advocate for a review of the current disposal program, and a change to a more responsible disposable program, one that will help to keep these used handguns permanently out of circulation.

Citizens' lives are at stake, nation-wide.

Let's be part of the solution, not part of the problem!

As the current program to retire used Police handguns was discussed and approved by Board of Police Commissioners, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, and Representative Town Meeting some time ago, clearly there is an established procedure for discussing, reviewing, updating and approving.

Commissioners, let's be proactive and known as a town that includes in its efforts to fight crime a used Police handgun disposal program that shows a responsible effort.

Again, this is **not** a Second Amendment issue.

Good change is good.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina DuBosque, Quaker Hill

August 12, 2024

Waterford Police Commission Meeting
Waterford, CT

Re; Obsolete handguns

Dear Commissioners,

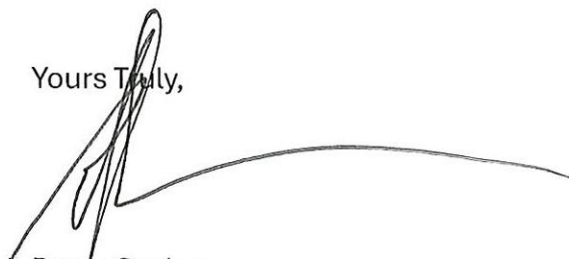
I am here at today's Police Commission meeting to call attention to an ongoing concern about the disposition of forty-nine (49) soon to be obsolete town of Waterford owned handguns. During the public comment section of a July 9, Board of Selectman meeting, I shed new light on the problem of former police guns traded in to suppliers being found at the scene of a crime. In fact, since 2006, 52,529 such guns. Concerning to say the least.

Waterford's 49 obsolete guns are shown as a line-item credit within Whitmer's cost quote. It seemed to me and others that would be simple to have that credit removed so that those obsolete, taxpayer funded guns could be disposed of safely. And while it took little time and effort, I finally identified a resource where those guns could be destroyed, following ATF guidelines with documentation and pictures for the reasonable cost of \$300 total.

A decision was made to move forward with the original plan which is to take the credit from Whitmer. A short-sighted decision at that given the societal costs of gun violence.

In closing today's letter is now about accountability. Years from now, should any of the 49 guns be traced back to Waterford let it be known that First Selectman Brule, Second Selectman Muckle and Chief Balestracci are unwilling to reverse course and should be held accountable for their decisions. They are doing so with the knowledge that there was an alternative to guarantee that not one of Waterford's obsolete handguns would ever be used in the commission of a crime.

Yours Truly,



Bryan Sayles
54 Wintergreen Dr.
Quaker Hill

864 Vauxhall Street
Quaker Hill.

5 Aug 24

Det. Bonkowski:

Just a short note to express our gratitude for your walk-around of our home in the early hours of 19-Jul-24 following some unusual events. we appreciate your service to us and our community.

May God always watch over you and your fellow officers.

Regards,

Rich & Julie Muckle (over)

R. F. Muckle



New England Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc.



Executive Director
Chief Douglas Johnston, Ret.
Springfield, VT

P.O. Box 391
North Springfield, VT 05150

August 7, 2024

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

Dear Chief Balestracci:

On behalf of the New England Association of Chiefs of Police it is my pleasure to announce the Waterford Police Department as the second-place winner of the New England Association of Chiefs of Police Community Policing Award for the year 2023 to a Department serving a population of 15,000 to 30,000.

The Awards Committee reviewed many submissions from across New England, your department was rated second place. The competition was intense and we applaud the remarkable innovative effort and time departments are investing in Community Policing, as a result the scores were very close. On behalf of all of our members we congratulate you and your Department on their excellent Community Policing Program. We recognize the importance of having community policing programs, such as yours, which other departments can use as an example to make their city or town a true community policing environment.

We highly recommend and encourage you to reapply next year for this award.

Thank you for participating in this competition and your interest in the New England Association of Chiefs of Police.

Sincerely,

Jamie A. Hainsworth
Chief of Police (Ret.)
Committee Chairperson
Enclosed (1) certificate of achievement

NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

Community Policing Award 2023

2ND PLACE WITH A POPULATION OF
15,000 TO 30,000

WATERFORD, CONNECTICUT
POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF GARY THOMANN

PRESIDENT, NEACP 2024





The Waterford Police Department

Traffic Officer Report

August 2024



CHANGES TRAFFIC UNIT:

Officer Diogo was added to the Waterford Police Traffic Unit during the month of August. Traffic Officer Diogo hit the ground running with traffic enforcement during the month.

LINE OF SIGHT ISSUES:

- Complaint of a sight line issue at Seabreeze Dr. and Niles Hill. Spoke with the owner and she had trimmed the hedges along the street. After a discussion she agreed to cut some more off the corner of the hedges.
- Assist DPW with Fog Plain Rd near Route 1, while they trimmed brush back that contributed to a blind curve.
- Fog Plain/ Rockwood Rd - Spoke with resident she agreed to allow DPW to trim bushes and brush to improve sight line
- Shore Rd/Division St. Bushes grown into the sidewalk and cannot see around corner from Division St. while pulling out. No contact with homeowner at this point. DPW made contact and was taken care of.

DOT RELATED ISSUES.

- DOT Replaced speed limit sign on Route 85 in area of Waterford Commons, which had been knocked down in an accident.
- Request for Pearl Harbor Day race, Highway Use Permit was forwarded to DOT for review. The race is in November.
- Received encroachment permit from DOT for speed feedback sign installation in front of Great Neck School. The "Call Before You Dig" (CBYD), request was denied and a new location in front of the school is being checked for CBYD.

PARKING COMPLAINTS:

- Ongoing parking complaint about a tractor trailer parking in a residential area on Devonshire Rd., in violation of town parking ordinance. The owner/operator was previously warned. A town parking ticket for the ordinance violation was issued this month.
- Ongoing parking complaint on 3rd Ave. , where vehicle's are parking too close to the intersection on 3rd Ave at Niantic River Road. Two vehicles were located in violation during this month. A request for a "No Parking Here to Corner" has been requested.
- Complaint of a commercial truck parking in Ridgewood Park area. The vehicle was determined to be parking on private property, not violating the town parking ordinance. The information was forwarded to zoning and we will work with them regarding the issue.
- Complaint of cars parking on Stone Heights in areas marked no parking. The area was checked multiple times and no violations were observed.



The Waterford Police Department

Traffic Officer Report

August 2024



ENFORCEMENT RELATED COMPLAINTS:

- Huntsbrook Rd. near Waterford Country School has a concern about speed prior to the school when traveling in a northerly direction. The speed feedback sign was placed in this area for two weeks before school.
- Complaint of vehicles speeding on Lloyd Rd. Attempted data collection, but the files were corrupted and no useable data was obtained. Will be continuing to work on this complaint.
- Complaint of speeding on North Rd., additional enforcement was conducted during the month.
- Online complaint of cars cutting in and speeding on Route 32 near the Montville Connector, additional enforcement was conducted during the month.
- Additional target areas included Old Colchester Rd, Bloomingdale Rd and Douglas road for past complaints

REQUESTS FOR SIGNS OR CHANGE OF ROADWAY FEATURES:

- A request for a "No Parking Here to Corner" sign being installed on 3rd Ave near the intersection of Niantic River Rd. Multiple calls on this over the past few months for vehicles parking too close to the intersection. Several cars park in the area legally, which would not be effected. The area is across from stairs leading to the water on the Niantic River and people frequently stop there to go down to the water. The addition of this sign could prevent some frequent parking violations without impacting the residents who normally park in the area.
- Complaint from last month, in which the caller requested crosswalk be added on Niantic River Rd at Wood/East Wood St. The caller feels that the vehicles are going too fast traveling south and do not recognize the crosswalk at Niantic River Road and Bishop/East Bishop St. until it is too late. The area does not allow for a clear line of sight, since it is just over the crest of a hill, to be a safe choice for a crosswalk. The caller was advised of the sight line issue. Speed enforcement was conducted in the area and a speed feedback sign was installed on Niantic River Rd. near Donna St., facing southbound traffic. The additional of a crosswalk is not recommended.

SPEED TRAFFIC SIGN DEPLOYMENT:

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

1. Niantic River Rd. in the area of Old Niantic River Rd, facing southbound traffic. The data shows that vehicle traffic during the month of July 2024 was at or below the speed limit approximately 15% of the time. Approximately 37% of the vehicles were traveling between 31 to 35 mph and another 36% were traveling between 36-40 mph. Leaving the remaining roughly 12% traveling at 41 mph or higher.
2. The Willets Ave sign at the old Bank of America building, facing westbound traffic. The data shows that vehicle traffic during the month of July 2024 was at or below the 30 mph speed limit approximately 42% of the time. Vehicles were traveling 31-35 mph approximately 37% time and



The Waterford Police Department

Traffic Officer Report

August 2024



36-40 mph 18% of the time. 3% of vehicles were traveling above 41 mph. This posted speed limit for this area is 30 mph and the vehicles are traveling downhill in the area where the speed radar sign is set up.

Battery powered speed feedback signs were placed at the following locations:

1. A battery power speed sign was placed on Huntsbrook Rd facing northbound traffic, prior to the Waterford Country School. The data shows that approximately 42% of vehicles were traveling at or below the 25 mph speed limit. Approximately 44% were traveling between 26-30 mph and 13% were traveling between 31-35 mph. Leaving approximately 1% of vehicles traveling 36 mph or faster in the area. This area is downhill as it approaches the Waterford Country School.
2. A battery powered speed feedback sign was placed on Niantic River Rd in the area of Donna St., facing southbound traffic. The data showed, approximately 42% of traffic was traveling at or below the 30 mph speed limit. Approximately 39% of vehicles were traveling at 31-45 mph and 15% were traveling at 36-40 mph. This leaves approximately 4% traveling 41 mph or more.
3. A battery powered speed sign was placed on Clark Lane prior to the school, facing north bound traffic. This was placed for the first day of school (8/28/24). No data at this time.
4. A battery powered speed sign was placed on Wilcox CT, facing traffic that is exiting from Oswegatchie school. The speed limit is not posted on this roadway, but complaints that people leaving the school speed through the street as a cut through. 99% of vehicles were found to be traveling at or below 25 mph.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

No large scale events involving roadways or traffic scheduled for September.

