



Town of Waterford, Connecticut, Police Commission Meeting Agenda

Waterford Town Hall Auditorium

9/8/2025 5:00 pm

Call to order and establish quorum:

Pledge of Allegiance:

Public input:

Acceptance of minutes: August 11, 2025 Regular Meeting

Correspondence:

- a. Thank You letter from the East Lyme Police Department
- b. Letter from Robert Brule, First Selectman
- c. Email from the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT

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:

New Business:

- a. Review of FY 2024-2025 Annual Report Draft
- b. E-Bike Discussion



MINUTES
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
August 11, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

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

DEPARTMENT: Chief M. Balestracci, LT N. VanOverloop, LT P. Flanagan, Officer M. Sylvestre, Officer A. Reed

CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH A QUORUM:

Commissioner Gelinas called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium. A Quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC INPUT:

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Dimmock and seconded by Commissioner Gamble to accept the July 14, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes. Motion passed.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Dimmock and seconded by Commissioner Gamble to accept the July 22, 2025 Special Meeting minutes. Commissioners Brule and Sheridan abstained. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence was reviewed.

TRAFFIC COMMISSION REVIEW:

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:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Annual Report Draft was not voted on to allow more time for review.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Sheridan and seconded by Commissioner Dimmock to enter into Executive Session, including Chief Balestracci, at 5:16 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:09 p.m. No votes or actions were taken while in Executive Session.

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner Gamble and seconded by Commissioner Dimmock to extend offers for the current vacancies, contingent on the candidates successfully completing the hiring process and background investigations, to the following candidates:

1. Mitchell Chapman
2. Taylor Krajewski
3. Samuel Sabilia

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Dimmock and seconded by Commissioner Sheridan to adjourn the meeting at 6:09 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:



Diane E. Driscoll
Recording Secretary



Town of East Lyme
Connecticut
Police Department

277 West Main Street, Niantic Connecticut
06357

Michael K. Macek
Chief of Police

08/11/2025

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

Dear Chief Balestracci,

I want to extend my and the Town of East Lyme's appreciation for the support of officers that you had provided during our annual Celebrate East Lyme Day 2025. Your continued support in providing assets such as your VMS sign, UTV, ground officers and Marine patrol officers helps fill gaps where we fall short. We cannot safely provide protection for the vendors and spectators without this assistance. Your Marine officers provide an essential function in keeping the security zone in the bay free of vessels that may get too close to the fireworks launching point. They responded to calls from the ground to help clear fisherman off the rocks and away from the secure zone that the ground personnel could not get close to.

On 08/10/2025 Waterford Police Department again assisted us with the Hartford Marathon Foundation's, Niantic Bay Triathlon. This event brings in 550 teams of participants. The first leg is the swim race. Waterford officers were tasked with a vital mission providing coverage as a spotter vessel in the bay and were ready to assist with any struggling swimmers.

Without your assistance, we could not safely provide the necessary protection at these events. As always, your officers were cordial and professional. A job well done.

Michael K. Macek
Chief of Police

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Macek", written over a horizontal line.

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886



PHONE: 860-442-0553
www.waterfordct.org

August 15, 2025

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

Subject: Review, Enforcement, and Legislative Action on E-Bike Use by Minors Under 18

Dear Chief Balestracci and Members of the Police Commission,

In recent months, my office has received multiple complaints about minors operating e-bikes at dangerously high speeds, performing wheelies, tampering with or removing speed governors, tailgating cars, and riding recklessly through neighborhoods and business areas. These behaviors are creating a clear and present danger to the riders themselves, motorists, pedestrians, and the broader community.

As First Selectman, my foremost responsibility is to safeguard the lives and well-being of our residents—especially our young people. I'm asking that the Police Chief and Police Commission jointly review the current laws governing electric bicycles (e-bikes) in Connecticut, identify the impediments to stronger local enforcement, and determine proactive steps to address this growing public safety concern.

E-bikes have surged in popularity, but with that, popularity comes significant risk. Certain models can reach speeds of 35 to 40 miles per hour—comparable to vehicles traveling through our neighborhoods. They are heavy, accelerate rapidly, and require advanced handling skills that most riders under 18 do not possess.

The danger is heightened by the fact that e-bikes are virtually silent. Drivers, pedestrians, and other cyclists may not hear or see them until it is too late. This invisibility makes collisions both more likely and more severe. Aggressive riding behavior by a 14-year-old on an e-bike is not a matter of *if* they will hurt themselves or someone else—it is a matter of *when*.

Currently, Connecticut classifies e-bikes in certain contexts as motorized vehicles, yet they often do not require licensing, registration, or training. That loophole permits children as young as 12 or 13 to legally operate a 70-pound motorized vehicle on public roads—without the safeguards, we apply to other vehicles—making it a hazard to the rider and our community.

As you know, Connecticut has enacted sweeping changes to modernize e-bike regulations beginning October 1, 2025:

- Helmet Requirements:
 - All riders under age 18 must wear helmets when using bikes, scooters, or electric scooters; helmets remain required for all e-bike riders regardless of age. Helmets for mopeds and motorcycles now required up to age 21.
- Classification by Power & Design:
 - E-bikes without pedals and with batteries over 750 watts, but under 3,500 watts, will be classified as motor-driven cycles—requiring a valid driver's license.
 - E-bikes over 3,500 watts are treated as motor-driven vehicles, necessitating registration and insurance, similar to motorcycles.
- Youth Restrictions:
 - Riders under 16 may only operate Class 1 or Class 2 e-bikes, limited to 20 mph.
 - Class 3 e-bikes (up to 28 mph, pedal-assist) are restricted to riders aged 16 and older.
 - E-bikes exceeding 28 mph or power limits will be legally treated as motor vehicles, requiring licensing and registration.

These changes represent a meaningful step toward closing loopholes and aligning regulations with evolving technology—but only high-powered models and specific youth age groups.

In light of these changes, I respectfully request that the Police Commission and the Waterford Police Department review these current changes to the law and discuss a path forward.

The rising trend in youth-related e-bike incidents—and the insufficiency of current laws to curb them—demands immediate, comprehensive action. I look forward to your input and recommendations so we can proactively discuss and ultimately protect our children and our community.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Brule
First Selectman
Town of Waterford

Diane Driscoll

From: Marc Balestracci
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 11:01 AM
To: Diane Driscoll
Subject: FW: Invitation to Join the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut
Attachments: Membership-Application2024.pdf

From: Andrea Manning <amanning@chamberect.com>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 9:52 AM
To: Marc Balestracci <mbalestracci@waterfordct.org>
Subject: Invitation to Join the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization.

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

Dear Chief Balestracci and Members of the Waterford Police Department,

On behalf of Tony Sheridan and the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut, I would like to extend a warm invitation to the Waterford Police Department to become a member of our Chamber.

As the region's largest, most diverse business association, the Chamber brings together municipalities, nonprofits, small businesses, and major employers to strengthen Eastern Connecticut's economic vitality. By joining, the Waterford Police Department will have opportunities to:

- Connect with community and business leaders through networking events and forums.
- Engage in regional initiatives that support public safety, economic development, and quality of life.
- Access resources, training, and collaborative opportunities that strengthen partnerships across the region.
- Showcase your ongoing commitment to the well-being of our communities.

Membership for municipalities and departments is available at an annual dues rate of \$300.

For your convenience, I've attached the membership application, and you may also apply directly online at: [ChamberECT Member Application](#). More details about membership can be found here: [ChamberECT.com/membership](#).

We would be honored to welcome the Waterford Police Department into our Chamber family and look forward to the opportunity to work more closely together. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions – I would be glad to assist.

With appreciation,

Andrea Manning

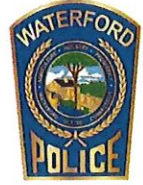
Administrative Partnerships Manager
Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut
P: [860-701-9113](tel:860-701-9113) ext. 2256
92 Eugene O'Neill Drive
New London, CT 06320



The Waterford Police Department

Traffic Officer Report

August 2025



LINE OF SIGHT ISSUES:

- Line of sight issue at post office was taken care of by the homeowner. The bushes were trimmed back to allow for a reasonable sight distance.

DOT RELATED ISSUES.

- Nothing current or pressing

PARKING COMPLAINTS:

- No ongoing parking complaints at this time.

ENFORCEMENT RELATED COMPLAINTS:

- Complaint of people not stopping at crosswalks to allow people to cross, Route 156 and Route 1 crosswalks, at crosswalks without traffic lights. Crosswalk signs have been put in the roadway at seven crosswalks in the area. Signs are in the crosswalk on the yellow line to draw more attention. Pedestrian traffic has been sporadic in these areas making the observation of violations difficult.

REQUESTS FOR SIGNS OR CHANGE OF ROADWAY FEATURES:

- No signs requests or changes of roadway features are pending at this time.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- No events needing highway use permits for this month.

UPCOMING ROAD CONSTRUCTION WITH CLOSURE:

Public Works has been working on catch basins along Old Norwich Road, before the repaving of Old Norwich Road begins in September.

EQUIPMENT:

New equipment received;

- Four (4) roll up "Road Closed" signs
- Seven (7) in street crosswalk signs

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT: **191** Total Traffic Stops

*Officer Rogers #82 assigned to traffic unit for month of August

Officer	Devine #88	Reed #93	Rogers #82	Total
Infractions	1	66	42	109
warnings	0	27	50	77
misdemeanor	0	3	2	5

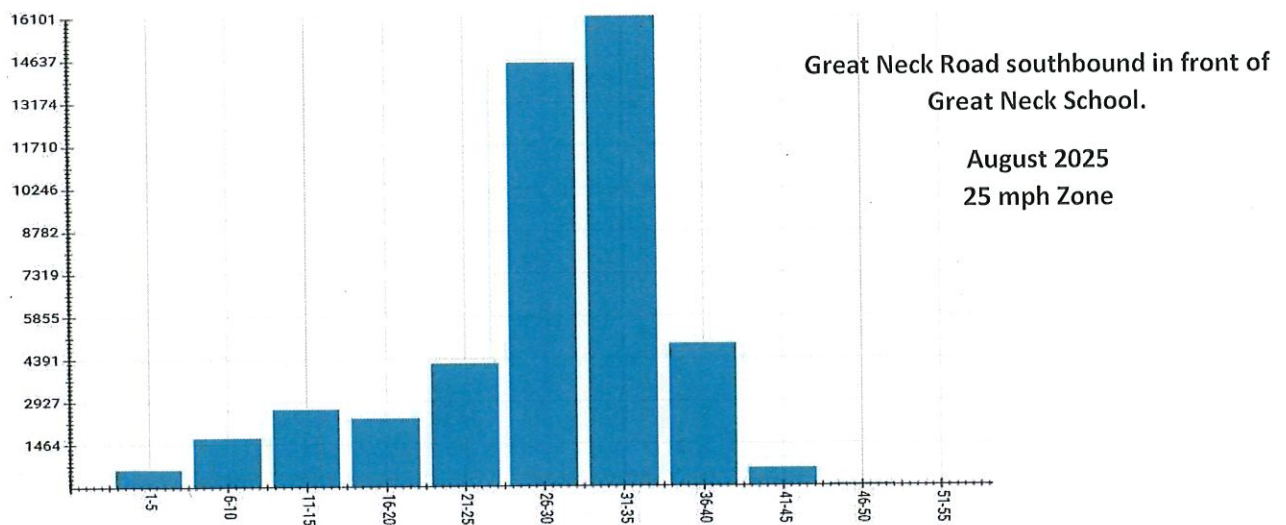
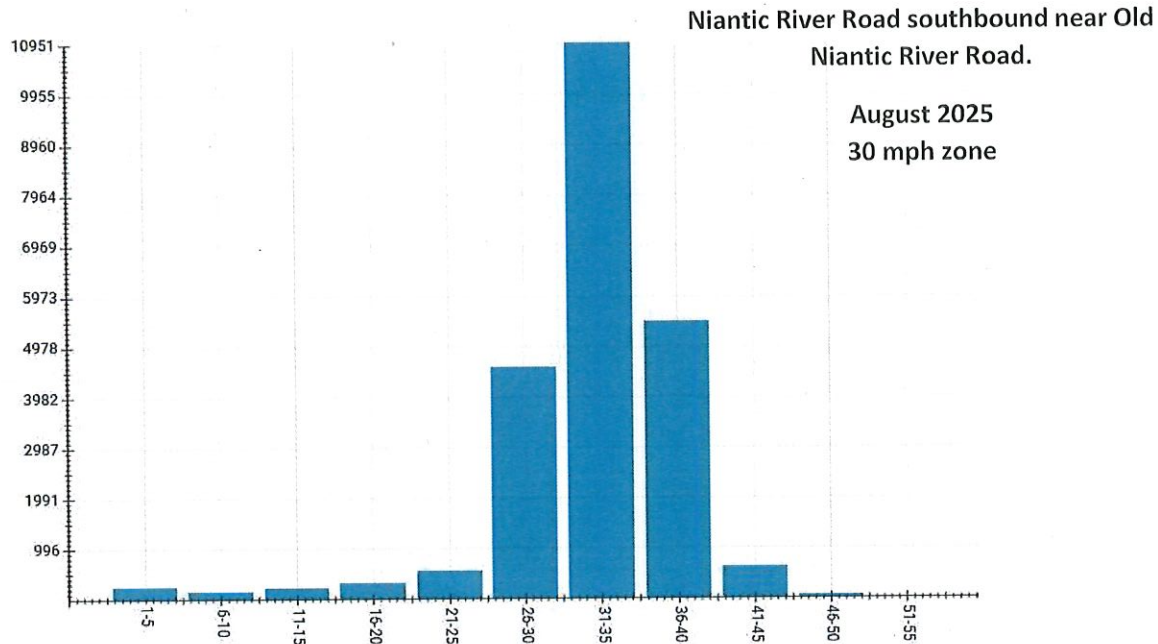


The Waterford Police Department Traffic Officer Report August 2025



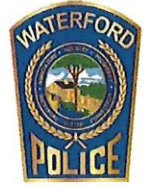
SPEED TRAFFIC SIGN DEPLOYMENT:

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





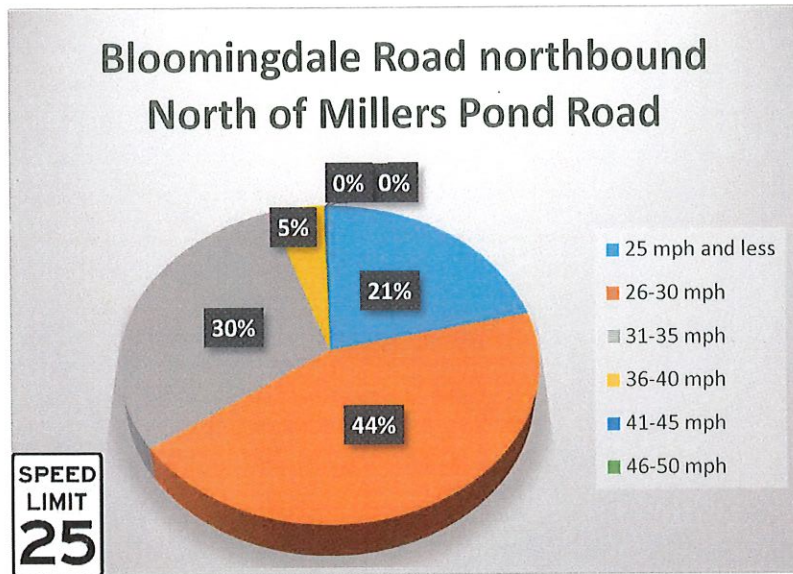
The Waterford Police Department Traffic Officer Report August 2025