MESSAGE BOARD DEPLOYMENTS:

Dates	Location	Message
08/01 to 08/27	Mago Point	Don't Rock the boat baby; No Wake Zone
8/13 to 08/27	Clark Lane	Eyes up; Phones down
08/27 to 8/29	Rt 156 Friendship School/Community Center	Drop off and pickup instructions for friendship school
08/27 to 8/29	Miner Lane at High School Entrance	Drop off and pickup instructions for friendship school
08/29 to	Great Neck Rd at Great Neck School	Enjoy Labor Day; Don't get Burned by a DUI
8/29 to	Niantic Bay Boathouse	Don't Rock the boat baby; No Wake Zone



The Waterford Police Department

Traffic Officer Report

August 2024



Additional Activities:

1. Waterford Day Parade set up, planning meetings, and debrief
2. Garden Brothers Circus, evaluate parking area safety and dropped off barriers
3. Friendship school traffic control drop off and pickup day 1 and 2
4. Assist school bus company by utilizing the unmarked vehicles to shadow the busses and watching for passing violations.

UPCOMING ROAD CONSTRUCTION WITH CLOSURE:

No known large road construction projects are expected in the near future.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:

Officer	Devine #88	Diogo #95	Combined
infractions	15	140	155
Written warnings	14	59	74
Verbal	2	11	13
misdemeanor	1	6	7
Total Traffic Stops	32	216	248



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



K-9 Activity Report

August 2024

K-9 Ozzy

Monthly Uses: 3

2024 Uses: 25

K-9 Tico

Monthly Uses: 0

2024 Uses: 27



K-9 Usage

Ozzy

- ♦ Ofc. Genung and K9 Ozzy were requested to respond to assist the Violent Crimes Task Force (VCTF) in Groton, CT as an individual who they had just taken into custody was observed throwing items into the wood line. K9 Ozzy was deployed (article search) down an embankment and pulled to a small section of bushes. Ofc. Genung observed a small green container which VCTF officers advised this is what they saw the suspect discard. Narcotics were subsequently located inside the container. K9 Ozzy was then deployed for an exterior search of a suitcase the suspect was seen pulling and he showed a clear alert for the presence of narcotics. A hand search of the suitcase was conducted and narcotic paraphernalia was located.

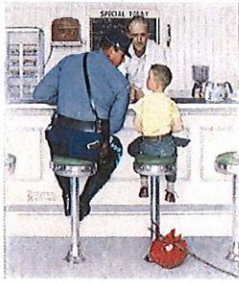
Tico

- ♦ During the month of August, Officer Surdo was tasked with training (FTO) a new officer and also attended a week long training class.



Monthly Training

- ♦ Monthly K-9 training was conducted on August 13, 2024 and August 27, 2024 in obedience, tracking, article search, building search, area search, narcotics detections, and apprehension work.



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Youth Office Activity Report



August 2024

- ♦ SRO Winters, ASO Morgan, and ASO Masucci all began their new positions at their assigned elementary schools. All three assisted with drop-off and pick-up on the first several days of school. They also assisted the elementary school principals with lockdown and shelter in place drills.
- ♦ Off. Malbaurn helped mediate an issue which arose at the High School with a concerned non-custodial parent. Off. Malbaurn worked closely with school administration, the patrol division, and school counselors to conduct a welfare check. The complaint from the parent was unfounded.
- ♦ Off. Lane and Off. Malbaurn hosted a regional School Resource Officer meeting at the WPD. Groton Town Police Department, East Lyme Police Department, and Willimantic Police Department all attended to share local trends.
- ♦ All three SRO's attended a board of education Department Head meeting at WHS to briefly discuss the upcoming school year.
- ♦ The SRO's attended various events to include Freshman Orientation, 6th grade orientation, student meetings and parent meetings.



Month at a Glance

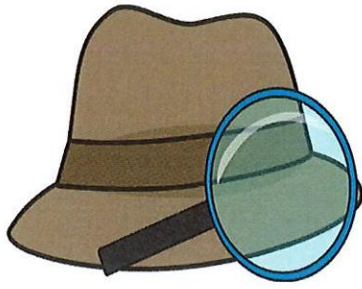
0 – Home Visits

0– CAD Report

1– Case Reports

0— Arrests

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



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Investigative Services Division



August 2024

In the month of August 2024 the Investigative Services Division worked or assisted with 21 investigations.

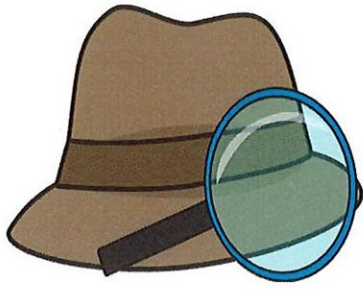
Current Active Investigations (18 Cases):

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

Homicide—1	Pistol Permits—3
Burglary—1	JV Sex Assault—2
Larceny—2	Violation of Protection Order—1
ID Theft—1	Shots Fired—1
Risk of Injury—1	School Threat—1
Child Pornography—1	Untimely—1
Sexual Assault—1	Skimmer—1

Year to Date Statistical Report

Case Numbers	Search Warrants	Background Checks	Arrests	Sex Assaults
61	8	6	11	14
Ex-Parte's	Auto Theft	Burglary	Unattended Deaths	Robbery
0	0	0	10	0



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Investigative Services Division



August 2024

August 2024 Updates:

The Investigative Services Division currently has four (4) warrants being reviewed by the New London Superior Court. Arrest warrants are expected to be signed for all of the cases. One case involves a sexual assault, a second involves child pornography, the third involves a retail theft ring, while the last is a Violation of Probation stemming from calls being placed by an inmate from the Department of Corrections to a victim in town. These were all months long investigations that are coming to a closure. All cases were investigated by Detective Bonkowski.

The Investigative Services Division made contact with forty three (43) retail businesses in town. We provided them with information about “skimmers” being attached to payment machines to gather customers banking information. We learned that checking for “skimmers” regularly has been put into policy for many of the businesses in town.

Sergeant Avdevich and Detective Bonkowski attended a week long detective school hosted by the Chiefs’ States Attorneys Office at the University of New Haven. This training provided them with updates in the always changing field of conducting investigations.

August 2024 Investigations:

Members of the Investigative Services Division conducted surveillance and background work in regards to possible criminal activity from a business in Waterford. This was initiated after receiving complaints from patrons at the business. This case is under further investigation.

Investigator Zaldivar assisted patrol with an investigation into a fight that occurred resulting in injury after a large party involving younger adults at an address in Waterford.

Surveillance and other investigative tools were used to investigate a report of narcotics activity at a residence. This so far has resulted in an arrest of one subject leaving the residence during a motor vehicle stop. This address will be under further investigation.

Detective Carroll and Investigator Zaldivar completed two background checks for potential Community Service Officer hires.

Detective O’Connell responded to an untimely death investigation on Scotch Cap Road. A drug investigation has been opened in New Hampshire in regards to this untimely. We are still awaiting a report from the Medical Examiners’ Office.

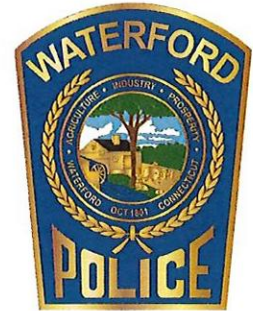
Detective Carroll and Lieutenant VanOverloop served a Habeas warrant on a suspect in Hartford, CT in regards to a bank robbery at the old People’s Bank in Waterford.

Detective O’Connell assisted patrol on a fraud complaint from a freight delivery company. This is a multi jurisdictional case that is still under investigation.



TRAINING REPORT

AUGUST 2024



New Officer Updates

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

Recruit Status: Recruit Dylan Luce and Recruit Tanner Suplita continue their Field Training Program on patrol. Recruit Suplita and Recruit Luce are currently in Phase 3.

Recruit Boxley completed her seventeenth week at the City of New Britain Police Department Satellite Basic Recruit Academy.

Recruit Maselli and Recruit Abram started the Eastern Regional Police Academy on August 16th hosted by the Law Enforcement Council of Connecticut. This academy is expected to be completed in January.

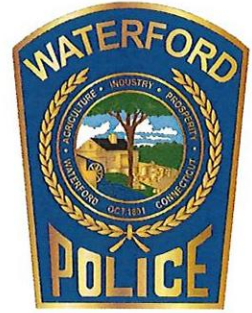
Officer Jordan completed all field training requirements and was certified by the Police Officers Standards Training Council.



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



TRAINING REPORT AUGUST 2024



Training Officer Sylvestre attended a week long International Police Mountain Bicycle Association (IPMBA) Instructor School. This was a rigorous training that required passing of bicycle obstacle courses and a written test on day one. Afterwards, there was instruction and lesson plans given on how to teach others to become bicycle certified officers. This class allows Officer Sylvestre to teach and certify officers here at the police department to be bicycle certified.

Officer Arpin, Officer Colkos, and Officer Robinson successfully completed Phlebotomy School. This training is in preparation for when police officers will be required by state law to draw blood during DUI investigations.

Officer Rogers attended a two-week Traffic Crash Reconstruction course. This in-depth class covered many topics regarding reconstructing how accidents occur. Some of the topics covered were friction and acceleration factors, time-distance relationships, collision analysis using damage momentum, spin analysis, and rollovers to name a few.

The firearms instructors attended a three day training offered through GLOCK called Modular Optic System Instructor Workshop, which was hosted at our police department. This training is essential so the firearms instructors can train our officers on how to operate the new firearms we are getting that will have red dot optics on them.

Detective Bonkowski and Sergeant Avdevich attended a week long Detective School. This was offered via the Henry Lee Institute and covered many topics regarding detective investigations. Some of the many topics covered were risk protection orders, cell phone extractions, interviewing suspects, and sexual assault investigations.

Officer Jordan and Officer Arpin attended a week long Crisis Intervention Training. This training brings community and law enforcement resources together to address common issues related to mental health and how law enforcement interacts with people that have mental health issues





Support Services Report

August 2024



Records Activity

FOI Requests	161	0%
Warrants	33	3%
Phone Calls	168	16%
Walk in Assists	160	15%
Background Checks	8	14%
Protective Orders	46	0%
Officer Tasking Requests	64	16%
Case Erasures	260	-7%
DCF Requests	18	-5%
Court Requests	20	25%
Abstracts	431	1%
Video Requests	28	75%

- * A new form was created in conjunction with the courts for all requests to vacate warrants. Our Records department has been working diligently for a long period of time to vacate old/"stale" warrants.
- * A new weekly request from a "Crime Blotter" website began in August, in which they request a list of all calls for the week with certain information to be used on their website.
- * The CSOs covered 62 shifts during the month, equating to over 531.5 hours of shift coverage.
- * CSO Griswold developed a new shift activity report form to assist in tracking statistics for monthly and annual reports, as well as providing documentation for OSHA regulations

CSO Activity

Adult Arrests	24
Juvenile Arrests	0
Firearms Transfers	37
Pistol Permits Issued	5
Walk In Complaints	43

Fingerprints

Pistol Permits	10
Employment	38
Miscellaneous	2
Peddler/Precious Permits	3
Total Fingerprints	43



Patrol Report

Commissioners Activity Report

August 2024



Larceny Call at Walmart Leads to Several Arrests

On August 5, 2024 Off. Robinson, Off. Barrows, and Sgt. Epps responded to Wal-Mart for two subjects that had just stolen numerous cases of Red Bull and other assorted merchandise. While responding to the call officers observed a suspect vehicle fleeing the scene which matched the description provided by asset protection. A traffic stop was initiated and both suspects were taken into custody. The merchandise was recovered and returned to the store. The operator of the MV was found to have 2 felony PRAWN warrants. The female suspect (passenger in vehicle) was also taken into custody for the larceny.



Left and Right are items which were seized / recovered on a traffic stop after a larceny from Wal-Mart.

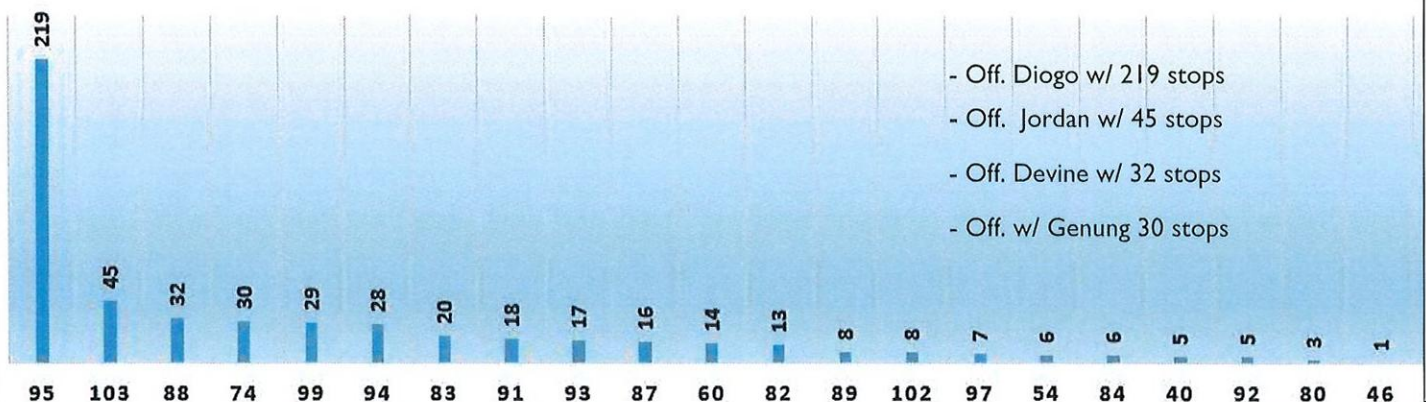


On August 11th Off. Kryzstofiak and Off. Robinson responded to Best Buy for a larceny of a TV and various other electronic items. Off. Kryzstofiak then began checking several local businesses and located the suspect in front of Home Depot. Upon attempting to take the suspect into custody he resisted arrest and fled on foot. He was apprehended with a Phazzer and taken into custody without any injuries. The suspect, who was on probation for prior larcenies, was charged for the Best Buy Larceny and also Interfering with an Officer, Weapons in a MV, Criminal Possession of Ammunition, and Possession of a Controlled Substance.

Patrol Calls for Service Monthly Snap Shot:

Total Service Calls	2444
Case Numbers	157
Arrests	105
Juvenile Arrests	4
Larcenies	67
Arrest Warrants	11
Domestic Violence Investigations	14
Traffic Crash	57
DUI Investigations	3
EDP / Welfare Checks	50
School Checks	100
Motor Vehicle Stops	606
Written Warnings	243
Infractions	219
Verbal Warnings	118
Misdemeanor	26

SELF INITIATED MOTOR VEHICLE ACTIVITY BY BADGE NUMBER





Trespassers in Southwest School

In the first week of August there were several reports that the former Southwest School had been entered by trespassers / vandals. Patrol in turn conducted numerous extra patrols of the property. On August 5, 2024 patrol responded to the school for suspicious persons on property. Five juveniles, all of whom reside in East Lyme, were located in the school. The five youths were issued juvenile summons for simple trespass. SRO Lane then worked with the East Lyme SRO and Juvenile court. The juvenile subjects were referred to the juvenile review board in East Lyme.

DV Call: Leads to Use of Force / Emergency Committal / Arrest

On August 7, 2024 Off Colkos, Off. Arpin, and Off. Bunce responded to an address on Third AVE for a emotionally disturbed person. Upon Off. Colkos' arrival the subject immediately fled on foot. Off. Colkos was able to catch up with the suspect and initially de-escalate the individual into voluntary compliance. After further investigation into the domestic violence assault it was determined that the subject would be taken into custody. It was at this time that he attempted to escape and subsequently fought w/ officers. A minimal amount of force was used to successfully gain control of the subject and get him the necessary help needed.

Missing Swimmer Leads to Multi-Agency Response / Drone Deployment

On August 25, 2025 at 0000 hours a call came in from the East Lyme Police Department that they had efforts underway to locate a missing swimmer in the Niantic River. Reports were that an intoxicated swimmer had swam away from East Lyme PD officers in the area of the Niantic Bridge. Officers had lost sight of the swimmer and a rescue operation commenced due to her level of intoxication, fearing she may not be able to adequately swim. Sgt. Caler coordinated a response from the Waterford Police Department's midnight shift checking the Waterford Shoreline. Sgt. Caler and Off. Bushwack (spotter) also deployed the Waterford Police Department's drone as part of the rescue operation. Sgt. Caler utilized the drone's thermal capabilities and swept the cove/inlet area around the docks where the swimmer went missing. Sgt. Caler then moved to the EL side and set up a location to fly the drone at the "Dockominiums". No heat signatures were detected. After a lengthy search the female swimmer was located on the East Lyme side of the river alive and well by ENCON police.



In the Community Interest





THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Animal Control Report



August 2024

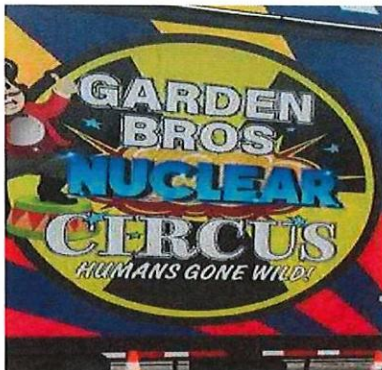
- On 8/6/2024 the ACO Responded to a call of a bat "attacking" someone, possibly "biting and scratching" them. Upon arrival, victim had already gone to hospital for treatment, family member pointed out the "bat" on the front porch. It was actually a large polymephus moth. It is unknown if the homeowner mistook the moth for a bat or if there was also a bat present.



- On 8/7/2024 The ACO taught a community outreach, class at the Sweet Serenity Humane Education camp for a group of campers, explaining what Animal Control Officers do and how we help animals.

- During August, two cats in Waterford had to be humanely euthanized due to severe injuries which appeared to have been the result of being struck by vehicles.

- As they did last year, the ACOs went to the circus being held in the Crystal Mall parking lot to check on the animals that were part of the show, which included ponies and dogs. All of the animals appeared healthy and well cared for, and possessed appropriate vaccination and vet paperwork to legally cross state lines.

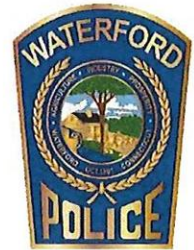


	Waterford	East Lyme
Calls for Service	119	59
After Hour Call Outs	9	4
Tickets Issued	2	1
Warnings Issued	2	1
Dog Bites	3	1
Animals Redeemed	17	11
Animals Adopted	3	9
Animals DOA	3	0
Euthanized	2	0
Total Processed	25	20
Money Taken In	\$360	\$778
Donations	\$80	\$463

"Speaking for those who have no voice"



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



Community Engagement Report August 2024

Assistance to Youth Officers: Participated in Parks & Rec Summer Playground's, Touch a Truck, Summer Academy's Spirit Week and Camp Dash end of summer celebration. Attended Waterford Schools Teacher Orientation, Clark Lane Middle School Orientation, and Back to Schools Nights at Great Neck School and Quaker Hill School. Organized Sundaes with SROs at the Waterford Library. Visited multiple schools during the first week of school.