The following Data was obtained from battery powered speed signs:

Date Range: August 26, 2025 to September 1, 2025

Speed Limit: 25 mph

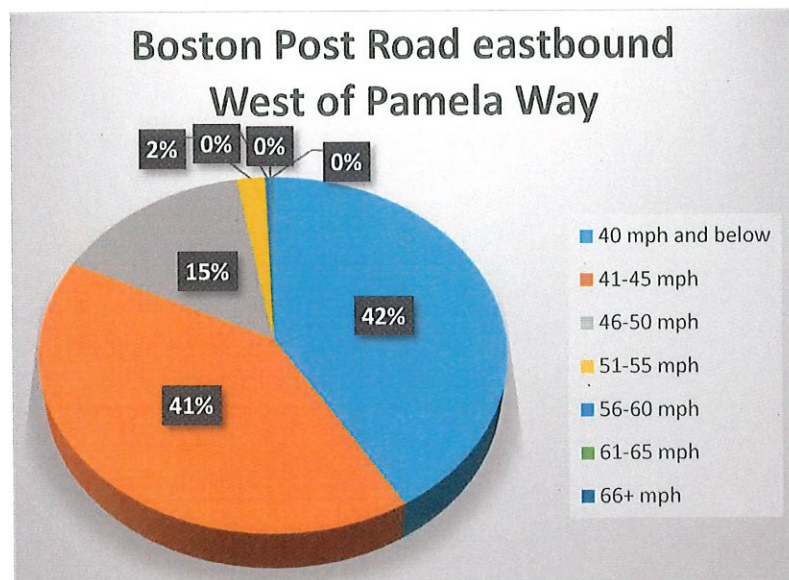


Speed	vehicle
25 mph and less	1272
26-30 mph	2623
31-35 mph	1793
36-40 mph	270
41-45 mph	20
46-50 mph	5

Date Range: August 26, 2025 to September 1, 2025

Speed Limit: 40 mph

Speed	Vehicles
40 mph and below	13072
41-45 mph	12908
46-50 mph	4724
51-55 mph	658
56-60 mph	122
61-65 mph	29
66+ mph	19





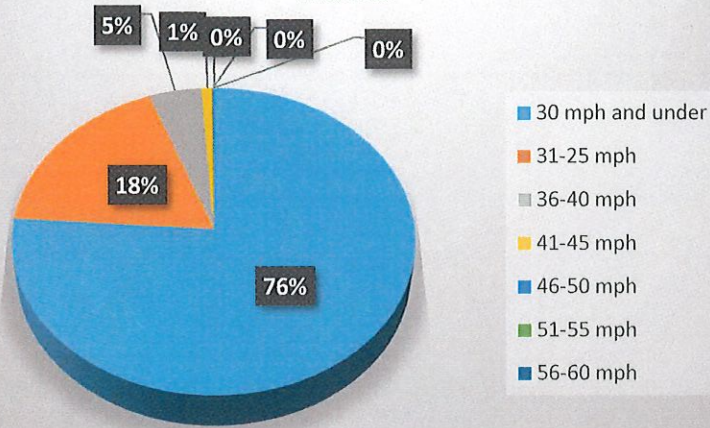
The Waterford Police Department Traffic Officer Report August 2025



Date Range: August 26, 2025 to September 1, 2025

Speed Limit: 30 mph

Rope Ferry Road (Route 156) eastbound, East of Great Neck Road



30 mph and under	7612
31-25 mph	1828
36-40 mph	461
41-45 mph	88
46-50 mph	9
51-55 mph	1
56-60 mph	1



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



K-9 Activity Report

August 2025

K-9 Ozzy

Monthly Uses: 4

2025 Uses: 21

K-9 Tico

Monthly Uses: 4

2025 Uses: 25



K-9 Usage

Ozzy

- ♦ K9 Ozzy and Officer Genung assisted two local agencies in open air sniffs of motor vehicles for narcotics.
- ♦ K9 Ozzy and Officer Genung assisted the Stonington Police Department searching for an emotionally disturbed individual. The team also assisted the New London Police Department in the search of a suspect that had escaped the custody of bail enforcement agents from Lawrence and Memorial Hospital.

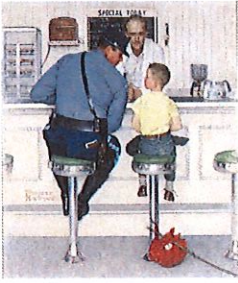
Tico

- ♦ K9 Tico and Officer Surdo assisted in an open air sniff of a motor vehicle involved in an accident where the operator was taken into custody for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs. K9 Tico displayed alert behavior on the vehicle. A hand search yielded fentanyl and cocaine.
- ♦ K9 Tico and Officer Surdo assisted the New London Police Department in the search of a suspect that had escaped the custody of bail enforcement agents from Lawrence and Memorial Hospital. The team also assisted the Groton City Police Department in the search of a missing juvenile.



Monthly Training

- ♦ Monthly K-9 training was conducted on 8/12/25 and 8/26/25 in obedience, tracking, article search, building search, area search, narcotics detections, and apprehension work.



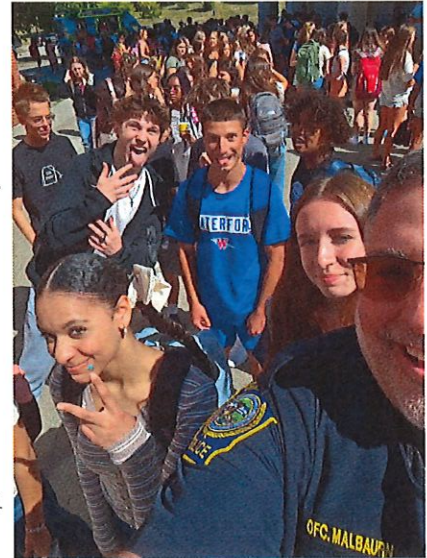
THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Youth Office Activity Report



August 2025

- ♦ August 27, 2025 was the first day back to school for the Waterford School District. The SROs and ASOs were busy with back to school preparation and back to school activities in the last week of August.
- ♦ On August 1, 2025 SRO Lane and Off. Fredericks accompanied CLMS Principal Sachs teaching a graduate school class at UCONN about School resource officers and facility dogs.
- ♦ SRO Winters, SRO Malbourn, and SRO Lane attended the ice cream social (community event) at the Waterford Public Library on August 21st.
- ♦ On August 25, 2025 all three SROs attended convocation at Waterford High School.
- ♦ SROs attended the open house events at the three elementary schools on August 25th and August 26th.
- ♦ SRO Malbourn has been working with school administration to review video when vape detectors (newly installed) alert.
- ♦ SRO Malbourn, in collaboration with the traffic unit, worked with the Friendship School administration to handle traffic related issues at drop-off and pickup.



Month at a Glance

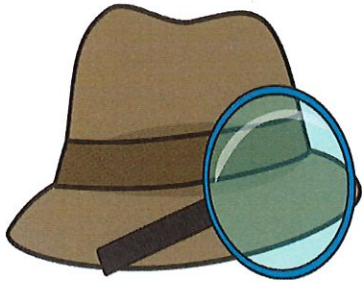
0- Home Visits

0- CAD Report

0- Case Reports

Arrests - 4 / JRB Referrals - 4

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



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Investigative Services Division



August 2025

In the month of August 2025 the Investigative Services Division worked or assisted with 28 investigations.

Current Active Investigations (27 Cases):

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

Homicide-1	Pistol Permits-6
Burglary-5	Background Checks-4
Robbery-1	Fraud—1
Crypto Scam—1	ID Theft—1
Larceny -2	Skimmer—1
Untimely-3	Sex Offender Registry Violation—1

Year to Date Statistical Report

Case Numbers	Search Warrants	Background Checks	Arrests	Sex Assaults	
69	20	12	7	10	
Ex-Parte's	Auto Theft	Burglary	Unattended Deaths	Robbery	
0	0	5	8	1	



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Investigative Services Division



August 2025 Updates:

August 2025

Investigative Services was assigned three (3) background investigations for police officer candidates. These backgrounds are in process.

Detective Bonkowski assisted The Law Enforcement Council with the first day of the Police Academy. We currently have one(1) recruit assigned to the academy. Detective Bonkowski along with Sergeant Epps joined the cadre in getting the recruits prepared for the start of the program.

Investigative Services were assigned as an undercover detail for the Waterford Week Parade.

Investigator Zaldivar along with Court Officer Barrows traveled to Essex County, New Jersey to retrieve a male subject that this department held an extraditable warrant for. The male was being held for the charges of burglary and larceny of dirt bikes from a residence. Besides the New Jersey and Waterford Police Departments having investigations into this person also Newtown, CT held an active warrant. Members of the Newtown Police Department came to Waterford for further assistance in their case.

The Waterford Police Department hosted the Quarterly Lethality Assessment Protocol meeting lead by the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence. During this meeting officers, as well as members of CCADV, meet to discuss upcoming law changes and changing trends in domestic violence cases.

Investigative Services hosted this month's Intelligence Meeting. This group meeting is held monthly in which surrounding departments and divisions of law enforcement meet to share information to help solve ongoing investigations.

August 2025 Investigations:

A months long investigation into possible drug activity from a residence will be revisited in the fall as evidence of criminal activity is not enough for further follow up at this time.

Investigative Services assisted patrol with a search warrant and an arrest warrant for a male subject that was reported to be in possession of a firearm when not legally allowed to do so due to his felony status. Investigative Services assisted patrol in executing the arrest warrant and later found the firearm during execution of the search warrant.

Detective O'Connell obtained an arrest warrant for a male subject that had reportedly evaded responsibility and drove recklessly as the result of a motor vehicle accident. The subject was later arrested without issue.

Members of Investigative Services assisted the United States Coast Guard in locating a deceased male in Long island Sound. The male was retrieved and transported back to the Mago Point area in the Regional Police Boat. Detective Bonkowski was later assigned the investigation. This case is ongoing.

Detective Carroll was assigned an investigation resulting in the scamming of an elderly couple of approximately \$40,500. The adult daughter of the couple suspected her parents had been the victims of a scam and reported it to the Waterford Police Department. This case is under further investigation.

Detective O'Connell was assigned a burglary of three (3) dirt bikes from a residence in the Pleasure Beach area. This case is under further investigation.

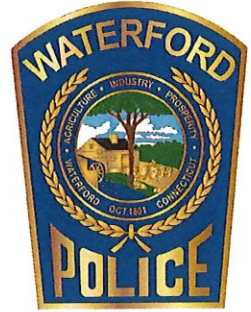
Investigative Services was assigned the untimely death of a male from Miner Lane. This case is not suspicious in nature and is ongoing.

Detective Bonkowski assisted the United States Treasury Department with a cellphone information retrieval. This was done in part with the regional collaborative effort of three (3) local police departments assisting surrounding departments with cellphone and computer extractions.



TRAINING REPORT

AUGUST 2025



New Officer Updates

Hiring Process: The Waterford Police Department continues it's efforts in recruiting and hiring. Training has temporarily stopped with the new hiring process as the candidates in the background process right now would bring us to full staff.

Recruit Status: Recruit Mack completed his thirtieth week at the Connecticut Police Academy at POST-C in Meriden, CT.

Recruit Holman started the Eastern Regional Police Academy on August 4th hosted by the Law Enforcement Council of Connecticut and has since completed her fourth week. This academy is expected to completed in February.



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



TRAINING REPORT AUGUST 2025



Officer Robinson went to the POST-C Academy in Meriden to assist with an OC exposure day for Recruit Mack's academy class. Officer Robinson assisted with role playing, decontamination, as well as various other hands on training during the exposure.

Sergeant Epps and Detective Bonkowski attended the Eastern Regional Police Academy hosted by the Law Enforcement Council of Connecticut in Norwich the first few days of the academy to assist with the CADRE days. This is a time where the recruits are taught how to stop working as individual units and start working together as a team. The recruits were instructed to do various tasks that taught them discipline and brought them together as one unit.

Sergeant Nickerson went to the POST-C Academy in Meriden to assist with Recruit Mack's one-day low light firearms training. This training teaches the recruits everything they need to know about shooting pistols in dark or low-lit conditions. Officer Bushwack and Officer Jordan attended as well to complete their low light teach back, which is the last step they need in order to become certified firearms instructors for the pistol.

All personnel at the department were given a strip search refresher roll call training. This training is a requirement per our policy and requires that officers be re-trained on our strip search policy and the steps to take during a strip search.

Sergeant Caler attended the motor vehicle stops practical skills day at the POST-C Academy in Meriden. He assisted with helping Recruit Mack learn and have hands on experience with motor vehicle stops in a controlled setting. Some of the topics discussed were how to approach a vehicle safely, how to issue various citations, how to get necessary documents from the vehicle occupants, and how to stop a vehicle safely just to name a few.





Support Services Report

August 2025



Records Activity

FOI Requests	144	-15%
Warrants	23	-41%
Phone Calls	244	2%
Walk in Assists	150	4%
Background Checks	8	60%
Protective Orders	31	-21%
Officer Tasking Requests	77	-8%
Case Erasures	287	-10%
DCF Requests	9	-47%
Court Requests	15	36%
Abstracts	288	-26%
Video Requests	19	-10%
Reports Accepted	152	-22%

- * The CSOs covered 69 shifts during the month, equating to 552 hours of shift coverage.
- * CSOs saw an increase in employment fingerprints in August, which is typical for this time of year with Board of Ed hires.
- * The background was completed for Jenna Hancock, who was hired to replace Joyce Brown after her retirement. Ms. Hancock will begin employment with the department on 9/8/2025.

CSO Activity

Adult Arrests	20
Juvenile Arrests	0
Firearms Transfers	37
Pistol Permits Issued	13
Walk In Complaints	42

Fingerprints

Pistol Permits	15
Employment	27
Miscellaneous	1
Peddler/Precious Permits	1
Warrant Follow Ups	259



Patrol Report

Commissioners Activity Report

August 2025



Officers Attend Parade / Summer Concerts

Throughout July and August the Waterford Police Department worked the Summer Concert Series which is sponsored by Waterford Rec and Park at the town beach. The department also participated in and provided support in various capacities for the "Waterford Day" Parade which was held on August 9, 2025.



Pictured at left is Off. Jordan and Trainee Mack at the Waterford Day Parade. At right is the Waterford Color Guard.