Interaction with Senior Services: Visited AHEPA Apartments. Attended a Senior Luncheon and Senior Social.

Domestic Violence Follow-ups: Conducted 10 follow-ups with DV victims.

Special Olympics Efforts: Attended Torch Run Council Meeting and Over the Edge Event.



K-9 Officer Hodges: Visited Yale Outdoor Education Center and Garden Bros Nuclear Circus. Attended Waterford Farmers Market's "Kids Day", the Arnold E. Holm JR. Memorial Park Ceremony, and Law Enforcement Phlebotomy Training. Held "Read to Hodges" at the Waterford Library. Participated in the Waterford Parade. Assisted Georgia Tech Police with starting a comfort dog program. Assisted Puppies Behind Bars and Justice Clearing House with a presentation about Facility K-9s that had over 400 attendees.

National Night Out: Participated in Groton Town Police's event. Hodges interacted with attendees and Waterford Police recruits served pizza to attendees.

Shop with a First Responder: Organized event where 10 Waterford children were each given a \$100 Walmart gift card to purchase back to school supplies. Various first responders shopped with them at the Waterford Walmart. Walmart McDonald's donated lunch and Joshua's Worldwide donated a bus to transport the kids.

Officer Wellness: Coordinated an officer wellness event at the Mystic Aquarium with multiple law enforcement comfort K-9s. Organized a Wellness Day for Investigative Services, Support Staff, and Administrative Staff.

Rotary Club: Attended monthly meeting.

Internships: Held multiple interviews for the Fall Semester Intern. Juliana Giortzakos, a Connecticut Central State University student, was selected.

Mock Traffic Stop Event for Newly Licensed Drivers: Assisting the CT Chief's Association with creating a presentation for all CT agencies to use for Mock Traffic Stop Events.



Waterford Police Department Waterford, Connecticut



Annual Report - Fiscal Year 2023/2024

“To protect and serve the public, prevent crime, and provide professional law enforcement services to our community.”

-Waterford Police Department Mission Statement-

INTRODUCTION

The Waterford Police Department is a 52-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 2023/2024, 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.”*



Town of Waterford Board of Police Commissioners

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



The Waterford Police Commission is a civilian oversight board, empowered under Connecticut state statutes and Town of Waterford ordinances. Connecticut State Statute 7-276 details the authority of the Police Commission, which has four members that are appointed by the town's Representative Town Meeting and the final member being 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 of Police
Marc Balestracci**

Chief Marc Balestracci, who was placed in charge of the department in October of 2021 by the Board of Police Commissioners, works daily with the Administrative Team to review the department's budget status, obtain updates from department division leaders, assign tasks as appropriate and reviews the quality of work being delivered to the community.

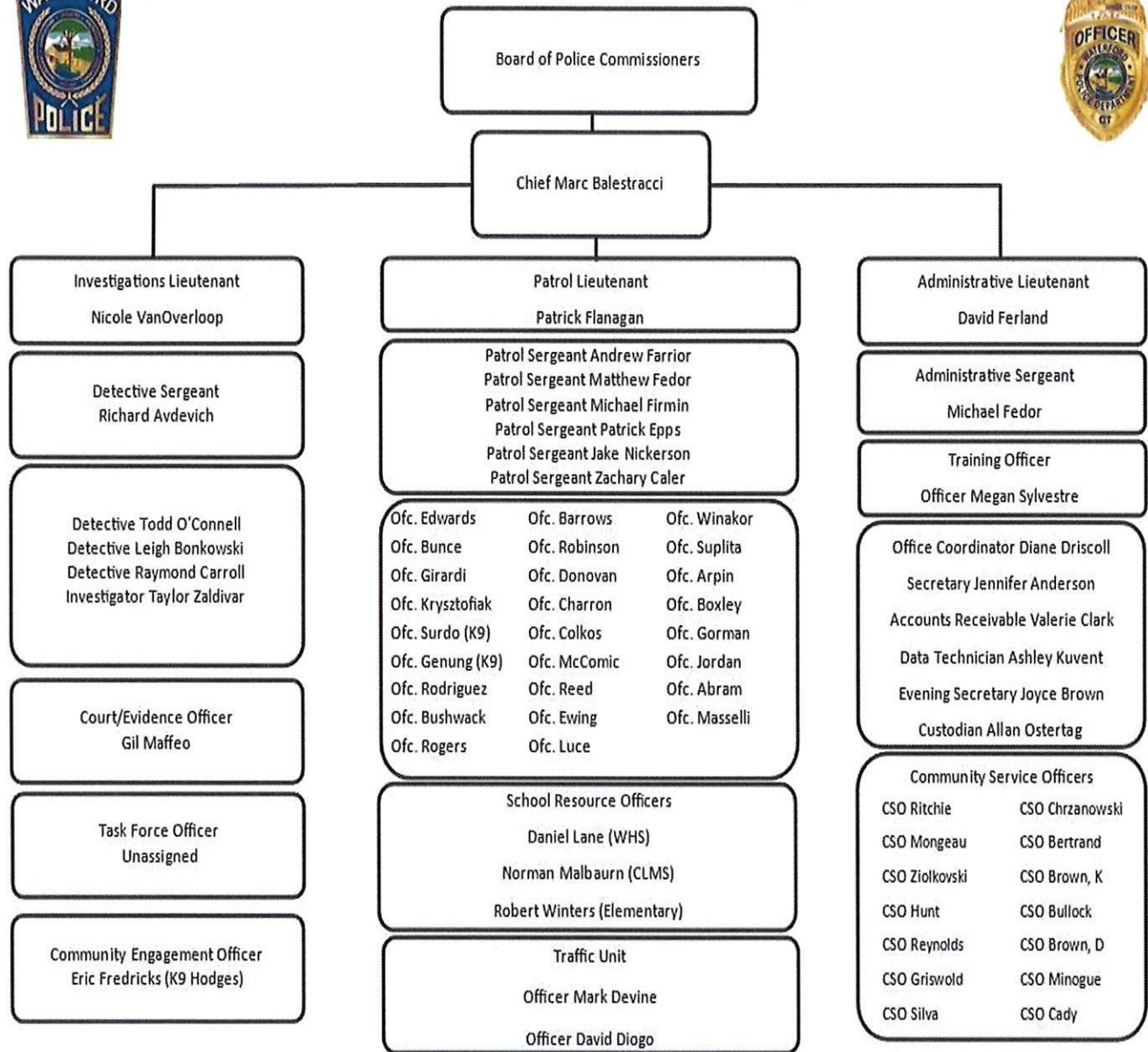
In FY 2023-2024, the Administrative Team consisted of Investigative Services Lieutenant Nicole VanOverloop, Patrol Services Lieutenant Patrick Flanagan, Administrative Services Lieutenant David Ferland, Administrative Sergeant Michael Fedor, Training Officer Megan Sylvestre, Office Coordinator Diane Driscoll and Jeffrey Robillard from the town's IT Services department.

Formal Administrative Team meetings are held every Monday morning as well as larger staff meetings held quarterly with all Lieutenants, Sergeants and assigned personnel to discuss department needs, personnel and equipment, morale considerations, training efforts, budget parameters, scheduling, building and vehicle concerns and special assignments. Effective communication remains a priority and these regularly scheduled meetings assist in that effort.

As Chief Balestracci's focus continues to be in the areas of community engagement, officer development, recruitment and employee wellness, these areas are discussed and considered routinely at all levels of our agency.



Waterford Police Department Personnel & Structure





2023/2024 Fiscal Year Prominent Events

- On July 14, 2023, Chief Balestracci completed the week-long FBI National Command Course in Virginia.
- On July 19, 2023, Officer Andrew Reed graduated from the Southeast Regional Police Academy in Norwich, CT
- On August 8, 2023, the department released another community outreach video focused on school bus safety, stolen cars and phone scams
- In August of 2023, police K9 Tico joined the WPD and was paired with K9 Handler Officer Nicolas Surdo
- On August 15, 2023, officers responded to a serious roll-over motor vehicle accident on Rope Ferry Road in the area of Granite Court
- On August 21, 2023, a 4-way stop was created at the intersection of Vauxhall Street Ext. and Douglas Lane
- On August 29, 2023, the Investigative Services Unit arrested a high ranking military member for sexual assault and risk of injury to a minor after an extensive investigation and arrest warrant process
- On September 12, 2023, Officer David Diogo was sworn in having transferred from the New London Police Dept.
- On September 18, 2023, Officer Zachary Caler was recognized by MADD for his efforts to combat impaired driving
- On September 26, 2023, members of the WPD alongside the family of former Officer Adam Lapkowski, participated in the "Believe 208 Run for the Bravest and Finest" in our continued support of the Lapkowski family
- On October 6, 2023, Sergeant Richard Avdevich was recognized by the US Attorneys' Office for his work while serving on a state/federal task force
- On October 8, 2023, officers responded to a suspicious vehicle call on Rope Ferry Road. The interaction resulted in numerous weapons and drug charges, including the seizure of an illegally owned handgun
- The Board of Police Commissioners promoted Officer Jake Nickerson to the rank of Sergeant on October 10, 2023
- On October 10, 2023, Detective Ray Carroll and Investigator Taylor Zaldivar were awarded the department's Distinguished Service Awards
- On November 9, 2023, the department hosted Tip-A-Cop at Crown Pizza to benefit the CT Special Olympics
- On November 14, 2023, newly hired Officers Dylan Luce and Tanner Suplita were sworn in
- Partnering with the Board of Education, the department hosted a "School Safety Forum" on November 15, 2023
- On November 28, 2023, Officer Brandon Winakor was sworn in, having transferred from the Plainfield Police Dept.
- On November 28, 2023, a fatal car vs pedestrian crash was investigated at the Crystal Mall by our regional team
- Oswegatchie Elementary School first graders visited the WPD in a holiday sing-a-long and tree decoration day on December 5th.
- On December 7, 2023, WPD along with our regional Special Response Team served a search and seizure warrant on Sunnicrest Drive. Several subjects were arrested as a result for weapons, drugs and domestic violence offenses
- In December, WPD began effort to train community agencies in personal safety techniques, starting with the VNA of Southeastern Connecticut
- Shop with a Cop event, benefitting families in need during the holidays, was held at Target on December 11, 2023
- On December 13, 2023, School Resource Officer Dan Lane was awarded the department's Exceptional Service Award
- On January 8, 2024, Officer Zachary Caler was awarded the 2023 Officer of the Year award