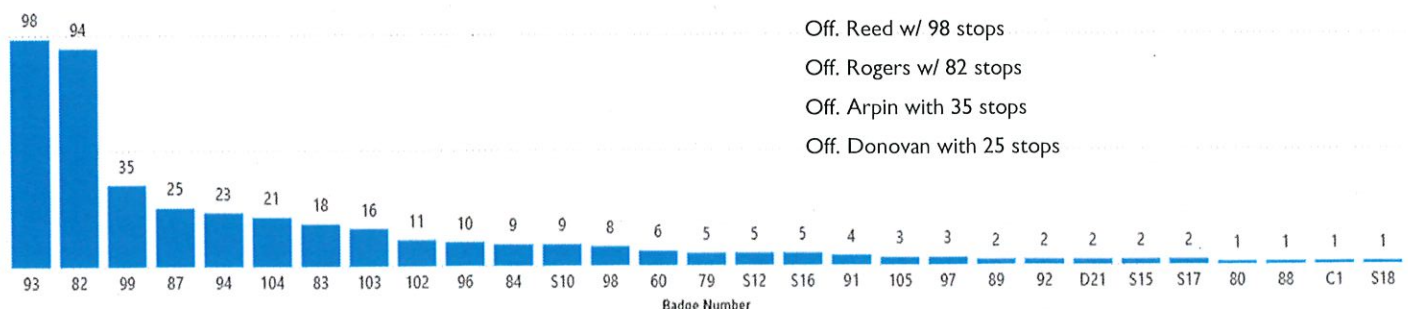
Regional Marine Patrol: Recovers Body

On August 26, 2025 the Waterford Emergency Communications Center received a 911 call at 1259 hours from a good Samaritan who was sailing in the Long Island Sound approximately 2 miles southwest of Millstone Point. The caller reported that while sailing back to the Niantic Bay they encountered a body floating face down. Members of the WPD, Waterford Ambulance Service, and USCG responded to the area and commenced a sector search. After approximately 15 minutes the body was recovered and returned to Mago Point where the Medical Examiners Office took custody of the deceased individual.

Patrol Calls for Service Monthly Snap Shot:

Total Service Calls	2389
Case Numbers	134
Arrests	53
Juvenile Arrests	4
Larcenies	37
Arrest Warrants	12
Domestic Violence Investigations	8
Traffic Crash	57
DUI Investigations	6
EDP/Welfare Check	63
School Checks	51
Motor Vehicle	422
Written Warnings	144
Infractions	133
Verbal Warnings	130
Misdemeanor	11
Other	4

SELF INITIATED MOTOR VEHICLE ACTIVITY BY BADGE NUMBER



**Assault Call Leads to DV Arrest**

On August 2, 2025 Off. Maselli and Off. Winakor were dispatched to a residence in Quaker Hill, CT for a reported assault. Upon arrival it was learned that the offending party was the respondent in a Protective Order and left on foot prior to police arrival. Officers obtained witness statements and determined that the suspect had punched one of the victims 3-4 times on the right side of his/her head. Off. Maselli was able to collect/seize video evidence of the incident. Upon conducting a check of the area Off. Jordan located the suspect at a local gas station. The suspect was taken into custody for Assault Third Degree, Disorderly Conduct, and Violation of a Protective Order.

Suspicious Person: Leads to Drug Arrest

On August 2, 2025 Off. Colkos and Sgt. Fedor were on routine patrol when they observed a suspicious vehicle in the parking lot of Core Plus Federal Credit Union. Upon running the vehicle's registration they learned that the registered owner had an active PRAWN warrant. Upon making contact the subject was taken into custody. Officer on scene saw, in plain view, drug paraphernalia and probable cause was developed to search the vehicle. Located in the car was a clear plastic baggie containing crack cocaine as well as drug paraphernalia. The suspect was taken into custody for Possession of a Controlled Substance.

**Walk-in Complaint: Leads to Arrest Warrant and Search Warrant**

On August 23, 2025 Off. Donovan took a walk-in domestic violence complaint in the lobby of the WPD. Through his investigations an arrest warrant was obtained for the suspect for Possession of Firearm by a Felon, Threatening in the Second Degree, Disorderly Conduct, and Violation of a Protective Order. The suspect was taken into custody and the search warrant was executed on August 24th at 1800 hours. The firearm used in the domestic violence incident was recovered.



In the Community Interest





THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Animal Control Report



August 2025

- ♦ The ACOs participated in the annual Waterford Day Parade.
- ♦ The ACO's assisted the City of New London for a week when their only ACO was on vacation. The ACO's cared for their animals in the shelter and assisted with emergency calls.
- ♦ On 8/11/2025 the ACOs checked a 3 mile section of train tracks after an Amtrak conductor reported possibly striking a dog. The ACOs were unable to locate any dogs.
- ♦ On 8/12/2025 DEEP reported that a deceased deer found in Waterford tested positive for rabies. There was no know contact between the deer and any humans or domestic animals
- ♦ On 8/25/2025 2 cats were found abandoned in a carrier in the Crystal Mall parking lot.



	Waterford	East Lyme
Calls for Service	97	56
After Hour Call Outs	4	5
Tickets Issued	1	0
Warnings Issued	0	0
Dog Bites	3	0
Animals Redeemed	6	6
Animals Adopted	8	1
Animals DOA	0	0
Euthanized	0	1
Total Processed	14	7
Money Taken In	\$535	\$470
Donations	\$140	\$470

"Speaking for those who have no voice"



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Engagement Report August 2025



Assistance to Youth Officers: Spoke at UCONN Stamford with SRO Lane about how School Recourse Officers and Facility K-9s can benefit schools. Attended Waterford High School's Freshman Orientation, Clark Lane Middle School's Sixth Grade Orientation, and Waterford Schools' Teacher Orientation. Spoke about traffic stop safety at Rae's Driving School. Attended Back to School Nights at Great Neck School, Oswegatchie School, and Quaker Hill School. Visited multiple schools during the first week of school.

K-9 Officer Hodges: Attended the Waterford Town Hall Blood Drive. Held Read to Hodges at the Waterford Library. Interacted with volunteers at East Lyme Emergency Management's Mock Disaster Incident. Visited New England Science & Sailing New London Camp, Camp Hope, Rhode Island National Guard Camp, YMCA Camp Fuller, Bloom BCS Camp, and the US Coast Guard Daycare. Participated in the Waterford Parade.



Internship: Conducted multiple interviews with Mitchell College & Central Connecticut State University students to select the WPD Fall Intern. Jacob Molloy, a CCSU student, was selected.

National Night Out: Participated in East Lyme Police's event. Hodges interacted with attendees and Waterford Police Vehicles were there for Touch A Truck.

Domestic Violence Follow-ups: Conducted 1 follow-up with a DV victim. Visited the Safe Futures Work Shop Training about domestic incidents involving pets/animals. Visited Safe Futures Camp Hope. Hosted Regional DV Meeting.

Officer Wellness: Organized a Wellness Day for Investigative Services, Support Staff, and Administrative Staff. Visited the New London Superior Court and Groton Town Police Department. Attended Police Chaplain Meeting.

Advance Services Programs: 1 new registrant added to the program.

Interaction with Senior Services: Attended a Senior Luncheon.

Back to School Ice Cream with the SROs: Organized event where students could come meet and talk to the Waterford Police School Resource Officers. Multiple Police Comfort Dogs attended the event.

Rotary Club: Attended monthly meeting.

Special Olympics Efforts: Attended Over the Edge Event.



Waterford Police Department Waterford, Connecticut



Annual Report - Fiscal Year 2024/2025

“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 2024/2025, 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.



**Chief of Police
Marc Balestracci**

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

Chief Marc Balestracci, 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 review the quality of work being delivered to the community.

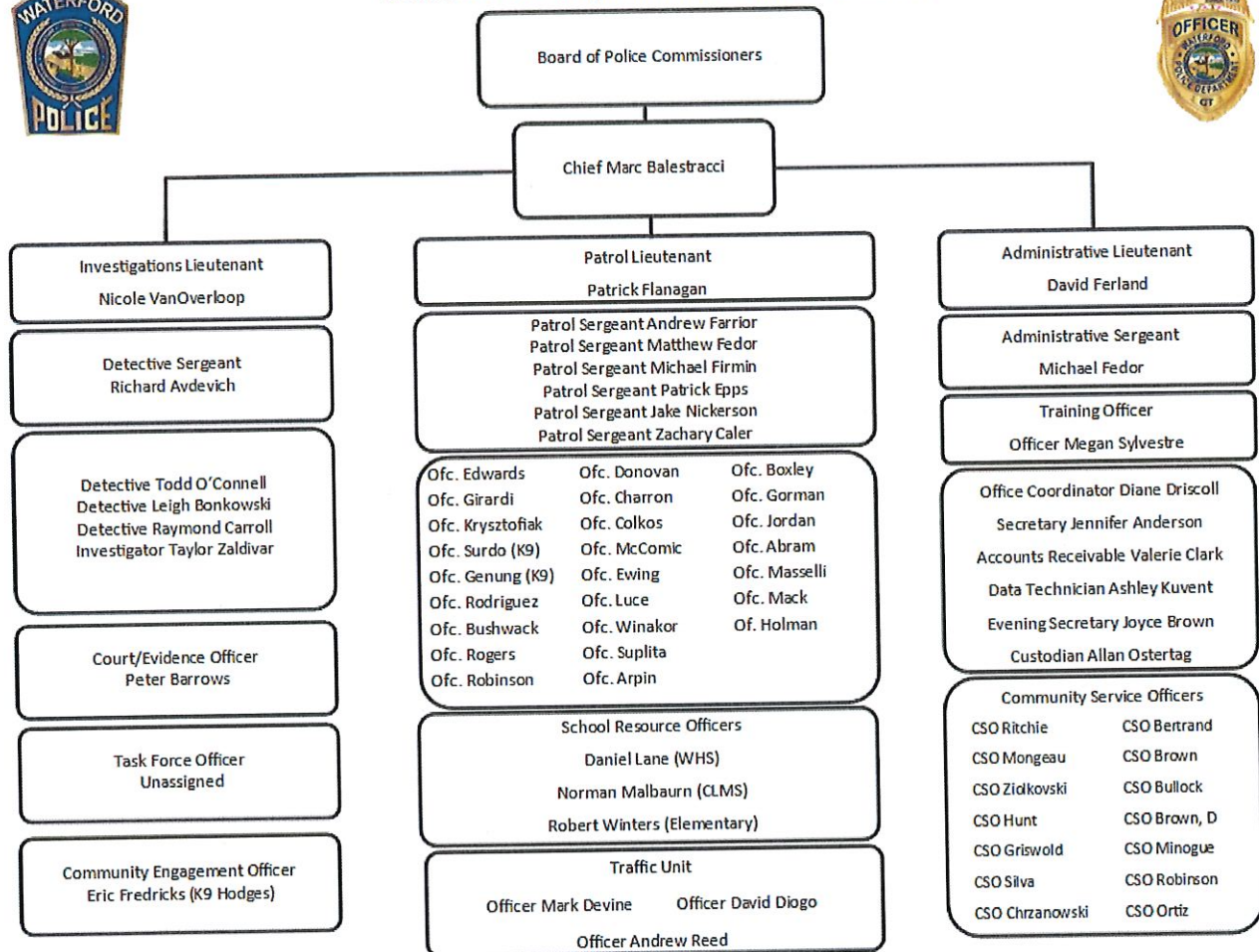
In FY 2024-2025, the Administrative Team consisted of Investigative Services Lieutenant Nicole VanOverloop, Patrol Services Lieutenant Patrick Flanagan, Administrative Services Lieutenant David Ferland, Administrative Sergeant Michael Fedor, Training Officer Megan Sylvestre, Office Coordinator Diane Driscoll and Jeffrey Robillard from the town's IT Services department.

Formal Administrative Team meetings are held every Monday morning and 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





2024/2025 Fiscal Year Prominent Events

- On July 1, 2024, newly hired officers Connor Abram and Nicolette Maselli were sworn in
- On July 2, 2024, members of the WPD, along with our regional crash investigation team, responded to a serious motor vehicle accident on Old Colchester Road, closing the road for several hours.
- On July 5, 2024, officers responded to an alert of a vehicle wanted in connection with over 20 thefts in the region. After a traffic stop and foot chase, several arrests were made solving cases throughout the region
- On July 8, 2024, Officer Julie Jordan was sworn in after transferring from the Plainfield Police Department
- On July 20, 2024, WPD hosted a newly licensed/permitted drivers traffic stop practice event at WHS
- On August 5, 2024, Community Engagement Officer Fredricks, along with three newly hired officers, Boxley, Abram and Maselli assisted Groton Town PD with National Night Out. From hire to retire, we focus on community engagement
- On August 10, 2024, WPD managed traffic and safety, as well as participated in, the Waterford Day Parade
- On August 15, 2024, WPD participated with Youth and Family Services at Shop with a Cop at Wal-Mart
- In August, our Investigative Services unit went to 43 businesses in town to educate and check for financial card skimmers at points of payment
- On August 28, 2024, we began the school year with three full-time School Resource Officers. They are teamed with two full-time Armed School Security Officers employed by the Board of Education.
- On September 10, 2024, WPD hosted Coffee with a Cop at the Waterford Community Center
- On September 13, 2024, WPD participated in the State Law Enforcement Recruitment Fair in Meriden, CT
- On September 14, 2024, a large group of ATVs and dirt bikes illegally traveled through roadways all over eastern CT. While in Waterford, officers were able to arrest two participants and seize both ATVs.
- On September 14, 2024, Officers Donovan, Winakor and Gorman recorded our a new Community Outreach Video
- On September 26, 2024, WPD hosted Tip-A-Cop at Longhorn's Steakhouse to raise funding for CT Special Olympics
- On October 1, 2024, the Investigative Services Unit conducted a search warrant on a Clark Lane residence, resulting in two arrests and the seizure of illegal drugs and US currency.
- On October 4, 2024, Sgt. Zachary Caler and Officer Stephen Rogers were recognized by MADD for their efforts to combat impaired driving
- On October 5, 2024, WPD participated in the CT Gun Safe Giveaway giving free gun safes to residents
- On October 6, 2024, WPD participated in the annual Safe Futures Walk at the newly renovated Holm Jr. park
- In October, WPD teamed up with Senior Services for a traffic safety and aging presentation at a Lunch and Learn
- In October, WPD participated in the annual PD vs FD softball game (this was not a good year for the PD), the Harvest Fest event at the beach and the Waterford High School Job Fair
- Throughout the month of November, WPD partnered with WYFS, NL Homeless and Hospitality Center and CT DOT to safely relocate and house those in homeless encampments in town, before the winter temps set in
- On November 7, 2024, the entire PD received refresher training from Hartford Healthcare representative Christine Johnson on interacting with people who have special needs, with a focus on Dementia and Alzheimer's