- In January, 2024, WPD expanded its Autism and Alzheimer's programs to include many other conditions, now titled Advance Services Program
- On January 25, 2024, Sergeant Ryan Spearrin retired after serving 15 years with the department
- On February 20, 2024, Officer Jake Arpin, who transferred from the Mohegan Tribal Police Department, and Officer John Gorman, who transferred from the Hartford Police Department, were sworn in
- On February 26, 2024, WPD was involved in a pursuit of a stolen vehicle which had struck an officer on Fog Plain Road. The multi-agency incident ended with an arrest in Westerly, R.I.
- Great Neck Elementary School first graders visited the PD on February 27, 2024 for a Valentine's Day event
- On March 7, 2024, Officer Eric Fredricks spoke in Hartford on behalf of a Senate Bill protecting police K9s
- On March 12, 2024, the regional Special Response Team added the towns of East Lyme, Montville and Groton City
- On April 1, 2024, the department responded to an untimely death report in the parking lot of Wal-Mart
- The Board of Police Commissioners promoted Officer Zachary Caler to the rank of Sergeant on April 8, 2024
- On April 11, 2024, an arrest was made for Larceny First Degree resulting from a fraud investigation at a business on Cross Road
- A search warrant was served on Wild Rose Ave on April 12, 2024 resulting in numerous weapons and drug charges
- On April 13, 2024, WPD hosted another PATH recruitment program for those interested in law enforcement
- On April 15, 2024, newly hired Officer Elizabeth Boxley was sworn in to the department
- A Social Media Safety Seminar was held on April 29, 2024 in partnership with the Board of Education
- In April, 2024, Detective Ray Carrol became a State certified Fire Investigator in a partnership with Waterford Fire
- On April 27, 2024, the PD hosted a multi-agency Autism traffic stop event at Waterford High School
- On May 8, 2024, WPD Chaplain Joe Parise was awarded the Jody Nazarchek award by Youth and Family Services
- On May 9, 2024, our agency reached Tier II State Accreditation as required by the Bill on Police Accountability
- Sgt. Matthew Fedor and Sgt. Zachary Caler were awarded WPD Life Saving awards on May 14, 2024
- The department transitioned to NexGen for CAD and RMS in May of 2024
- "Breaking Barriers" training videos were released to the State in May of 2024, to which Chief Balestracci is a member of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association Traffic Safety Committee
- On May 29, members of the WPD participated in the annual CT Special Olympics Torch Run
- On June 1, 2024, Officer Dylan Luce and Tanner Suplita graduated the police academy and began field training
- On June 4, 2024, the department participated in the State Hostile Action Based Drill of the Millstone Power Station

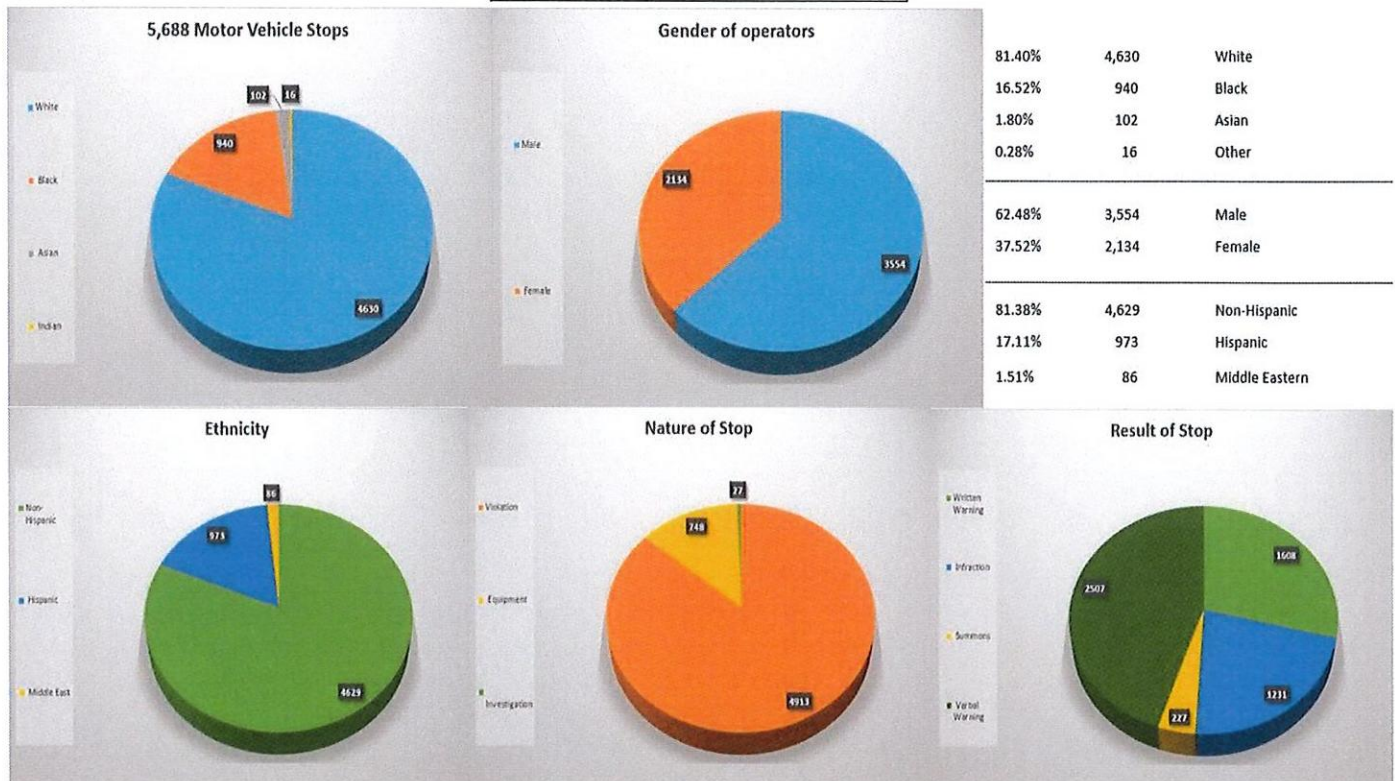




Waterford Police call types, use of force*, and car stop data

Category	Number	Change from previous fiscal year
Arrests	820	-17%
Calls For Service	28,408	+2%
Case Numbers	1,959	-13%
Motor Vehicle Stops	5,627	+29%
EDP/Welfare Checks	536	+9%
Larceny/Shoplifting	407	+16%
Domestic Violence	114	+8%
Assault	21	+90%
Drug Overdose	11	Level
Impaired Driving	52	-38%
Missing Person	118	-39%
School Checks	1,179	+47%
Motor Vehicle Crashes	751	-5%
Walk-in Complaints	557	-5%
Alarms	1,016	+12%
Residence Checks	1,599	-18%
Suspicious Person/Vehicle	770	-2%
Stolen Cars	14	-41%

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	Baton
21	17	7	6	8	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

Waterford Police Department Use of Force by gender/race

	Black	Hispanic	White	Totals
Female	0	0	3	3
Male	4	2	12	18

** Most uses of force by an officer require 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 Use of Force instructors, Supervisors and select officers who are certified and/or knowledgeable 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, videos and additional evidence, making a determination of whether or not the use of force was within policy and if it is required to be sent to the State. 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



**Patrol Lieutenant
Patrick Flanagan**

services to our community.”

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

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 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 heavily interacts with troubled juveniles.

During the 2023/2024 fiscal year, the police department handled 28,408 calls for service, representing a 2.08% 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 various services such as medical, psychological, housing assistance and/or financial assistance. This fiscal year the department installed three new LPR (license plate reader) “FLOCK” cameras in town which assisted the Patrol Division with numerous investigations to include stolen car recoveries, the location of missing persons and the location of wanted felons.



Several of the patrol vehicles are also equipped with LPR cameras which are capable of scanning license plates while in motion or in a stationary position.

In addition to these duties, officers perform security checks of businesses and residences as well as town buildings/properties, 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 with various bodies of water. The department must use specialized equipment to navigate these various topographies. 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 outfit 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 agencies, 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 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 Regional 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 is staffed by each department separately with a Captain and Crewmember on various weekdays, weekends and holidays from late May thru September.



**Detective
Leigh Bonkowski**

Sergeant Michael Firmin and Detective Leigh Bonkowski share the responsibility of ongoing vessel and engine maintenance and repair.

During the 2023/2024 fiscal year:

Two dry suits were purchased to properly equip Captains and Crewmembers during cold water responses.



Detective Bonkowski received her certification from DEEP to teach the Connecticut Safe Boating course. In May, Detective Bonkowski held a class at the East Lyme Police Department for area law enforcement officers and firefighters. Our own Detective Todd O'Connell, Officer Ian Donovan and Officer Andrew Reed benefitted from the training and each received their certificates.

Detective Leigh Bonkowski, Detective Raymond Carroll and Officer John Bunce received additional search and rescue response training from the U.S. Coast Guard Station in New London.