- On November 13, 2024, Officers Surdo and Krysztofiak were awarded Meritorious Service Awards for their actions when responding to a call for service with a suicidal man
- On November 15, 2024, Officer Elizabeth Boxley graduated the Police Academy
- On November 25, 2024, Channel 3 News interviewed Sgt. Epps in response to our Retail Theft Initiative effort to reduce shoplifting in Waterford
- On December 6, 2024, WPD participated in the Light The Night tree lighting event at Holm Jr. park
- On December 8, 2024, WPD hosted a Stuff-A-Cruiser event at Waterford Wal-Mart
- On December 9, 2024, Great Neck School students came to the PD to get a tour and help decorate our tree
- On December 9, 2024, Lt. Ferland, Investigator Zaldivar, Officer Bushwack and Officer Reed were presented Chief's Awards for their work in assisting another department through an employee suicide debrief
- On December 29, 2024, WPD responded to an armed robbery at a gas station in the Quaker Hill section of Town
- In January, Officer Zachary Bushwack was named the 2024 WPD Officer of the Year
- On January 10, 2025, WPD responded to an armed bank robbery on Boston Post Road. Patrol, Investigative Services, our Wellness Team and our Chaplain Unit responded to the scene to investigate and assist staff
- On January 18, 2025, WPD hosted an Open House event to engage the community and recruit new members
- In January, Officer Eric Fredricks was awarded Humanitarian of the Year by the Waterford Lions Club
- On February 9, 2025, WPD responded to Wal-Mart for fraudulent returns. The call resulted in three Pennsylvania residents being arrested and \$5,400 in counterfeit currency seized. Cases in other locations were solved as a result
- On February 20, 2025, Officers Conner Abram and Nicolette Maselli graduated the police academy
- On March 2, 2025, a large scale disturbance occurred at a youth basketball game at the middle school. Three Middletown residents were arrested as a result of the incident where two people were injured.
- On March 13, 2025, WPD received Tier III State Accreditation. The highest level, which reviews policy and practices of the department, was reached well before State law requirements
- On March 24, 2025, newly hired officer Tyrone Mack was sworn in
- On March 26, 2025, Investigative Services served a search warrant on Sound View Drive. As a result of that service, two residents were arrested and illegal drugs and packaging materials were seized
- In April, the WPD participated in a national podcast to bring attention to the Kyle Seidel murder case
- In April, WPD hosted a police bicycle training course to certify more WPD officers on our bikes
- In May, Officer First Class Robert Edwards and Officer First Class Gil Maffeo retired after 26 and 25 years of service to our community
- On June 4, 2025, WPD members participated in the Special Olympics Torch Run
- In June, Joyce Brown retired as the Evening Shift Secretary after 28 years of service to the town



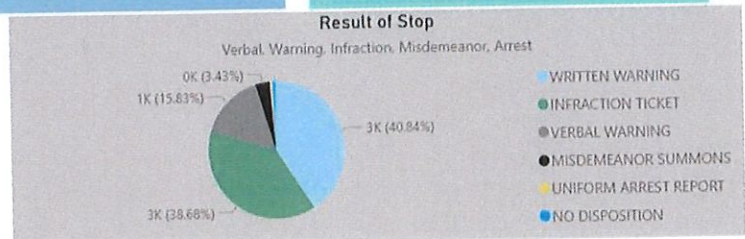
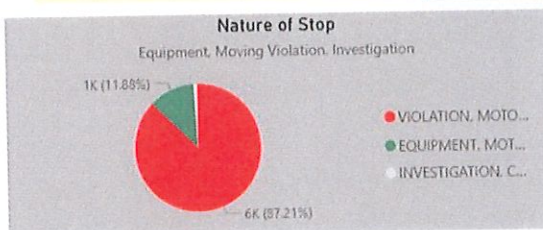
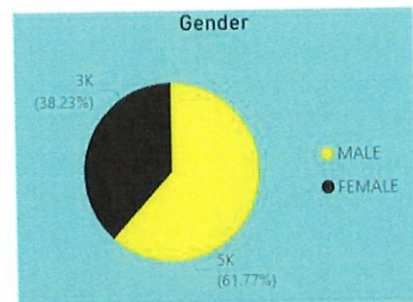
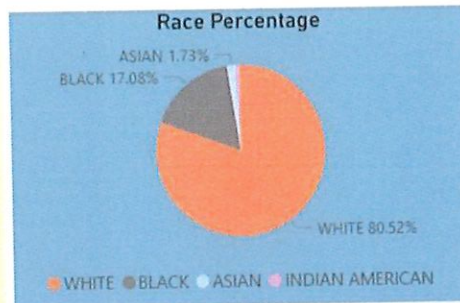
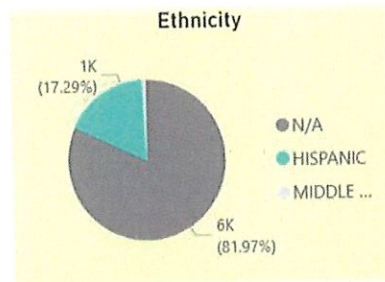


Waterford Police call types, use of force*, and car stop data

Category	Number	Change from previous fiscal year
Arrests	959	+16%
Calls For Service	30,959	+8%
Case Numbers	1,598	-18%
Motor Vehicle Stops	7,327	+30%
EDP/Welfare Checks	487	-9%
Larceny/Shoplifting	519	+27%
Domestic Violence	151	+32%
Assault	7	-66%
Drug Overdose	7	-36%
Impaired Driving	48	-7%
Missing Person	28	-76% (*)
School Checks	814	-30%
Motor Vehicle Crashes	686	-8%
Walk-in Complaints	510	-8%
Alarms	840	-17%
Residence Checks	1,839	+15%
Suspicious Person/Vehicle	779	+1%
Stolen Cars	18	+28%

(*) = Significant decrease due to relocation of youth residential facility to nearby community.

Motor Vehicle Stop Statistics





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

Waterford Police Department Use of Force by gender/race

Total UOF Incident	Verbal commands	Takedown	Control Hands	Firearm Display	Pointed Firearm	Taser Laser Only	Taser Usage	K9	Pepper Spray	Strike	Restraint Chair	Baton
38	28	17	15	7	7	3	3	1	0	1	0	0

	Black	Hispanic	White	Totals
Female	1	2	7	10
Male	2	4	15	21

**some incidents involved multiple uses of force on same subject*

**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**

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

The Patrol Division is comprised of one (1) Lieutenant, six (6) Sergeants and twenty-seven (27) Patrol Officers. Patrol services are organized into three (3) shifts: Midnight, Day and Evening, with a varying number of officers assigned to each shift based on the time of year, level of activity and budgetary guidelines. Each shift has 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, small commercial developments, parks, beaches and schools. Zone B houses the town’s largest retail developments and a youth facility with high call volume.

During the 2024/2025 fiscal year, the police department handled 30,959 calls for service, representing an 8.97 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 two new stationary LPR (license plate reader) “FLOCK” cameras in town (to supplement the existing two cameras) 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. These patrol vehicles are often utilized at DUI check points and also while on routine patrol.

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.

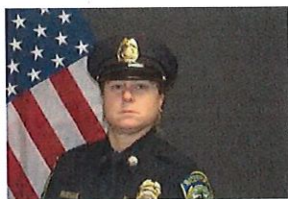
The Town of Waterford has numerous wooded areas and is also a shoreline community with various bodies of water. The department must use specialized equipment to navigate these various topographies. The presence of a large number of retail establishments along with a nuclear power facility, a racetrack, 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, 1 drone (flown by certified drone pilots), 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, Waterford Youth and Family Services, Recreation and Parks, the Department of Children and Families, the Homeless Hospitality Center, and Safe Futures (which provides domestic violence wrap-around services). These types of partnerships as well as continued joint regional teams (such as the SECT regional marine patrol, a tri-town crash investigation team and the Southeastern Emergency Response Team) have allowed reduced individual department costs through the sharing of resources.

MARINE PATROL



**Sergeant
Michael Firmin**



**Detective
Leigh Bonkowski**

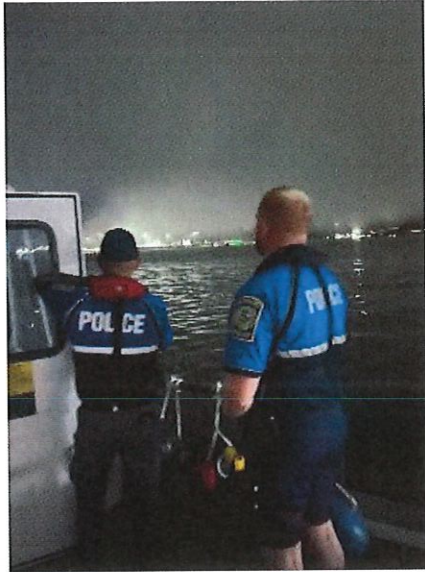
The Waterford Police Department Marine Division continues to partner with the East Lyme Police Department to operate a regional marine patrol vessel. Both towns share responsibility with staffing, maintenance and fuel costs. The Southeast Regional Marine Patrol vessel patrols the navigable waters of 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.

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

During the 2024/2025 fiscal year:

A capital improvement project for electronics upgrades, interior decking, decal replacement and bottom paint maintenance was approved by both towns.



Boat Captains Lieutenant Flanagan, Sergeant Farrior, Sergeant Firmin, Detective Bonkowski and Detective Carroll attended a Raymarine Electronics training course held at Stonington PD.

Maritime security was provided for the East Lyme Day Fireworks, the Niantic Bay Triathlon, and the Maritime Heritage Festival. Patrols of the Millstone Nuclear Power Station and its security zone continue to be checked during underway patrols.

Notable assists include responses to; a fleeing domestic suspect in the Thames Rivers, multi-day search efforts following a fatal boating accident in the Connecticut River, support to the Stonington Police Department for a boat parade in the Mystic River and an overturned kayaker near Two Tree Channel.

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

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

Officer McComic attended a CT Safe Boating course to obtain his boating certificate.

Sergeant Firmin and Detective Bonkowski held classroom and underway training for crewmembers Detective O'Connell, Officer Rogers, Officer Devine, Officer Donovan, Officer McComic, Officer Reed, and Officer Gorman.

The Waterford Police Department continues to be the host site of monthly meetings for the New London Marine Group Region 4, which is attended by Sergeant Firmin and Detective Bonkowski. Their focus is upon the preparedness and 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 group obtained its own portable radios that are used on the state radio system for better communication between members during the groups' activations.

K9 UNIT



**K9 Officer
Nicholas Genung**

The 2024/2025 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 2024/2025 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 August 1, 2024, the Violent Crimes Task Force (VCTF) requested a K9 to search the wood line alongside RTE 184 in Groton, CT after an individual they were attempting to take into custody threw items into the woods while they pursued him on foot. The VCTF investigators advised they observed a glass pipe used for smoking "crack" cocaine just prior to the wood line where the suspect threw the rest of the items. K9 Ozzy was deployed in the area and pulled down the embankment. K9 Ozzy focused on one small section of bushes and Officer Genung observed a small green plastic container, which he immediately recognized as a container used to store powdered narcotics in the leaves underneath a bush that tested positive for the presence of cocaine. The individual was taken into custody on an arrest warrant and narcotics charges.

On February 24, 2025, Officer Rogers stopped a vehicle for a speeding violation on RTE 32 and observed a cut corner of a plastic bag by the operator's foot which Officer Rogers recognized to be consistent with drug packaging material. Officer Rogers then requested Officer Genung respond to the scene with K9 Ozzy. K9 Ozzy was deployed for an open air sniff and showed alert behavior on the open driver's window by trying to climb in while pointing his head down toward the door pockets. A subsequent hand search yielded a large crack cocaine rock in the driver's door pocket, several crack pipes, and numerous flakes of "crack" cocaine throughout the vehicle. As a result of the search, all three (3) occupants were arrested on drug charges.



**K9 Officer
Nicolas Surdo**

K9 Tico (a three-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. Throughout the 2024/2025 fiscal year, 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 November 12, 2024, Officer Surdo was on patrol and located a suspicious vehicle parked in the side lot near the wood line of the Regal Cinemas. Upon speaking with the occupants, it was determined the female had an arrest warrant and was subsequently arrested. The male occupant was removed from the vehicle and K9 Tico was deployed for an open air sniff of the exterior of the vehicle. K9 Tico showed alert behavior underneath the right passenger side door area in a pile of leaves. A subsequent search by hand revealed a glass smoking pipe known to be used to smoke narcotics. A hand search was conducted of the interior of the vehicle rendering no measureable amounts of narcotics, but two more glass smoking pipes were located. The female was searched at the police department, she was found to be in possession of "crack" cocaine and was charged accordingly.

On June 11, 2025 Officer Surdo responded to Scotch Cap Road in the area of Broad View Court to assist Officer Reed on a motor vehicle stop. During the stop, bottles of Methadone were observed in plain view and upon further discussion with an occupant, Officer Barrows located a white, rock like substance, believed to be "crack" cocaine. K9 Tico was deployed for an open air sniff of the exterior of the vehicle. K9 Tico showed alert behavior on the front left (driver's) side of the vehicle. K9 Tico was placed inside the vehicle where he exhibited similar behavior under the front left driver's seat. A subsequent hand search was conducted where approximately 155 grams of "crack" cocaine and powdered cocaine was located under the front right passenger seat. The two (2) occupants of the vehicle were taken into custody on drug charges.

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: 33

Person Tracks: 11

Article/Evidence Recovery: 7

Area Searches: 7

Building Searches: 2

Emergency Response Team
Deployments: 0

Community Service Events: 15

Bites: 0

Total Usages: 75





SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS



**School Resource
Officer Daniel Lane**



**School Resource
Officer Norman
Malbaurn**



**School Resource
Officer Robert
Winters**



Youth Division Complaints: 42

School Events: 45

School Drills: 45

Home Visits: 19

Youth Arrests: 4

The School Resource Officers (SRO) are present in the school system all year with an officer assigned full time to the Waterford High School (SRO Norman Malbaurn), The Clark Lane Middle School (SRO Dan Lane) and the three Elementary Schools, Great Neck, Oswegatchie and Quaker Hill (SRO Robert Winters). Additionally, Armed Security Officers Richard Morgan and Mike Masucci are assigned to the Elementary Schools. The three School Resource Officers also cover the Town of Waterford's 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 attend, on duty and off duty, after school functions and events, including home and away sporting events, school club events, band concerts, drama productions and open houses.

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 three 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.



TRAFFIC UNIT



**Traffic Officer
Mark Devine**



**Traffic Officer
David Diogo**



**Traffic Officer
Andrew Reed**

The Waterford Police Department's Traffic Unit plays a vital role in ensuring public safety through traffic enforcement, education, and collaboration with town departments. The unit consists of three officers: Officer Mark Devine, Officer David Diogo, and Officer Andrew Reed. Officer Diogo joined the unit in August 2024, followed by Officer Reed in December 2024, adding valuable support to the team.

Enforcement Activity: Between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, the Traffic Unit conducted a total of 3,533 traffic stops, accounting for over 48% of all stops made by the department during that period. Enforcement priorities are determined based on citizen complaints, feedback from fellow officers and speed data collected through traffic monitoring devices, including speed feedback signs. This data-driven approach allows officers to focus efforts on areas of greatest concern and impact.

Traffic Management & Operational Duties: Beyond enforcement, the unit manages a wide range of traffic-related responsibilities in the Town of Waterford, including reviewing and issuing highway use permits, addressing line-of-sight and other roadway safety concerns, processing sign change requests, conducting speed limit reviews and collecting and analyzing speed data.

The unit works in close partnership with other town entities, including the Department of Public Works, Zoning Enforcement and other municipal departments, to resolve infrastructure and regulatory concerns.

Community Engagement & Safety Initiatives: The Traffic Unit continues to be active in community outreach and non-enforcement activities. Highlights from the past year include successfully securing a speed limit reduction on Rope Ferry Road, from 35 mph to 30 mph between Route 1 and North Road, delivering traffic safety presentations to students at Waterford High School, participating in senior

services programming, WPD Citizens Police Academy and deploying traffic message boards in key areas to promote safety and awareness of traffic laws.



Speed Feedback Technology: Over the past year, the unit deployed three battery-powered and two solar-powered speed feedback signs throughout the town. These devices have been critical tools in both enforcement strategy and public education. Additionally, the unit recently acquired two more speed feedback signs—at no cost—from UConn's T2 (Technology Transfer) Center, enhancing the unit's data collection and traffic-calming capabilities.