Maritime security was provided for the East Lyme Day fireworks, the Niantic Bay triathlon, the New London Cup paddle board race, and the Maritime Heritage Festival. Patrols of the Millstone Nuclear Power Station and its security zone continue to be a focus when underway.

Speed and wake violations are addressed when observed in the Niantic River, and complaints forwarded through the Waterford Harbormaster are investigated.

Officers educated kayakers regarding the importance of labeling their kayaks to prevent unnecessary search and rescue responses and were provided "If Found Stickers."

Marine officers responded to a disabled vessel carrying three persons on board and was drifting towards rocks at the entrance to Jordan Cove. The vessel was towed to safe waters for the arrival of commercial salvages.

Two persons were removed from a jet ski that became disabled and was taking on water in the Thames River. The vessel was safely towed to the nearest boat launch.

The Waterford Police Department has been the host site of several monthly meetings for the New London Marine Group Region 4 which is attended by Sergeant Michael Firmin and Detective Leigh Bonkowski. Their focus is on the collaboration of multiple private, local, state and federal agencies for the safety and security of the maritime environment in the areas of Long Island Sound and the Port of New London.

The East Lyme Police spare boat was utilized for most of the 2024 season as a part for the starboard engine tilt/trim was on back order due to supply chain issues.

K9 UNIT



**K9 Officer
Nicholas Genung**

The 2023/2024 fiscal year was once again a successful year for the Waterford Police Department's K9 Unit. K9 Ozzy (a five -Year-old Belgian Malinois) and Officer Nicholas Genung, are a dual purpose team trained in patrol work and narcotics detection. Throughout the 2023/2024 fiscal year, K9 Ozzy and Officer Nicholas 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 July 22, 2023, the Groton Town Police Department requested a K9 to search for a suicidal male who fled his home into the wood line approximately three (3) hours prior to the call. K9 Ozzy was deployed and acquired a track in the area where the male's wife saw him enter the woods. K9 Ozzy tracked for approximately 100 yards into the woods, at which point Officer Nicholas Genung observed a male on the ground approximately 20 yards in front of them. This male was identified as the individual they were looking for. He had several self-inflicted lacerations and was actively bleeding. The subject was later transported to the hospital for treatment.

On January 9, 2024, Lieutenant Patrick Flanagan attempted a motor vehicle stop and the vehicle fled on Douglas Lane. The vehicle later stopped and the operator was found to be in possession of a large amount of marijuana and two (2) high capacity 9mm magazines. Officers did not locate a firearm in the vehicle or on the operator, and believed the operator threw the firearm when he initially fled from Lieutenant Patrick Flanagan. Shortly after the suspect was released from custody, Officer Nicholas Genung was patrolling Douglas Lane and observed the same subject standing on the side of the road looking into the wood line. Officer Genung attempted to make contact with the subject, who then fled on foot into the woods on foot. A perimeter was set and K9 Ozzy was deployed for a track. K9 Ozzy tracked through the woods to the rear of a residence. As K9 Ozzy and Officer Genung were tracking, Investigator Taylor Zaldivar, who was stationed on the perimeter, advised that the subject came running out of the woods approximately 75 yards in front of K9 Ozzy. The subject was taken into custody without incident. Officers later located the firearm in the brush on the side of Douglas Lane after a methodical search. The firearm was found to be connected to several shootings and homicides being investigated by other agencies.



**K9 Officer
Nicolas Surdo**

K9 Tico, a two-year old Belgian Malinois, and Officer Nicolas Surdo are also a dual purpose team trained in both narcotics detection and patrol work, which includes building searches, area searches, evidence recovery, tracking and criminal apprehension. K9 Tico began his basic training in July of 2023 and was certified through the North American Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA) in September of 2023. Throughout the remaining months in 2023 and 2024 K9 Tico and Officer Nicolas Surdo have conducted numerous motor vehicle narcotic searches, tracking of both violent and non-violent subjects and building searches. K9 Tico and Officer Surdo have also responded to neighboring agencies for mutual aid requests.

On April 10, 2024, K9 Tico and Officer Nicolas Surdo responded to a residence in Waterford to assist in locating a male with audible and visual hallucinations who was reportedly suffering from alcohol withdrawal. The area immediately around the residence was checked without success. K9 Tico was deployed and tracked down the road to the back side of the neighborhood, where a male was standing in the wood line fitting the description of the male provided by officers on scene. Members of the patrol division made contact and he was later transported to the hospital for a psychological evaluation.

On April 11, 2024, Officer Nicolas Surdo and his partner K9 Tico assisted members of the Waterford Police Department Investigative Services unit to serve a search & seizure warrant at a residence in Waterford for an ongoing investigation into the sale of illicit drugs. K9 Tico was deployed for a narcotic search inside the residence and he displayed alert behaviors as he passed a cabinet style safe. K9 Tico then went into final indication on the safe and a subsequent hand search of the safe yielded numerous narcotics, and a firearm.

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. These uses include 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 required training and skills, both teams (Officer Nicolas Surdo/K9 Tico and Officer Nicholas 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 numerous 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 K9 teams continued their annual 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). They also participate in the Waterford Police Department Citizen's Police Academy. The teams also take part in the Camp Harkness Fall Festival, 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 showcasing the talents of our dogs.

K9 Usages:

Narcotics Searches: 34

Person Tracks: 19

Article/Evidence Recovery: 5

Area Searches: 4

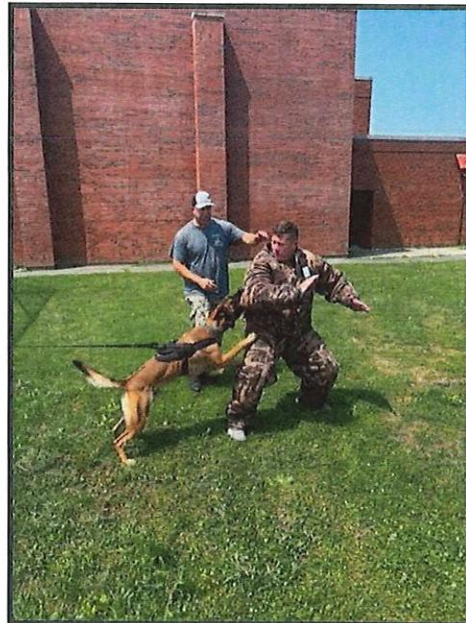
Building Searches: 4

Special Response Team Deployments: 3

Community Service Events: 10

Bites: 0

Total Usages: 79





SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS



**School Resource
Officer Daniel Lane**

Youth Division Complaints: 67

School Events: 29

School Drills: 39

Home Visits: 21

Youth Arrests: 6



**School Resource
Officer Norman
Malbaurn**

The School Resource Officers (SRO) are present in the school system all year with an officer assigned full time to both the Waterford High School (SRO Norman Malbaurn) and the Clark Lane Middle School (SRO Dan Lane). These two officers also cover the Town of Waterford's three elementary schools (Great Neck School, Oswegatchie School, and Quaker Hill School), a magnet school (The Friendship School) and the Waterford Country School.

One of their main goals is to enhance school and student life by building positive relationships with the students and staff. They will attempt to attend, on duty and off duty, after school functions and events. This would include, but is not limited to, home and away sporting events, school club events, band concerts, drama productions and open houses.



**School Resource
Officer Robert
Winters**

The SROs are responsible for school based investigations, coordinating school based education programs (i.e. Youth Promise, Freshman Seminars and Health Class Seminars), and community outreach. 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 as well as Waterford Youth and Family Services, which allows the SROs 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 have attended and presented at several school safety workshops and symposiums. They also assist in annual school vulnerability assessments to strengthen school safety, and work cooperatively with the school system to implement any 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 the case reports for their final destination, to include juvenile court, diversionary programs and the records division for retention.

During the summer months, when school is not in session, these officers return to the Patrol Division, but remain in contact with many students, families and Board of Education staff.

The department is adding a third SRO to the elementary schools in August of 2024, and Officer Robert Winters has been selected to that position.





TRAFFIC SERVICES



**Traffic Officer
Mark Devine**

During this fiscal year, Traffic Officer Jake Nickerson was promoted to Sergeant and moved back to patrol services. Officer Mark Devine was assigned as the new Traffic Officer in November of 2023. With the changing of personnel, some tasks were shifted to make the Traffic Officer more available to conduct traffic enforcement for problem areas. 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.



**Traffic Officer
David Diogo**

A traffic study, traffic enforcement, additional signage requests or a combination of activities are allotted to alleviate the complaints and concerns when received by the public. Several roadways have been monitored numerous times and have become part of an automatic rotation of enforcement, signage and police presence, in an attempt to gain compliance from motorists. This fiscal year, the Traffic Officer also conducted a study on the implementation and effectiveness of traffic enforcement cameras in the town of Waterford.

To address complaints, the Traffic Officer 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, if any, 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 also 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 homeowners, 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.



The Traffic Officer works closely with numerous town departments including Planning and Zoning, Fire Marshal, Public Works and others to review new development plans in town. The review is then submitted to Chief Marc Balestracci for his final review before returning an approval or change recommendations to the town.



The Traffic Office will increase to three officers in the next fiscal year and Officer David Diogo has already been named as the next officer assigned as of August, 2024.

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES



**Investigations
Lieutenant
Nicole VanOverloop**

In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Investigative Services Division was comprised of three (3) Detectives, one (1) Investigator, one (1) Task Force Officer (a portion of the year), and a Secretary. The Court/Evidence Officer as well as the Community Engagement Officer and his K9 Hodges, also report to the Investigative Services Division. The Division was supervised by Lieutenant Nicole VanOverloop and Detective Sergeant Richard Avdevich.

The Task Force Officer was assigned to work with the Connecticut State Police Violent Crimes Task Force, with this assignment coming to a conclusion in February 2024.

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, and performs address compliance checks on sex offenders and persons on the Deadly Weapons Offender Registry.

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 complaints of frequent drug activity at various residences in town. In one case, Division members received information that a drug deal was imminent where drugs were being left in a public area. Detectives conducted surveillance of the location and were able to make an on-site arrest during a "pick-up" of the drugs left in an area accessible to any person walking by.

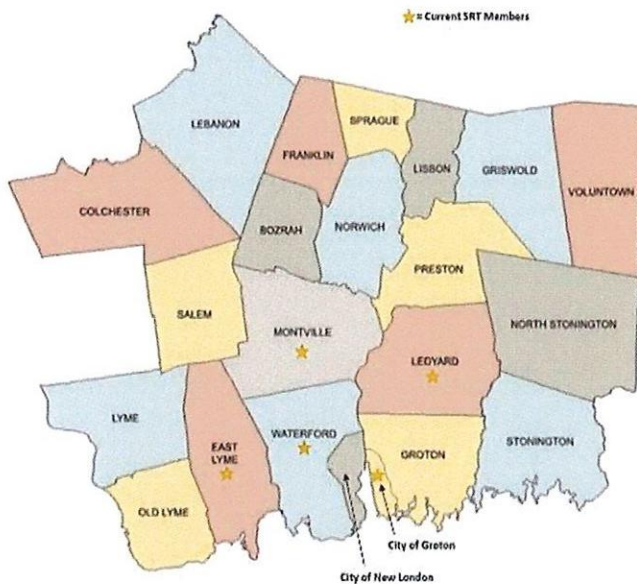
The Investigative Service Division also conducted numerous sexual assault investigations; one involving a case of child pornography in which we worked closely with Homeland Security after an explicit video was discovered in Australia, involving a victim in Waterford. Other cases of interest involved Investigative Services members receiving a sworn confession from a suspect involved in local retail thefts.

Case Numbers Assigned to Investigative Services:	224
Arrests:	18
Burglaries (Residential and Commercial):	7
Search Warrants:	19
Unattended Death Investigations:	13
Sexual Assaults:	24
Pistol Permit Background Checks:	86
Auto Thefts:	2



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.

Southeastern Connecticut Special Response Team (SRT):



During this fiscal year, the Waterford Police Department continued to advance the Special Response Team's abilities. The SRT team obtained many new operators from surrounding agencies with four (4) of them being from the Waterford Police Department. The SRT team added Montville, East Lyme and Groton City police departments to the Inter-local agreement. These departments train together regularly forming a cohesive group. The Chiefs of these departments continued to work together to create a formal policies and procedures as well as an official command structure for the group.

Waterford's team consists of ten (10) members with an additional three (3) highly trained negotiators. They respond to calls such as high-risk warrants, barricaded subjects, instances needing large perimeters and any other events deemed appropriate.

Court/Evidence



**Court/Evidence
Officer
Gil Maffeo**

Officer Gilbert Maffeo remains the Waterford Police Department Court and Evidence Officer. This year Officer Peter Barrows was assigned to the role of assistant Court and Evidence Officer, filling in for Officer Maffeo during times of absence. In fiscal year 2023-2024, the evidence area at the Waterford Police Department was fully renovated. The area now consists of modern, refrigerated and secure evidence storage as well as critical improvements to lighting, decontamination and office spaces.



We continue to have a strong working relationship with the State of Connecticut Forensics Lab and Firearms Unit. They have continued the Covid19 policy of requiring an appointment for all evidence, firearms and toxicology submissions and the Court/Evidence Officer works with them for timely delivery. Over the past year, three hundred and nine (309) items were taken into evidence, whereas three hundred and fifty six (356) items were properly disposed of during the fiscal year. Fourteen (14) evidence transports were made to the lab in Meriden, three (3) drugs burns were completed, and three (3) firearms disposals were also completed during the fiscal year.



After taking over responsibility for the Waterford Police impound lot in June 2023, Officer Gil Maffeo was responsible for the return/disposing of eleven (11) vehicles. As the vehicles are seized as evidence, the Court/Evidence Officer coordinates directly with the New London Superior Court in managing the vehicles held and released. The Waterford Police Department has worked over the years to have an outstanding reputation with the court. Often times, the Waterford Police Department is referred to as the standard for how paperwork/evidence and relationships should be between departments and courts.

ADMINISTRATION



**Administrative
Lieutenant
David Ferland**

The Administrative Services section of the Police Department is led by Lieutenant David Ferland and assisted by Administrative Sergeant Michael Fedor. Administrative Services encompasses the Records, Policy, Scheduling, Community Service Officers, Chaplains, Grants 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.

Highlights:

Records personnel attended an annual Freedom of Information Act training, which provided up to date information regarding FOIA laws applicable to law enforcement.

The implementation of a new "Clean Slate" law (Public Act 21-32) automatically erased certain criminal convictions, leading to an increase in erasures being forwarded from the State to our Records staff for processing.

Records staff coordinated with the courts in New London to implement electronic sharing of body camera and dash camera videos, providing a quicker sharing of data and reducing the use of digital media storage devices.

Coordination with the State of Connecticut Library on the process of scanning and retaining digital records in compliance with the retention schedule greatly reduced the need for retaining paper copies of records for long periods of time.

Several significant FOIA requests from the media were received which required time consuming, thorough research to ensure accuracy. One such request was for a history of stolen motor vehicle cases in Waterford, including the case resolution.

Department Policies and Procedures: The Waterford Police Department gained Tier 2 Accreditation in May 2024, which is the next step of the State accreditation requirement, in compliance with the police accountability law. This project was completed by Sergeant Michael Fedor, 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 52 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 2023/2024:

Tickets Entered (written warnings, summons, infractions, parking)	3,000
Freedom of Information Act Requests/ Including Insurance Requests	1,406
DOC/Court/DCF requests	137
Motor Vehicle Accidents (data entry/MUCC)	351
Patrons assisted at lobby window	1,683
Warrant Data Entry	427
Background Checks	92
Abstracts from Court	2,971
Case Copies	28
Protective Order Entries	386
Phone Calls from Public	1,427
Case Erasures	2,828
Court Requests	287
Police Tasking	483

CHAPLAIN PROGRAM



The Chaplin 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. 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 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.

Chaplain Gary Poorman, who has been with the department since the inception of the Chaplain program in 2016, retired earlier this year and moved away from Connecticut to be closer to his family and grandchildren. The Waterford Police Department thanks Chaplain Poorman for his dedication and act of service to the Waterford community.

Training



**Training Officer
Megan Sylvestre**

Training for the Waterford Police Department is overseen by Lieutenant Ferland and is managed by Officer Megan Sylvestre. 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.

The Waterford Police Department has also had officers attend a training called recruitment for law enforcement in order to determine better ways and methods to get new candidates to apply.



New Hires:

Officer David Diogo, Officer Brandon Winakor, Officer Jake Arpin, and Officer John Gorman were hired as lateral/certified police officers after serving several years with different departments in Connecticut. Their current certification allowed for an abbreviated field training process and an expedited timeframe to have them working patrol on their own.



Officer Dylan Luce and Officer Tanner Suplita were hired as Officers and attended the second session of the Eastern Regional Police Academy held by Law Enforcement Council of Connecticut, of which the department is a member. This allowed Officer Luce and Officer Suplita to receive their training locally and learn from active police officers from the region, including several Waterford Police Officers.

Officer Elizabeth Boxley was hired as a new Officer and attended the New Britain Police Department Satellite Police Academy. This is a commuter academy located at the New Britain Police Department and most of their training is instructed by New Britain Police Officers.

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 three officers attending college to obtain degrees this fiscal year.

Officers continue to attend specialized trainings throughout Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, 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, Field Training Officer School, Crisis Intervention Training, Basic Crime Scene Procedure, and the Use of Force Summit.



In-house trainings have been of the upmost 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, body worn camera training, all-terrain vehicle (ATV) training, Use of Force Reporting Guidelines, Method of Instruction, Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE).

The department also does monthly roll call trainings. These trainings are no more than one hour that are taught by various officers in the agency on various policies and tools that we have at our disposal. Some of the topics discussed in this year's roll call trainings were the restraint chair, DCF refresher, seatbelt use, FLOCK cameras, and the noise meter just to name a few.

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 field training.



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 either successfully completed the course or are scheduled to take the course.



TECHNOLOGY / COMMUNICATIONS



Nexgen

Throughout FY 2023/2024 the department transitioned to a new Dispatch (CAD) and Report Management System (RMS) which provides significant upgrades and capabilities for all department members in the performance of their duties. The Nexgen product is utilized by the majority of police departments in the State of Connecticut, provides seamless integration with the judicial system, and comes with a significant cost savings to the Town of Waterford. The system streamlines the reporting process, data collection, and submission of monthly and annual statistics to required state and federal reporting agencies. The upgrade also instituted the use of e-citations for infractions and written warnings for motor vehicle violations. Rather than completing these documents by hand,

the in-car computers complete and print the citations with information entered by the officers, and electronically submits them to the state.

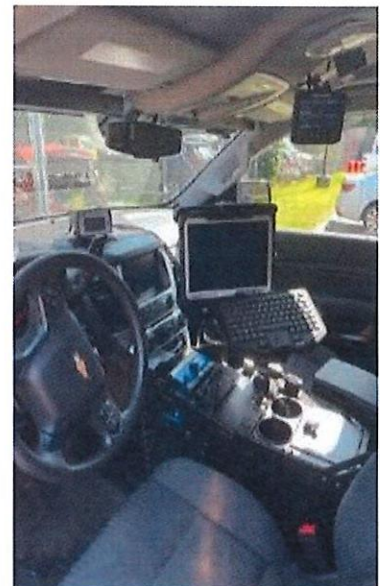
A team of officers from the department worked diligently to implement, test, and customize the system prior to training all members of the department, both sworn and civilian. These officers continued to be a resource during the implementation of the project and assist personnel after the transition. The team included Officer Peter Barrows, Investigator Taylor Zaldivar, Sergeant Zachary Caler, Sergeant Matthew Fedor, and Lieutenant David Ferland.