Conclusion: The Traffic Services Unit continues to serve as a cornerstone of the Waterford Police Department's efforts to promote road safety, educate the public, and respond to community concerns. With a blend of proactive enforcement, strategic technology use, and community involvement, the unit remains committed to improving the quality of life for all who live, work, and travel in Waterford.



INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES



**Investigations
Lieutenant
Nicole VanOverloop**

In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Investigative Service Division was comprised of three (3) Detectives, an Investigator and a Secretary. The Court/Evidence Officer as well as the Community Engagement Officer, along with K9 Hodges, also report to the Investigative Services Division.

The Division is supervised by Lieutenant Nicole VanOverloop and Detective Sergeant Richard Avdevich.

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 sexual 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 from neighbors coming from residences. In one case, Division members received information of drug activity coming from a residence. After a month's long investigation, Investigative Services conducted a search warrant on the residence. As a result of the search warrant, illegal drugs as well as money and related materials were seized. A male resident of the home was arrested for distributing and possessing the illegal drugs along with a female companion. The male was evicted by the state from the residence the next day. The Investigative Service Division also conducted numerous sexual assault investigations. Three of the sexual assault investigations resulted in arrests with charges of Sexual Assault in the 2nd Degree, Risk of Injury to a Minor as well as Importing Child Pornography. Other cases of interest involved Investigative Services members solving a retail burglary after DNA in the form of blood was left at the scene, later receiving a positive identification using rapid DNA and our Flock camera system.

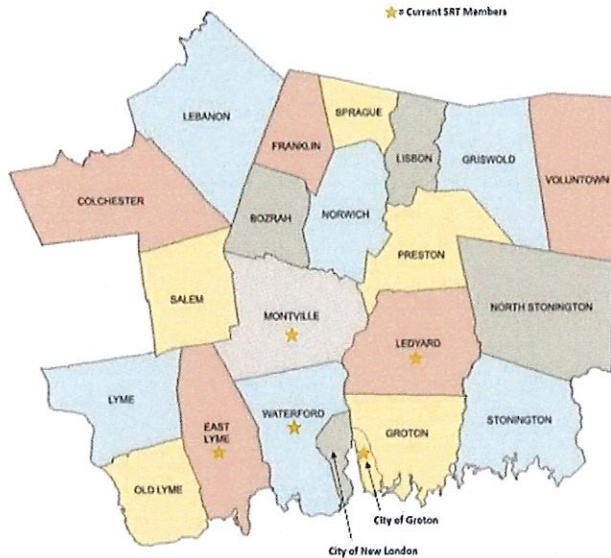
Additionally the Investigative Services had the opportunity to work with a national podcast entitled "The Deck" on a cold case homicide from 2012. The episode aired in March 2025.

Case Numbers Assigned to Investigative Services:	247
Arrests:	14
Burglaries (Residential and Commercial):	7
Search Warrants:	17
Unattended Death Investigations:	14
Sexual Assaults:	14
Pistol Permits / Background Checks:	160
Robberies:	2
Drug Investigations:	8
Weapons Compliance:	9



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 Emergency Response Team (SERT):



During this fiscal year the Special Response Team (SRT) was changed to the Southeastern Emergency Response Team (SERT). The Waterford Police Department continued to advance the teams abilities with the purchase of additional gas masks and filters. Additionally the Law Enforcement Council awarded \$4000 to the team for ballistic shields. The SERT Team continues to have an MOU with the Ledyard, Montville, East Lyme and Groton City Police Departments. Waterford's team consists of six (6) members with an additional three (3) highly trained negotiators. The team trains together monthly and has added additional training hours per month. Leadership within the SERT changed during the 2024-2025 fiscal year with some members stepping down

and others taking over the leadership roles. The Police Chiefs of the departments continue to meet on a regular basis for the benefit of the team. The SERT responds to calls such as high-risk warrants, barricaded subjects, instances needing large perimeters and any other events deemed appropriate.

COURT / EVIDENCE



**Court/Evidence
Officer
Peter Barrows**

As Officer First Class Gilbert Maffeo retired in June after 25 years of service, Officer Peter Barrows was assigned as the new WPD Court and Evidence Officer. For the past six years, Officer Maffeo built an excellent rapport and partnership between the court, forensic lab and firearms units and Officer Barrows strives to not only keep, but continue to improve on these relationships. Since the transition, Investigator Zaldivar has been assigned as the new Assistant Court and Evidence Officer.

At the end of last fiscal year, the WPD transitioned to a new records management system in NexGen. Due to this change, in April of this year the WPD became the first department working with GA10 to submit all court paperwork electronically as we work towards a true "paperless system". This has obviously been a big systematic change with the courts state-wide and the WPD was chosen by due to our track record in being considered as the "standard" in how police departments and the courthouses should work with each other. The WPD will continue to work closely with not only GA10, but also with NexGen and the Connecticut Information Sharing System (CISS) as we aim to fully commit to a paperless system in 2026.



Since taking over, Officer Barrows has primarily focused on auditing each evidentiary storage compartment while re-organizing and labeling the evidence processing and storage rooms. Officer Barrows also has created and posted guidelines on preferred practices on how each piece of evidence should be packaged, labeled and stored.

During this fiscal year, five hundred eleven (511) items were taken into evidence while three hundred seventy seven (377) items were properly disposed of. A big focus this past year was placed on clearing the impound lot of vehicles that could either be returned to their owners or turned over to the Examiner of Seized Property. After collaborating with both GA10 and the Examiner of Seized Property, six (6)

vehicles were able to be cleared from the lot. Throughout the year, eleven (11) trips were made to the lab, two (2) drugs burns were completed and three (3) firearms disposals were completed during the last year.

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.

Records Department:

The Waterford Police Department Records Division is tasked with maintaining 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. The Waterford Police Department Records Division is staffed by, Joyce Brown, Valerie Clark and Ashley Kuvent. Joyce Brown retired in June 2025 after 28 years of dedicated service to the Town of Waterford. A process began to hire her replacement but the nearly 3 decades of dedicated service and institutional knowledge will be missed.

Highlights:

The implementation of electronic ticketing and motor vehicle accident entries with our new Report Management System (Nexgen) has almost eliminated the need for records personnel to enter that data. The reduction of this responsibility has been quickly replaced with significant increases in other responsibilities, such as redaction of Body Camera footage.

Records personnel attend periodic training to stay current with FOIA laws applicable to law enforcement, as well as best practices for report management.

Records personnel have dedicated a significant amount of time updating, correcting, modifying and “cleaning up” data in our Records Management System (RMS). These efforts provide officers with the best and most accurate information when conducting investigations and completing reports.



On multiple occasions, records personnel have identified individuals having active arrest warrants requesting documents, coordinating with officers to have the subjects taken into custody. They frequently take the extra steps verifying information that may otherwise go unidentified with no interaction with sworn officers.

Several significant FOIA requests from the media and civilians were received which required thorough research to ensure accuracy. With the increased prevalence of body cameras, requests for footage has greatly increased. The time-consuming process of reviewing and redacting audio and video in compliance with FOIA laws has significantly influenced the workload of our Records staff. State laws only allow for minimum, if any charges, for requests. FOIA requests increased by 38% from the previous fiscal year.

As the court system continues to work towards adjudicating the backlog of cases, which was significantly impacted during the pandemic, the Records Division has incurred a significant increase in the amount of case erasures and court abstracts. These tasks increased year over year by 25% and 58% respectively.

The Records Department was responsible for the following transactions in fiscal year 2024/2025:

Freedom of Information Act Requests/ Including Insurance Requests	1,942
DOC/Court/DCF requests	220
Patrons assisted at lobby window	1,873
Warrant Data Entry	412
Background Checks	84
Abstracts from Court	4687
Protective Order Entries	360
Phone Calls from Public	2,170
Case Erasures	3,538
Court Requests	171
Police Tasking	856

Department Policies and Procedures: The Waterford Police Department gained Tier 3 Accreditation in March 2025, which completes the initial 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. The 2025 calendar year brought the beginning of required biennial review and updating of all department policies.

Schedule: The schedules of all 52 police officers, 5 full-time clerical staff, 14 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.



CHAPLAIN PROGRAM



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

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

Chaplain Tyrus Rock was brought on this year to fill the vacancy created by a chaplain's retirement last year. Along with our other Chaplains; Joe Parise, Chuck Tyree and Benjamin Sheldon, they can be frequently seen assisting the agency at community events such as the Tip-A-Cop, Wal-Mart Food, Toy, and Clothing Drive, Harvest Fest and Shop-With-A- Cop, 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 is able to provide them with an office at the department. This has allowed them to hold office hours to increase their presence around department members and to meet with individuals in a more private setting within the building.

TRAINING



**Training Officer
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, hosting PATH programs, Internship programs and the CSO program.



Efforts to expand the department's reach in recruiting this past year included holding an open house for interested applicants as well as making various social media posts about hiring.

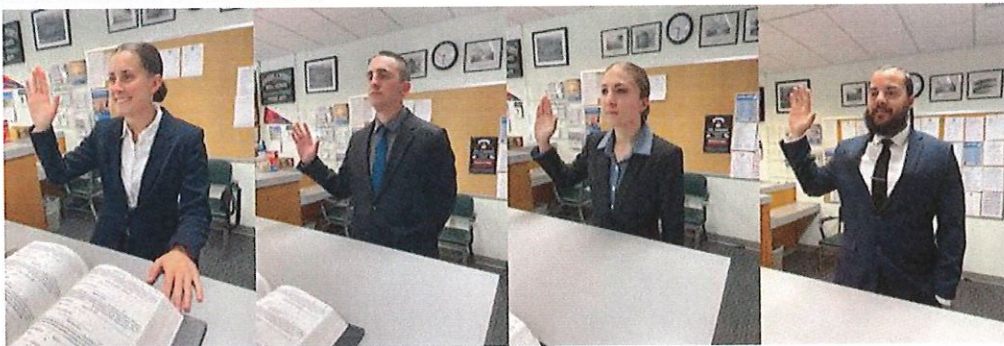
The Waterford Police Department also instituted a mentor program for new hire applicants. In this program, current officers reach out to applicants to help them through the hiring process by answering any questions they may have.

New Hires:

Officer Julie Jordan was hired as a lateral/certified police officer after serving several years with the Plainfield Police Department in Connecticut. Her current certification allowed for an abbreviated field training process and an expedited timeframe to have her working patrol on her own.

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

Officer Tyrone Mack was hired as a new Officer and attended the 386th session of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council Connecticut Police Academy. This is a residential academy located in Meriden, Connecticut and most of their training is instructed mostly by the academy staff who are retired police officers from various police departments. There are also other police officers and civilians who are experts in their fields that instruct some of the classes.



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 two officers attending college to obtain degrees this fiscal year.

Officers continue to attend specialized trainings throughout Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Alabama. 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, Regional Criminal Investigation School, 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 Body Worn Camera training, Police Mountain Bicycle Certification training, Use of Force Reporting Guidelines, Advanced Driving Under the Influence (DUI), 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 law enforcement and citizens with special needs, crime scene refresher, police canine and perimeters, railway safety, and a department of children and family (DCF) refresher 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 but three certified officers in the agency are CIT certified, and those three will attend the training once it's offered again in the fall.

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 in the fall.

TECHNOLOGY / COMMUNICATIONS



The Waterford Police Department improved their Small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS or Drone) unit with the generous donation of a "Teal 2" drone provided by the Dominion Millstone Nuclear Power Plant. The drone, which complies with upcoming legislation requiring drones to be made in the United States of America, is state of the art with top tier functionality including stabilization, GPS tracking, the ability to create automated flight plans, and the latest in thermal imaging technology. The drone consists of a small, light-weight "quad-copter" style aircraft which is affixed with a high-quality camera which includes FLIR – or thermal imaging.

The drone comes with a "Teal Air Control" or (TAC), a remote control system which runs on an Android smart tablet. This tablet is affixed with GPS containing "offline" maps of the majority of New London County and Long Island Sound. This allows drone operators to pre-program automated flights at specific altitudes to gather photographs or video of specific buildings, landmarks, or areas of concern (ie: missing person).



Currently, the drone unit falls under the supervision of Lt. David Ferland and is managed by Sergeant Zachary Caler. Current drone operators, who are required to be federally licensed and certified by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), include the two supervisors as well as Sergeant Jake Nickerson, Investigator Taylor Zaldivar, and K9 Officer Nicholas Surdo. For fiscal year 2025-2026, approval has been granted to train two new drone operators to add to the program. This allows for a quicker response in emergencies, as more officers will be available to fly the drone.

Lastly, a new "call type" in the NEXGEN CAD system "Drone Activation" has been created to track the use of the drone. The drone can be activated for a variety of uses at the discretion of the Shift Supervisor, including missing persons, apprehension of subjects in wooded or confined areas, aerial photographs for creating operations plans, street takeovers/unruly gatherings, etc... Over the past year, this drone and the older "Yuneeec" drone have been deployed for several emergencies and for practice/training flights including:

- Assisting with locating a missing swimmer in distress on the Niantic River
- Photographs of the Fargo Road Radio Tower
- Photographs of the Eugene O'Neil theater building's renovated roof
- Photographs of the Old Cohanzie School Building
- Photographs of the Boston Post Road/Willetts Ave Ext. intersection for an "Ops" plan for New London Fireworks

In May 2025, the department began digital sharing of arrest paperwork and information with the GA-10 courthouse in New London. This process through the State of Connecticut Criminal Information Sharing System (CISS) allows most information to be sent electronically, eliminating the need for an officer to drive to the court every day. Our department was selected to test the process as the first department with this courthouse, with the transition being relatively soon. Not only does the process save time for our officers, but it also ensures more accurate and timely transfer of information by reducing manual data entry.

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.

During fiscal year 2024/2025, the Waterford Police Department applied for and received State and Federal grant money. Money was either provided when a grant was approved or reimbursed at the end of the grant. The grants were used to enhance our presence on town roads and to address motor vehicle violations such as DUI, cellphone use and speeding. Grant funding also supported the department's efforts in providing training to officers, paying for not only classroom training but travel expenses. During fiscal year 2024/2025 the following grants were awarded to the police department:

Grant	Spent/Reimbursed
Drug Recognition Expert	\$14,719
DUI	\$19,394
Distracted Driving	\$13,382
Auto Theft and Violence	\$35,000



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.

For the time period covering Fiscal Year 2024/2025:

Shifts filled	827	Employment Prints	215	Peddler Prints	12
Misc. Prints	32	Pistol Permit Prints	129	Adult Arrests	292
Juvenile Arrests	2	Prisoner Meals Served	112	Fire Arms Transfers	425
Warrant Follow Ups	2634	Pistol Permits Issued	61	Walk-in Complaints	373



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



In Fiscal Year 2024/2025 the Waterford Police Department Neighborhood Watch Program continued to grow, adding several new neighborhoods in the last year. 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 members maintained a consistent level of communication via email and coordinators were encouraged to speak with their residents in their area 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, traffic and speeding.

Through email notifications, we have been able to reach large groups of people in specific neighborhoods to aid in criminal investigations shortly after an incident occurs. Not only does this potentially provide officers with crucial investigatory leads, but provides greater transparency into the actions of the police department. We have found that those who attend the neighborhood watch meetings, just want to know what is going on in their area and how they can help.