DHQ

In the spring of 2024 the department transitioned to a new roll call program that allows for the sharing of information between shifts and various divisions within the police department. Officers frequently utilize the program to gain assistance in identifying suspects, requesting extra patrols of particular areas, sharing information on new arrest warrants, and the general sharing of information. This program replaced an older program which is no longer supported by the previous vendor.

Credit Card Payments

The department worked with the Town of Waterford Finance Department to bring credit card technology to the department, allowing the public to utilize credit/debit cards to pay fees for permits and fingerprints.





Flock

The department installed three Flock cameras in town, which consist of license plate reader technology to assist officers in investigations. The technology compares license plates to a Department of Motor Vehicles “hot list,” which contains stolen motor vehicles, stolen license plates and similar offenses, and provides alerts to officers in the area. The program also allows officers to research and identify suspect vehicles.

The cameras have been instrumental in solving numerous crimes in the Town of Waterford to include the recovery of several stolen vehicles and license plates, the arrest of numerous habitual shoplifting suspects, locating missing people, solving evading motor vehicle collisions, and other criminal investigations. Waterford is one of many communities in the State and country now using this technology.

Administrative Sergeant



**Administrative
Sergeant
Michael Fedor**

The Waterford Police Department Administrative Sergeant manages grants, the Community Service Officer program, State required department accreditation, mental health and drug screenings mandated for police officers by the law on police accountability, oversees the department’s Use of Force Committee and is the program coordinator of our Neighborhood Watch program. Sergeant Michael Fedor is the department’s Administrative Sergeant.

Grants:

During fiscal year 2023/2024, the Waterford Police Department applied for and received State and Federal grant money. The funding was either provided when the grant was originally approved, or reimbursed at the end of the grant timeline. The approved grant funding this fiscal year was used to enhance our presence on town roads and to address motor vehicle violations such as impaired driving, cellphone use and speeding. Grant funding also supported the department’s efforts in providing new training to officers, paying for not only the classroom training but travel expenses when needed. Finally, grant funding was received for the purchase of new speed enforcement equipment to replace existing equipment that was at its end of life.

Grant	Spent/Reimbursed
Drug Recognition Expert	\$22,223
Impaired Driving Enforcement	\$6,437
Distracted Driving Enforcement	\$6,400
Rural Roads Speed Enforcement	\$49,437
Auto Theft and Violence Prevention	\$34,774
High Risk Rural Roads Speed Enforcement	\$23,034
HRRR Equipment Grant (Speed Detection Devices)	\$9,490
Total Grant Funding Awarded FY24	\$151,795



COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS

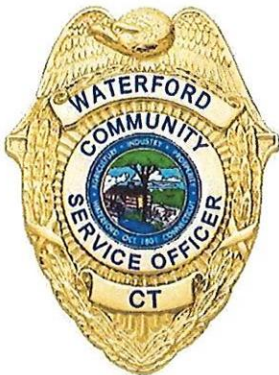


CSO
Raphael Bertrand

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 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 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



In Fiscal Year 2023/2024 the Waterford Police Department neighborhood watch program continued its success through engagement and cooperation with those we serve.

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 regularly 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, 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 want to know what is going on in their 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, Domestic Violence Victim Follow-ups, Waterford Police Citizen's Academy, Youth Promise, Traffic Stop Safety Classes with Rae's Driving School, Socks for Seniors, and Crime Prevention Classes to Seniors and Youths. This year the Autism Awareness and Cognitive Issues Programs were merged into a new program called the Advance Services Program. This program expands criteria for other residents to register and further assists interactions between our officers and community members.

Our officers also help raise money for charitable causes, including raising \$5,244 for the Connecticut Special Olympics, \$1,649 for the Terri Brodeaur Breast Cancer Foundation, \$1,108 for Waterford Youth Services, and \$1,000 for Safe Futures.

The Community Engagement Officer also assists with recruitment. The agency hosted 3 interns (University of New Haven, Eastern Connecticut State University and Waterford High School). A PATH program was held to teach attendees 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, which include, basketball, jiu-jitsu and softball. Some programs also include community engagement by adding the participation of Waterford students and other citizens. Some examples of these programs are Waterford Country School Basketball Game, Police vs. Fire Softball Game, Raymour & Flanagan Bingo Fundraiser, K9 Officer Day at Mystic Aquarium, and Police Chaplain Breakfast.

Hodges, a facility K-9 with years of training, helps 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 funerals. He is requested to court to interact with juvenile victims who are testifying at court. He also engages with the community at numerous events such as K-9 Demos, Read to Hodges at the Library, Senior Living Visits, Police Department Tours and visits to various other organizations and community establishments.

Waterford Police Officers greet middle school students at morning drop off





WPD basketball team for annual game against the Waterford Country School

Officer Barrows calling Bingo numbers at Raymour & Flanagan community event



Chief Marc Balestracci donating \$1,000 to Safe Futures from money raised on police "Hodges" patches

SRO Dan Lane and Traffic Officer Mark Devine sing holiday songs with first graders from Oswegatchie school





Officer Christopher Ewing serves food at Tip-A-Cop event to Benefit CT Special Olympics



Future WPD Officers checking out the cruiser at Wal-Mart safety fair



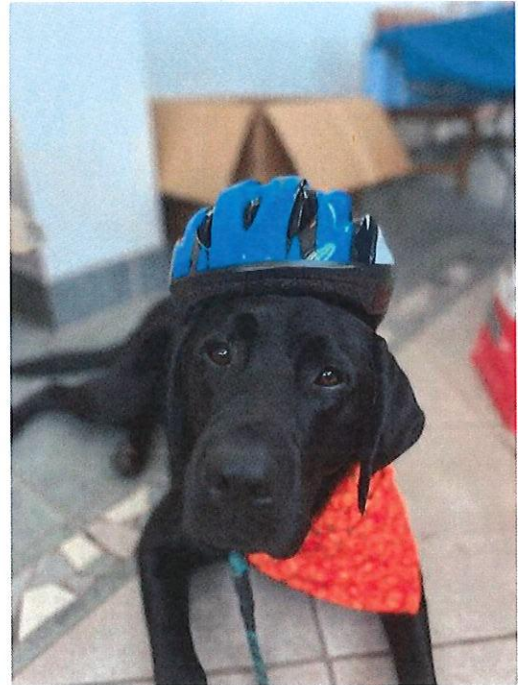
Charter Oak Federal Credit Union employees get WPD civilian award for saving man's life

Lt. Patrick Flanagan and Comfort Dog Hodges at a Coffee with a Cop event at the Community Center





No explanation needed with this superstar!



Officers Stephen Rogers and Zachary Bushwack participate in Autism Traffic Stop Event

WPD Officers show up to CLMS for Halloween welcome





Officers Stephen Rogers and Jake Arpin participating in CT Special Olympics Torch Run

WPD attends run to support Lapkowski family



WPD hosts Shop with a Cop event at Waterford Target

WPD partners with Lowe's Home Improvement to offer Christmas trees to families in need during holiday season



free



Quaker Hill School First Graders getting a tour of the Waterford Police Department. It was National Police Week when they visited and handed out thank you letters to officers

K-9 Hodges giving an Eastern Connecticut State University student a high five after Officer Fredricks spoke about the process of becoming a police officer



LOOKING FORWARD

The Waterford Police Department continues with several major efforts as it transitions from last fiscal year and into the 2024-2025 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, which was approved during the FY25 budget season, allows our department to improve in several areas. When the increase in staffing is realized, the department will have a full-time traffic unit consisting of three officers. These three officers, dedicated to traffic safety in Waterford, will allow our department to better respond and attempt to reduce moving violations and traffic crashes. This increase also allows us to add a third School Resource Officer to the Waterford school system. Our third SRO will work with two Armed Security Officers hired by the Board of Education, to add increased safety at the elementary schools in town. Finally, with traffic safety and school safety being improved, our patrol officers will be tasked less in those areas allowing them to concentrate on patrol related issues more exclusively. One of those issues is the heavy volume of retail theft in our town, which new efforts are being implemented to address, as a result of the increase of officers.

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 work with Waterford Emergency Management to transition to the State of Connecticut radio system. 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 part of an approved Town Safety Project. This project 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 previously held agreements with the Town of East Lyme (Marine Patrol and Accident Investigations) and the Town of Ledyard (Special Response Team), we expanded these agreements with a few neighboring agencies as 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. Currently, Waterford, East Lyme and Montville are part of a crash investigation team whereas Waterford, Ledyard, Montville, Groton City and East Lyme are now members of a Special Response Team. Continued efforts on these regional teams will be made moving forward.

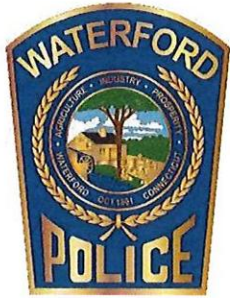
We continue to request and make upgrades within our building, which is now approximately 34 years old. In early FY25, we will see improvements to the prisoner processing area of the cell block. This project completes a several year process of upgrades to the area that those arrested are held and processed. These upgrades have focused on safety and providing a clean and professional location for those required to be there.

RETIREMENTS

Sergeant Ryan Spearrin



Congratulations to Sergeant Ryan Spearrin 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Balestracci".

Marc Balestracci, Chief of Police

Board of Police Commissioners

Commissioner James Dimmock, Chairman
Commissioner Mark Gelinas, Vice-Chairman
Commissioner Thomas Sheridan, Secretary
Commissioner Christopher Gamble
Commissioner Robert Brule, First Selectperson