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

PEER SUPPORT / WELLNESS PROGRAM

The Waterford Police Department's Peer Support and Wellness Program continues to be a critical internal resource focused on the emotional, physical, and mental well-being of department personnel. The program provides confidential support, guidance, and connection to services for all staff, whether they are facing personal challenges or simply looking for wellness advice.

As of this reporting period, the Peer Support Team includes the following officers:

- Officer Eric Fredricks
- Officer Zachary Bushwack
- Officer Peter Barrows
- Officer Mark Devine

Officer Gil Maffeo, who was a long-standing contributor to the program, officially retired during the year and is no longer an active member of the team. His contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

Program Highlights & Wellness Initiatives:

Officer Eric Fredricks has continued to take an active leadership role in coordinating wellness efforts for the department. His initiatives during the past year include:

- Promoting and sharing information on first responder wellness events throughout the region
- Organizing meals and wellness gatherings involving department Chaplains and officers
- Providing drinks and healthy snacks to shift personnel to support stamina and morale
- Facilitating team-building events



In addition, Officer Fredricks ensures that new officers are introduced to the Peer Support Team early in their careers. These meetings allow for open discussion on key areas such as:

- Personal wellness strategies
- Physical and mental health awareness
- Financial health
- Navigating the unique challenges of work-life balance in law enforcement

Confidential Peer Support:

Confidentiality remains the foundation of the Peer Support Program. Members of the team strive to be approachable and proactive, offering a safe space for personnel to talk, share, and receive support. Team members are trained to:

- Recognize when support is needed
- Approach colleagues with care and discretion
- Stay informed of available internal and external services

Most importantly, they are willing to listen without judgment and to assist any and all personnel in need.

Goals for the Coming Year:

Looking ahead, the Peer Support and Wellness Program will focus on:

- Improving communication around wellness initiatives and available resources
- Increasing department-wide awareness of Peer Support team members
- Promoting holistic wellness, including financial planning, physical fitness and mental health

The program remains committed to fostering a supportive and resilient work environment where every member of the department feels seen, heard, and supported.

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 – Community Clean-up, Coffee with a Cop, Stuff-a-Cruiser, Tip-A-Cop, Shop with a First Responder, Torch Run, Harvest Festival Bike Helmet Giveaway, Camp Harkness Fall Fest, National Night Out, Torch Run, Penguin Plunge, and Traffic Stop Practice for Newly Licensed Drivers.



Numerous community and volunteer efforts that Waterford Officers participated in are shown on the following pages. Due to the success of our Mock Traffic Stop Event, the Connecticut Chief's Association is adopting our event's model to become a statewide program.

A few of the programs we offer are: Advance Services Program, Domestic Violence Victim Follow-ups, Youth Promise, Traffic Stop Safety Classes with Rae's Driving School, Social Media Safety Classes Senior Lunch & Learns, SRO Rides to School and Crime Prevention Classes to seniors and youths. The Waterford Police Citizen's Academy is a highlighted program with our agency. It is an 11-week program with interactive classes for community members to learn more about our agency. The classes include a Patrol Ride Along, Life at the Police Academy, Range Day, Taser Demo, K-9 Demo, and Skills Day.

Our officers also help raise money for charitable causes, including raising \$7,351 for the Connecticut Special Olympics, \$850 for Waterford Youth & Family Services, and \$2,750 for Waterford Police Community Engagement Events. The Waterford Police participated in collecting toys and clothing for Waterford families in need (Stuff A Cruiser), pet supplies for the CT Humane Society (Quaker Hill School Fundraiser), and toiletries for Waterford Senior Living Facilities (Senior Services Suds & Smiles). Due to Officer Fredricks and the Waterford Police's fundraising efforts for the CT Special Olympics, Officer Fredricks was selected to attend the National Torch Run Conference. He attended classes regarding new ways to fundraise, participated in the LETR International 5K, and interacted with officers and athletes from around the world.

The Community Engagement Officer also assists with recruitment. Officer Fredricks visited multiple colleges and high schools to talk about the process of becoming a Waterford Police Officer. The agency hosted 3 interns (two Central Connecticut State University students and one Waterford High School student). Waterford Police held a Recruitment Open House and Officer Fredricks attended multiple job fairs to speak about our agency. Some examples of those are the POST Academy Recruitment Fair, Waterford High School Job Fair, Ledyard Middle School Career Day, and Mock Interviews at Mitchell College.



Officer wellness is a focus of the Community Engagement Officer and Facility K-9 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 & Flanigan Bingo Fundraiser, Police Officer Day at Mystic Aquarium, Heroes Day at the CT Science Center, Student Visits during Police Week,

Police Chaplain Wellness Events, and Peer Support Wellness Days.





Hodges, a Facility K-9 with years of training, helps our agency improve officer wellness efforts, victim support and community engagement. Hodges has been deployed to comfort victims and their family members after traumatic incidents on many occasions. Some examples are students that are in emotional distress, juvenile victims who are testifying at court, and victims/witnesses of violent crime incidents. Hodges has interacted with officers and other first responders to strengthen their wellbeing.

Some examples of this are attending debriefs, funerals, and fundraisers for fallen first responders. He also engages with the community at numerous events such as K-9 Demos, Read to Hodges, Senior Living Visits, Police Department Tours, Wellness Fairs, and visits to various other organizations and community establishments.

Due to the success of the program, Officer Fredricks and K-9 Hodges have been requested to be part of multiple noteworthy presentations- SMILE Conference, Justice Clearing House Training, CT Youth Services Association Summit, Special Olympics Athlete Leadership Day, WFSB Channel 3 News Amazing K-9 Duos, CABLE Training Classes and WSHU Public Radio Interview.

Officer Fredricks and K-9 Hodges were recognized for their efforts with the community engagement by being named the Waterford Lion's Club Humanitarian of the Year. The Waterford Police Department received a Community Policing Award from the New England Association of Chiefs of Police as well due to our efforts in community policing.

Sergeant Firmin speaking with senior residents at Coffee with a Cop. Waterford Senior Services hosted us at the Community Center while Starbucks and Flander's Bakeshop providing refreshments



The Waterford Police Citizen's Academy 2025 Class on their last night of the 11-week program. The group consisted of Waterford residents and college students interested in a law enforcement career



Waterford Police Officers competing against Waterford Country School Staff and Students in their annual basketball game. Waterford Police won, but everyone had fun



Waterford Police interacting with a participate at the Mock Traffic Stop Event for newly licensed drivers. Four local police departments, the CT Chief's Association, and MADD partnered with us for the event

Officer Robinson partnered a Camp Dash camper at Back to School Shop with a First Responder. 10 campers were selected to buy back to school supplies at Walmart



Traffic Officer Devine and Officer Fredricks held a Safe Driving Presentation for seniors. Hartford Healthcare Center for Healthy Aging joined us for the presentation

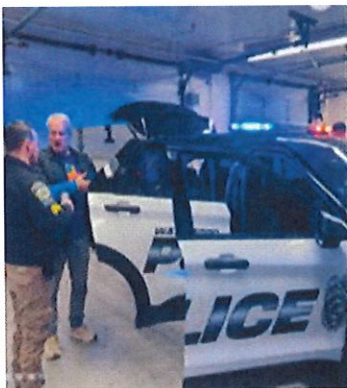


Waterford Police Officers before they start their leg of the Torch Run. This event raises awareness for the CT Special Olympics



Officer Fredricks attending the National Torch Run Conference. CT Special Olympics Staff, CT Athletes, and Officers from various police departments in CT went as well

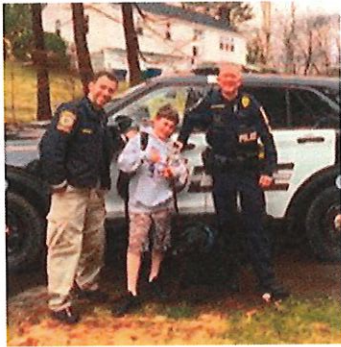
Waterford Police and Waterford Walmart participating in Stuff a Cruiser event. 12 large boxes of donations and \$850 in gift cards were collected



Sgt. Caler showing community members our police cruisers at the Waterford Police Open House. Police department tours were given to a public and a K-9 Demo was held



Officer Fredricks with Waterford Senior & Youth Services delivering collected toiletries donations. Donations were delivered to every Senior Living Facility in Waterford



Officer Fredricks and School Resource Officer Winters bringing a lucky student to school. The student won the prize at a Great Neck School PTA Fundraiser

Waterford Officers serving meals to seniors at St. Patrick's Day Luncheon. Our officers help serve meals and interact with seniors at multiple luncheons during the year



K-9 Hodges showing off his commands at Eastern CT University. Officer Fredricks and Hodges spoke to multiple classes about how to become a Waterford Police Officer



LOOKING FORWARD

The Waterford Police Department continues with several major efforts as it transitions from last fiscal year and into the 2025-2026 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. The Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Representative Town Meeting all approved the request as well, allowing our department to realize the benefits this fiscal year. One of those benefits was the creation of a three-member traffic unit, which has been able to better respond to resident complaints as well as having a greater impact on traffic safety in Waterford. This unit will continue to be an area of focus moving forward as traffic concerns continue with general operator behaviors, but also with continued development in town. The other benefit was adding a third School Resource Officer in our schools. School safety continues to be our highest priority and we continue to work closely with the Waterford Board of Education to adjust and improve school safety at all levels.

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 current and anticipated vacancies in coming months. We have adjusted our processes to remain competitive, but have not lowered our standards. Recruitment has been, and will continue to be, one of our biggest challenges in the near future.

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.

We continue to request and make upgrades within our building, which is now approximately 35 years old. In the next fiscal year request, we will seek funding for a much needed locker room renovation project. This project will not only update areas directly impacting the employees of the Waterford Police Department, but will also expand the female locker room in size, as we are near capacity for female employees. This project will double our capacity for female employees and allow this facility to be used for the foreseeable future.

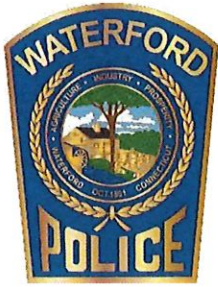


RETIREMENTS

Officer First Class Robert Edwards and Officer First Class Gil Maffeo



Congratulations to both Officer First Class Robert Edwards, Officer First Class Gil Maffeo and Evening Shift Secretary Joyce Brown (not pictured) on their retirements 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,

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

Waterford Police Commission Information Packet on e-Bikes

Meeting Date: September 8, 2025

Contents:

1. General explanation of e-bike rules and concerns authored by Attorney Tremont Sheldon
2. Office of Legislative Research - Research Report on current laws covering e-bikes
3. Connecticut General Statute 14-286 covering e-bikes
4. Office of Legislative Research – Bill Analysis on HB6882 going into effect October 1, 2025
5. Connecticut House Bill 6862
6. General explanation of Town Ordinance guidelines with respect to State law from internet
7. Connecticut General Statute 7-148 detailing scope of municipal powers regarding Town Ordinances

What are Connecticut's rules for operating e-bikes?

On Behalf of Tremont Sheldon P.C. | May 8, 2025 | Bicycle Accidents |

You've probably noticed more electric bicycles around your Connecticut neighborhood lately. E-bikes are more popular than ever, especially among teenagers who like the freedom and thrills that e-bikes provide.

E-bikes are convenient and eco-friendly, but they can also be dangerous. The combination of inexperienced young riders and motorized vehicles capable of reaching speeds up to 28 mph can lead to injuries for riders, pedestrians, and motorists.

As a parent, understanding Connecticut's e-bike regulations is important and will help keep your teen safe and avoid penalties for violating the law.

Connecticut e-bike rules

The state categorizes e-bikes into three classes:

- **Class 1:** Pedal-assist only, with the motor limited to 20 mph
 - **Class 2:** Provides power with or without pedaling, limited to 20 mph
 - **Class 3:** Provides power up to 28 mph
- Connecticut imposes several important regulations:

- Riders under 16 cannot operate Class 3 e-bikes on public roads or paths
 - Helmets are mandatory for all e-bike riders regardless of age
 - E-bikes are prohibited on sidewalks and limited-access highways
 - E-bikes must follow all standard road rules, including yielding to pedestrians
 - E-bikes must stay in the right lane or shoulder when slower than traffic
 - Towns may impose additional local regulations
- These rules also apply to other micro-mobility devices, such as e-scooters and hoverboards, which are also popular.

What's behind the concern over safety?

Hospital data on [e-bike injuries](#) shows that reported injuries skyrocketed from 3,500 in 2017 to 24,400 in 2022. Nearly half of all e-bike injuries recorded during this period occurred in 2022.

There are a few reasons that e-bikes cause injuries:

- E-bikes are heavier and faster than regular bicycles
 - Young riders often lack experience handling motorized vehicles
 - Stopping distances are greater due to both speed and weight
 - Motorists don't anticipate bikes traveling at such high speeds
- Connecticut communities are responding to the e-bike safety crisis by providing safety education programs. Your local police department, school, or bicycle coalition may offer training courses to help you or your teen ride more safely.

Careless riders face serious consequences

Reckless e-bike operation endangers both your child and others on the road. New Canaan police report increasing complaints about juveniles speeding on e-bikes and nearly colliding with automobiles. These aren't just minor infractions. They can lead to life-threatening injuries.

Violators of Connecticut's e-bike laws face tickets with fines of \$117, regardless of age. More importantly, the physical consequences can be severe, with trauma surgeons reporting serious head injuries, fractures, and spinal damage from [e-bike accidents](#).

Before handing over the keys to an e-bike, ensure your teen thoroughly understands traffic laws and safe riding practices. Consider practicing together in low-traffic areas before allowing independent riding. Your guidance could prevent a serious accident and help make sure your child enjoys this new mode of transportation safely.

Electric Bicycle and Motor-Driven Cycle Laws

By: Heather Poole, Principal Analyst

September 27, 2024 | 2024-R-0154

Issue

Provide an overview of the laws governing electric bicycles (e-bikes) and motor-driven cycles.

Summary

E-bikes and motor-driven cycles (e.g., mopeds) are both lower-speed vehicles that may be legally operated in Connecticut. Although in some cases similar in appearance, they are separate vehicle classifications under state law and subject to different laws. An e-bike is a bicycle that has operable foot pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts and falls into one of three classifications. A motor-driven cycle is a motorcycle, scooter, or bicycle with a motor that has a (1) seat at least 26 inches high and (2) motor displacing less than 50 cubic centimeters (cc).

E-bikes are treated similarly to bicycles under state law. They do not need to be registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and riders do not need a driver's license. The same operating rules that apply to bicycles generally apply to e-bikes, but certain e-bikes are not permitted on bicycle or multi-use trails or paths. Like bicycles, e-bikes must have and display lights and reflectors at certain times and under certain conditions. But unlike bicycles, all e-bike riders are required to wear helmets, and state law imposes additional safety equipment requirements on e-bike manufacturers. The law expressly authorizes municipalities to regulate bicycle and e-bike use within their jurisdictions, as long as any enacted ordinance is consistent with state law and applicable regulations.

Unlike e-bike riders, motor-driven cycle riders must hold a driver's license (but not a motorcycle endorsement). However, these vehicles do not need to be registered with DMV. Motor-driven cycle riders are generally subject to the same rules of the road as motor vehicles, but they are required to stay in the right lane or on the shoulder on roads with speed limits that are higher than the cycle's top speed. Motor-driven cycles must have and display lights at certain times and under certain conditions, but riders do not need to wear helmets unless they are under age 18.

Electric Bicycles

E-bike Defined

By law, an electric bicycle is a bicycle that (1) has operable foot pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts and (2) qualifies as a class 1, class 2, or class 3 bicycle (see table 1 below) ([CGS § 14-1](#)). These classifications were developed by the [People for Bikes Coalition](#) and, according to the coalition, have been adopted in 41 states as of July 2023.

It is unclear how an e-bike with a motor of 750 watts or more would be classified under Connecticut law. It appears that vehicles with electric motors do not fall under the definition of motor-driven cycle (see below).

Table 1: E-Bike Classes

Class	Motor Engagement	Motor Disengagement	Top Speed
Class 1	Only while the rider uses the foot pedals	When the rider stops pedaling or when it hits the top speed	20 mph
Class 2	While the rider pedals or with a throttle (i.e., they may be powered exclusively by the motor)	When the brakes are applied or when it hits the top speed	20 mph
Class 3	Only while the rider uses the foot pedals	When the rider stops pedaling or when it hits the top speed	28 mph

Source: [CGS § 14-1](#)

Credentials Needed to Operate

E-bike riders do not need a driver's license, and e-bikes are not registered with DMV. But state law prohibits anyone under age 16 from riding a class 3 e-bike unless they are riding as a passenger on an e-bike designed to carry one ([CGS § 14-289k\(e\)](#)). The law also specifically states that municipalities may require annual licensing for bicycles and e-bikes and registration of any sale or change of ownership of a bicycle or e-bike ([CGS § 14-289](#)).

Safety Equipment

State law imposes some equipment requirements on e-bike manufacturers. Specifically, e-bike manufacturers who offer e-bikes for sale in Connecticut must:

1. ensure that the e-bikes comply with all relevant federal safety requirements for bicycles (i.e., [16 C.F.R. § 1512](#));
2. attach a clearly visible label to each e-bike that indicates the bike's classification, maximum speed, and motor wattage;
3. equip each class 3 e-bike with a speedometer that displays the bike's speed in miles per hour; and
4. ensure that the motor disengages as the law requires for the bike's classification ([CGS § 14-289I](#)).

E-bikes must also have lights and reflectors to increase their visibility to other vehicles. The law, which also applies to bicycles, requires e-bikes to have the following:

1. a forward-facing white light that is visible from at least 500 feet away in clear conditions, which must be displayed during the same times and conditions that motor vehicles must turn on their headlights (e.g., at any time between a half hour after sunset and a half hour before sunrise);
2. a reflector or reflecting tail light lens attached to the rear that is visible from at least 600 feet away when illuminated by a motor vehicle's headlights; and
3. reflective material placed in a way and large and reflective enough to be similarly visible from both sides of the e-bike ([CGS § 14-288](#)).

E-bike riders who fail to comply with the law's light and reflector requirements commit an infraction, punishable by a \$50 fine plus surcharges (\$92 total, see [infractions schedule](#)). (An infraction is not a crime, and violators can pay the fine by mail or online through the Centralized Infractions Bureau without making a court appearance.) There is no specific penalty for manufacturers who do not adhere to the equipment requirements, but they may be subject to the general penalty for vehicle highway use violations (i.e., Chapter 248) that are not designated an infraction or do not have a specified penalty (i.e., a fine of up to \$50, [CGS § 14-296](#)).

Helmets

Unlike with bicycles, e-bike riders must wear a helmet regardless of their age. The law specifically prohibits riding or sitting as a passenger on an e-bike without protective headgear meeting specified standards. For bicycles, only children under age 16 are required to wear a helmet ([CGS](#)

[§§ 14-289k & 14-286d](#)). E-bike riders ages 16 and older who do not wear helmets may be subject to the general penalty for vehicle highway use violations discussed above. For those under age 16, failing to wear a helmet is not a violation or an offense, but a police officer may issue a verbal warning to the child's parent or guardian ([CGS § 14-286d \(b\)&\(c\)](#)).

Operating Rules

State law gives e-bike riders the same duties and privileges as bicycle riders and allows e-bikes to be ridden where bicycles are permitted (with certain exceptions, see below) ([CGS §14-289k\(a\) &\(b\)](#)). Generally, the law treats bicycles like motor vehicles when traveling on the road and like pedestrians when they travel on sidewalks or crosswalks, but it also sets several rules specific to bicycle operation. While on the road, bicycle and e-bike riders must follow traffic rules applicable to motor vehicles, except (1) those which, by their nature, cannot apply and (2) in cases where the Office of the State Traffic Administration (OSTA) or a local traffic authority has set different regulations ([CGS §§ 14-286a](#)).

Bicycle-Specific Rules. In addition to these general rules of the road, bicycle and e-bike riders must follow certain bicycle-specific operating rules, including the following:

1. When going slower than the normal speed of traffic, a bicycle or e-bike rider must ride as close to the right side of the road as is safe, in the person's judgement, except under specific circumstances (e.g., passing another vehicle, turning left, or avoiding hazards).
2. When traveling on a sidewalk or crosswalk, bicycle and e-bike riders must yield the right of way to any pedestrian and give an audible signal within a reasonable distance before passing the pedestrian.
3. Bicycles and e-bikes generally may not ride more than two abreast, and those doing so may not impede the normal movement of traffic and must ride within a single lane (if the road has lanes).
4. Riders may not carry (1) passengers on bicycles and e-bikes that are not equipped or designed to carry passengers or (2) packages or other articles that prevent the rider from using both hands for operating the bicycle or e-bike ([CGS §§ 14-286 & -286b](#)).

Failure to follow these laws is an infraction, punishable by a \$50 fine plus surcharges (\$92 total for most violations, see [infractions schedule](#)).

Location Restrictions and Municipal Regulation. Although state law broadly authorizes e-bikes to travel where bicycles are allowed, it limits e-bike use on bicycle and multi-use trails and paths and allows municipalities to regulate where e-bikes may be ridden within their jurisdictions.

State law expressly grants municipalities broad authority to enact ordinances governing bicycle and e-bike use and imposing appropriate penalties, as long as they are consistent with state laws and any OSTA regulations ([CGS § 14-289](#)). It also explicitly prohibits people from riding a bicycle or an e-bike on any sidewalk or crosswalk where doing so is prohibited by a local ordinance ([CGS § 14-286\(a\)](#)). Some towns have enacted ordinances restricting bicycle use on certain sidewalks under their jurisdiction (e.g., [Greenwich](#) and [West Hartford](#)); presumably, these restrictions extend to e-bikes.

Regarding trails and paths, state law prohibits riding a class 3 e-bike on any bicycle or multi-use trail or path. It also prohibits class 1 or 2 e-bike operation on trails or paths designated for nonmotorized traffic with a natural surface tread and no added surface materials, but it allows municipalities to allow this use on trails under their jurisdiction by ordinance ([CGS § 14-289k\(c\) & \(d\)](#)). There is no specific penalty for riding e-bikes on trails where they are prohibited, but riders may be subject to the general penalty for vehicle highway use violations (i.e., Chapter 248) that are not designated an infraction or do not have a specified penalty (i.e., a fine of up to \$50, [CGS § 14-296](#)).

Motor-Driven Cycles

Motor-Driven Cycle Defined

A motor-driven cycle is any of the following with a seat at least 26 inches high and a motor displacing less than 50 cubic centimeters (cc): a (1) motorcycle, (2) motor scooter, or (3) bicycle with attached motor, except electric bicycles ([CGS § 14-1](#)). Because cubic centimeter is a measurement of cylinder volume in an internal combustion engine, it appears that any electric powered vehicle would not be considered a motor-driven cycle.

Two- and three-wheeled vehicles with a motor displacing less than 50 cc but a seat height under 26 inches are considered “mini-motorcycles” under state law and may not be operated on public roads or sidewalks ([CGS § 14-289j](#)).

Credentials Needed to Operate

A person must hold a driver's license (or a special permit) to operate a motor-driven cycle, but they do not need to register it with DMV. State law requires all “motor vehicles” to be registered with DMV, but it exempts motor-driven cycles from the definition of motor vehicle that applies to the vehicle registration laws ([CGS §§ 14-286\(b\) & 14-1](#)). (See OLR Report [2020-R-0257](#) for more detail on motor-driven cycle registration.)

Driving a motor-driven cycle without a driver's license is an infraction, punishable by a \$50 fine plus surcharges (\$117 total, see [infractions schedule](#)).

Helmets and Safety Equipment

As is the case with motorcycles, Connecticut does not have a universal helmet requirement for motor-driven cycle riders. However, motor-driven cycle riders and passengers under age 18 must wear a helmet that meets federal standards ([CGS § 14-289g](#)). Failure to do so is an infraction, punishable by a \$90 fine plus surcharges (\$136 total, see [infractions schedule](#)).

It appears that motor-driven cycles are subject to the general lighting requirements for vehicles (which apply to all vehicles to which a more specific statute does not apply). Under this law, vehicles must have (1) a forward-facing white light that is visible from at least 1,000 feet away and (2) two rear-facing red lights visible from 1,000 feet away or, alternatively, one such red light and two red reflectors visible from all distances between 600 and 100 feet away when illuminated by the upper beams of head lamps ([CGS § 14-96n](#)). Motor-driven cycle riders must use these lights during the times and conditions that motor vehicles must display their headlights ([CGS § 14-96a](#)). People who fail to have these lights or use them as required commit an infraction, punishable by a \$50 fine plus surcharges (\$92 total, see [infractions schedule](#)).

Operating Rules

Motor-driven cycles are generally subject to the same rules of the road as other motor vehicles. Specific laws that apply to them include the following:

1. Motor-driven cycles may not be operated on sidewalks, limited access highways, or turnpikes and
2. When a road's speed limit is higher than the top speed of the motor-driven cycle, a person must ride only in the right lane or on a useable shoulder on the right side of the road, except when preparing to turn left ([CGS § 14-286](#)).

Violations of the specific motor-driven cycle laws are infractions, punishable by a \$50 fine plus surcharges (\$117 total, see [infractions schedule](#)).

HP:ms

Sec. 14-286b. Operation of bicycles, electric bicycles and electric foot scooters on roadways.

Prohibitions re attaching to moving vehicle. Penalty. (a) Any person operating a bicycle, an electric bicycle or an electric foot scooter upon a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic shall ride as close to the right side of the roadway as is safe, as judged by such person, except when:

- (1) Overtaking or passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction;
 - (2) Preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway;
 - (3) Reasonably necessary to avoid conditions, including, but not limited to, fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards or lanes that are too narrow for a bicycle, an electric bicycle or an electric foot scooter and a motor vehicle to travel safely side by side within such lanes;
 - (4) Approaching an intersection where right turns are permitted and there is a dedicated right turn lane, in which case a person operating a bicycle, an electric bicycle or an electric foot scooter may ride on the left-hand side of such dedicated lane, even if such person does not intend to turn right;
 - (5) Riding on a roadway designated for one-way traffic, when the person operating a bicycle, an electric bicycle or an electric foot scooter may ride as near to the left-hand curb or edge of such roadway as judged safe by such person; or
 - (6) Riding on parts of roadways separated for the exclusive use of bicycles, electric bicycles or electric foot scooters, including, but not limited to, contra-flow bicycle lanes, left-handed cycle tracks or bicycle lanes on one-way streets and two-way cycle tracks or bicycle lanes.
- (b) Persons riding bicycles, electric bicycles or electric foot scooters upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles, electric bicycles or electric foot scooters. Persons riding two abreast, as provided in this subsection, shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic, and, on a laned roadway, shall ride within a single lane.
- (c) No person riding upon any bicycle, electric bicycle, motor-driven cycle, roller skates, skis, sled, skateboard, coaster, toy vehicle, electric foot scooter or any other vehicle not designed or intended to be towed shall attach the same or such person to any vehicle moving or about to move on a public roadway nor shall the operator of such vehicle knowingly permit any person riding a bicycle, electric bicycle, motor-driven cycle, roller skates, skis, skateboard, coaster, sled, toy vehicle, electric foot scooter or any other vehicle not designed or intended to be towed to attach the same or such person to such vehicle so operated or about to be operated, provided any person operating a bicycle solely by foot or hand power may attach a bicycle trailer or semitrailer thereto, provided such trailer or semitrailer is designed for such attachment.
- (d) No person operating a bicycle, as defined in section [14-286](#), an electric bicycle or an electric foot scooter upon a roadway, path or part of roadway set aside for exclusive use of bicycles, electric bicycles or electric foot scooters shall carry on such bicycle, electric bicycle or electric foot scooter a passenger unless such bicycle, electric bicycle or electric foot scooter is equipped or designed to carry passengers, provided any person who has attained the age of eighteen years may carry any child while such person is operating a bicycle propelled solely by foot or hand power, provided such child is securely attached to

his or her person by means of a back pack, sling or other similar device. The term "child", as used in this subsection, means any person who has not attained the age of four years.

(e) No person operating a bicycle, as defined in section [14-286](#), an electric bicycle or an electric foot scooter shall carry any package, bundle or other article which prevents such person from using both hands in the operation of such bicycle, electric bicycle or electric foot scooter. Each person operating such bicycle, electric bicycle or electric foot scooter shall keep at least one hand on the handlebars thereof when such bicycle, electric bicycle or electric foot scooter is in motion.

(f) Violation of any provision of this section shall be an infraction.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6862*****AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRIC SCOOTERS, ELECTRIC BICYCLES AND MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes various changes related to the laws governing the manufacture, sale, and use of electric bicycles (e-bikes) and the legal classification of lower speed one-, two-, and three-wheeled vehicles.

Regarding e-bikes, among other things, the bill:

1. generally requires anyone who modifies an e-bike to change its motor-powered speed capability or motor engagement to modify the required label appropriately,
2. prohibits sellers from representing vehicles as e-bikes if they do not meet state law's definition of an e-bike and requires them to disclose the vehicle's likely legal classification to customers,
3. broadly permits class 1 e-bikes on bicycle or multi-use trails or paths, and
4. imposes penalties for several existing e-bike laws.

The bill modifies definitions applicable to lower speed one-, two-, and three-wheeled vehicles and clarifies the treatment of electric powered vehicles in these categories by:

1. replacing the definition of "electric foot scooter" with one for "electric scooter" and broadening the definition to also include certain electric scooters designed to be ridden sitting down (e.g., by increasing the scooter weight limit to 100 pounds) and
2. expanding the "motor-driven cycle" definition to include (a) motorized unicycles and (b) vehicles with an electric or hybrid

motor, if the motor has a capacity under 50 cubic centimeters (cc), has a wattage less than 3,700 watts, or produces five-brake horsepower or less.

The bill also makes numerous technical and conforming changes, principally related to the electric scooter definition (§§ 6-25).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

§§ 1 & 2 — E-BIKE MODIFICATION AND OUT-OF-CLASS VEHICLES

E-Bike Classification

Under existing law and unchanged by the bill, an e-bike is a bicycle that (1) has operable foot pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts and (2) qualifies as a class 1, class 2, or class 3 bicycle (see Table below).

Table: E-bike Classes

<i>Class</i>	<i>Motor Engagement</i>	<i>Motor Disengagement</i>	<i>Top Speed</i>
Class 1	Only while the rider uses the foot pedals	When the rider stops pedaling or when it hits the top speed	20 mph
Class 2	While the rider pedals or with a throttle (i.e. they may be powered exclusively by the motor)	When the brakes are applied or when it hits the top speed	20 mph
Class 3	Only while the rider uses the foot pedals	When the rider stops pedaling or when it hits the top speed	28 mph

Vehicles That Are Not E-bikes Under the Law

The bill specifies that a vehicle with an electric motor for propulsion is not considered an e-bike under the law if it (1) does not meet the definition of an e-bike as sold or offered for sale or (2) has one or multiple operating modes, a throttle, and the capability to exceed 20 mph on motor power alone in any mode when the throttle is engaged.

It also specifies that these vehicles are not e-bikes under the law if they have been configured or modified by someone (or are designed, manufactured, or intended by the manufacturer, importer, or seller to be configured or modified) to not meet existing law's e-bike definition

due to:

1. the inclusion of a mechanical switch or button;
2. a change in the software controlling the electric drive system;
3. the use of a mobile application; or
4. any other means intended by a person, manufacturer, importer, or seller to modify the vehicle, or allow it to be modified, to no longer meet the definition.

Labeling

Existing law requires manufacturers of e-bikes offered for sale in Connecticut to, among other things, (1) attach a label to each e-bike that states the bike's classification, maximum speed, and motor wattage, and (2) ensure that the motor disengages according to the specifications of its classification. The bill specifies that the label must be in at least nine-point type size.

Additionally, the bill generally requires anyone who modifies an e-bike to change its motor-powered speed capability or motor engagement to modify the label appropriately. Specifically, if the e-bike no longer meets the definition of an e-bike, the person must remove the label. If the modification changes the e-bike's classification, the person must replace the label with one that accounts for the modification and has the new applicable classification, including its maximum speed and motor wattage.

The bill imposes a penalty for violating the labeling requirements of (1) up to \$100 for a first offense and (2) \$100 to \$300 for a subsequent offense.

Prohibition on Misrepresentation and Required Disclosures

The bill prohibits sellers of vehicles that have an electric motor but are not considered an "e-bike" under the law (see above) from (1) selling them as e-bikes or (2) offering them for sale if they are labeled as class 1, class 2, or class 3 e-bikes.

The bill also requires sellers of these vehicles who describe them as an "electric bicycle," "electric bike," "e-bike," or other similar term, before the time of sale, to provide consumers with a clear and conspicuous written statement:

1. disclosing the name or classification of the vehicle under state law, or the most likely classification after an intended or anticipated modification described above (see § 2(a)(3)), and
2. stating that (a) the vehicle does not meet the law's definition of "e-bike," (b) it is subject to applicable motor vehicle laws if used on public roads or lands, and (c) insurance policies may not cover crashes involving the vehicle and owners should contact their insurance company to determine coverage.

Under the bill, sellers must also include this information in any digital or print advertisements for these vehicles (e.g., social media, e-mail, newspapers, magazines, brochures, and posters).

The bill makes it an unfair or deceptive trade practice under the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA, see BACKGROUND) for sellers of vehicles that have an electric motor but are not considered e-bikes to violate the bill's provisions prohibiting misrepresenting vehicles as e-bikes and requiring various disclosures.

§§ 1 & 3 — CHANGES TO EXISTING E-BIKE LAWS

E-bikes on Trails

The bill broadly permits the use of class 1 e-bikes on bicycle or multi-use trails or paths. While e-bikes may generally be ridden wherever regular bicycles are allowed, current law prohibits the use of both class 1 and 2 e-bikes on bicycle and certain multi-use trails or paths, except where permitted by local ordinance. This includes multi-use trails and paths designated for non-motorized traffic and with a natural surface tread made by clearing and grading the soil and without added surfacing materials. Existing law, unchanged by the bill, prohibits class 3 e-bikes from all bicycle and multi-use trails or paths.

5



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 6862

LCO No. 4339



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRIC SCOOTERS, ELECTRIC BICYCLES
AND MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. Section 14-289l of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):
- 3 [On and after January 1, 2019, any] (a) Any manufacturer of electric
4 bicycles offered for sale in this state shall (1) ensure that such electric
5 bicycles comply with all relevant requirements for bicycles established
6 pursuant to 16 CFR 1512, as amended from time to time; (2) affix a
7 conspicuous label to each electric bicycle that contains the classification,
8 maximum speed and motor wattage of such electric bicycle in print not
9 smaller than nine-point type size; (3) equip each class 3 electric bicycle
10 with a speedometer that displays the speed at which such class 3 electric
11 bicycle is traveling in miles per hour; and (4) ensure that (A) the motor
12 of each class 1 electric bicycle disengages when the rider of such electric
13 bicycle stops pedaling or such electric bicycle reaches the speed of
14 twenty miles per hour, (B) the motor of each class 2 electric bicycle
15 disengages when the brakes of such electric bicycle are applied or such

16 electric bicycle reaches the speed of twenty miles per hour, and (C) the
17 motor of each class 3 electric bicycle disengages when the rider of such
18 electric bicycle stops pedaling or such electric bicycle reaches the speed
19 of twenty-eight miles per hour.

20 (b) No person shall modify an electric bicycle to change the motor-
21 powered speed capability or motor engagement in such a way that the
22 electric bicycle (1) no longer meets the definition of an electric bicycle,
23 unless such person removes the label affixed in accordance with
24 subsection (a) of this section, or (2) no longer meets the classification of
25 such electric bicycle as indicated on the label affixed in accordance with
26 subsection (a) of this section, unless such person replaces such label with
27 a new label that accounts for the modification and contains the current
28 classification, maximum speed and motor wattage of the electric bicycle.

29 (c) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be
30 fined not more than one hundred dollars for the first offense, and not
31 less than one hundred dollars or more than three hundred dollars for
32 each subsequent offense.

33 **Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2025)** (a) A vehicle equipped with
34 an electric motor for propulsion is not an electric bicycle if such vehicle
35 (1) does not meet the definition of an electric bicycle as sold or offered
36 for sale, (2) has one or more operating modes, is equipped with a throttle
37 and is capable of exceeding twenty miles per hour on motorized
38 propulsion alone in any mode when the throttle is engaged, or (3) has
39 been configured or modified by any person or is designed,
40 manufactured or intended by the manufacturer, importer or seller to be
41 configured or modified to not meet the definition of an electric bicycle
42 due to (A) the inclusion of a mechanical switch or button, (B) a
43 modification or change in the software controlling the electric drive
44 system, (C) the use of a mobile application, or (D) any other means
45 intended by the person, manufacturer, importer or seller to modify the
46 vehicle or allow the vehicle to be modified to no longer meet the
47 definition of an electric bicycle.

48 (b) No seller of a vehicle equipped with an electric motor for
49 propulsion that is not an electric bicycle may sell such vehicle as an
50 electric bicycle or offer such vehicle for sale if it is labeled as a class 1
51 electric bicycle, class 2 electric bicycle or class 3 electric bicycle.

52 (c) Prior to the time of sale and in any digital or print advertisements,
53 including, but not limited to, social media, electronic mail
54 communications, newspapers, magazines and brochures and on
55 posters, a seller of a vehicle equipped with an electric motor for
56 propulsion who describes such vehicle as an "electric bicycle", "electric
57 bike", "e-bike" or other similar term shall provide a written statement to
58 the consumer (1) disclosing the name or classification of the vehicle
59 under state law or the most likely classification of the vehicle under state
60 law following an intended or anticipated modification to the vehicle
61 described in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of subdivision (3) of
62 subsection (a) of this section, and (2) including the following: "This
63 vehicle is not an "electric bicycle" as defined in section 14-1 of the
64 Connecticut General Statutes. It is instead a type of motor vehicle and
65 subject to applicable motor vehicle laws if used on public roads or public
66 lands. Your insurance policies might not provide coverage for crashes
67 involving the use of this vehicle. To determine coverage, you should
68 contact your insurance company or agent." Such written statement shall
69 be provided clearly and conspicuously and in a manner designed to
70 attract the attention of a consumer.

71 (d) A violation of any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed
72 an unfair or deceptive trade practice under chapter 735a of the general
73 statutes.

74 Sec. 3. Section 14-289k of the general statutes is repealed and the
75 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

76 (a) Except as provided in this section, the rider of an electric bicycle
77 shall be afforded the same rights and privileges and subject to the same
78 duties as the rider of a bicycle.

79 (b) Except as provided in this section or where prohibited by local
80 ordinance, an electric bicycle may be ridden where bicycles are
81 permitted to travel.

82 (c) A class 3 electric bicycle shall not be ridden on a bicycle trail or
83 path or multiuse trail or path.

84 (d) Except where permitted by local ordinance, a class 1 or class 2
85 electric bicycle shall not be ridden on a bicycle trail or path or multiuse
86 trail or path designated for nonmotorized traffic if such trail or path has
87 a natural surface tread made by clearing and grading the soil and no
88 surfacing materials have been added.

89 (e) No person under the age of sixteen shall ride a class 3 electric
90 bicycle. Any person under the age of sixteen may sit as a passenger on
91 a class 3 electric bicycle provided such bicycle is equipped or designed
92 to carry a passenger.

93 (f) No person shall ride or sit as a passenger on an electric bicycle
94 unless such person is wearing protective headgear that conforms to the
95 minimum specifications established for bicycle helmets by the American
96 National Standards Institute, the United States Consumer Product
97 Safety Commission, the American Society for Testing and Materials or
98 the Snell Memorial Foundation's Standard for Protective Headgear for
99 Use in Bicycling, as amended from time to time.

100 (g) The provisions of subsections (b), (c) and (d) of this section shall
101 not apply to any police officer, firefighter or emergency medical
102 technician engaged in the performance of the duties of such officer,
103 firefighter or technician.

104 (h) Violation of any provision of this section shall be an infraction.

105 Sec. 4. Subdivision (32) of section 14-1 of the general statutes is
106 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
107 *1, 2025*):

108 (32) ["Electric foot scooter"] "Electric scooter" means a device (A) that
 109 weighs not more than [seventy-five] one hundred pounds, (B) that has
 110 two or three wheels [,] and handlebars, [and a floorboard that can be
 111 stood upon while riding,] (C) that is designed to be ridden on in an
 112 upright or seated position, (D) that is powered by an electric motor and
 113 human power, and [(D)] (E) whose maximum speed, with or without
 114 human propulsion on a paved level surface, is not more than twenty
 115 miles per hour, "Electric scooter" does not include an electric bicycle;

116 Sec. 5. Subdivision (59) of section 14-1 of the general statutes is
 117 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
 118 *1, 2025*):

119 (59) "Motor-driven cycle" means any of the following vehicles that
 120 have a seat height of not less than twenty-six inches and a gasoline,
 121 electric or hybrid motor having a capacity of less than fifty cubic
 122 centimeters piston displacement or a wattage not exceeding one
 123 thousand five hundred watts: (A) A motorcycle, other than an autocycle;
 124 (B) a motor scooter, except an electric scooter; or (C) a bicycle with
 125 attached motor, except an electric bicycle;

126 Sec. 6. Subdivision (61) of section 14-1 of the general statutes is
 127 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
 128 *1, 2025*):

129 (61) "Motorcycle" means (A) an autocycle, as defined in this section,
 130 or (B) a motor vehicle, with or without a side car, that has (i) not more
 131 than three wheels in contact with the ground, (ii) a saddle or seat which
 132 the rider straddles or a platform on which the rider stands, and (iii)
 133 handlebars with which the rider controls the movement of the vehicle.
 134 "Motorcycle" does not include a motor-driven cycle, an electric bicycle
 135 or an electric [foot] scooter;

136 Sec. 7. Subsection (c) of section 14-164c of the general statutes is
 137 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
 138 *1, 2025*):

139 (c) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
 140 chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section. Such regulations
 141 shall include provision for a periodic inspection of air pollution control
 142 equipment and compliance with or waiver of exhaust emission
 143 standards or compliance with or waiver of on-board diagnostic
 144 standards or other standards defined by the Commissioner of Energy
 145 and Environmental Protection and approved by the Administrator of
 146 the United States Environmental Protection Agency, compliance with or
 147 waiver of, air pollution control system integrity standards defined by
 148 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection and
 149 compliance with or waiver of purge system standards defined by the
 150 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection. Such
 151 regulations may provide for an inspection procedure using an on-board
 152 diagnostic information system for all 1996 model year and newer motor
 153 vehicles. Such regulations shall apply to all motor vehicles registered or
 154 which will be registered in this state, and to all motor vehicles sold by a
 155 dealer licensed in this state as required by subsection (n) of this section,
 156 except: (1) Vehicles having a gross weight of more than ten thousand
 157 pounds; (2) vehicles powered by electricity; (3) bicycles with motors
 158 attached; (4) motorcycles; (5) vehicles operating with a temporary
 159 registration; (6) vehicles manufactured twenty-five or more years ago;
 160 (7) new vehicles at the time of initial registration; (8) vehicles registered
 161 but not designed primarily for highway use; (9) farm vehicles, as
 162 defined in subsection (q) of section 14-49; (10) diesel-powered type II
 163 school buses; (11) a vehicle operated by a licensed dealer or repairer
 164 either to or from a location of the purchase or sale of such vehicle or for
 165 the purpose of obtaining an official emissions or safety inspection; (12)
 166 vehicles that have met the inspection requirements of section 14-103a
 167 and are registered by the commissioner as composite vehicles; (13)
 168 electric bicycles, as defined in section 14-1, as amended by this act; or
 169 (14) electric [foot] scooters, as defined in section 14-1, as amended by
 170 this act. On and after July 1, 2002, such regulations shall exempt from
 171 the periodic inspection requirement any vehicle four or less model years
 172 of age, beginning with model year 2003 and the previous three model

173 years, provided that such exemption shall lapse upon a finding by the
 174 Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency or
 175 by the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation that
 176 such exemption causes the state to violate applicable federal
 177 environmental or transportation planning requirements.
 178 Notwithstanding any provisions of this subsection, the commissioner
 179 may require an initial emissions inspection and compliance or waiver
 180 prior to registration of a new motor vehicle. If the Commissioner of
 181 Energy and Environmental Protection finds that it is necessary to
 182 inspect motor vehicles which are exempt under subdivision (1) or (4) of
 183 this subsection, or motor vehicles that are four or less model years of age
 184 in order to achieve compliance with federal law concerning emission
 185 reduction requirements, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may
 186 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
 187 require the inspection of motorcycles, designated motor vehicles having
 188 a gross weight of more than ten thousand pounds or motor vehicles four
 189 or less model years of age.

190 Sec. 8. Subdivision (1) of section 14-212 of the general statutes is
 191 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
 192 *1, 2025*):

193 (1) The following terms shall be construed as they are defined in
 194 section 14-1, as amended by this act: "Agricultural tractor", "authorized
 195 emergency vehicle", "class 1 electric bicycle", "class 2 electric bicycle",
 196 "class 3 electric bicycle", "commissioner", "driver", "electric bicycle",
 197 ["electric foot scooter"] "electric scooter", "fuels", "gross weight", "head
 198 lamp", "high-mileage vehicle", "highway", "light weight", "limited access
 199 highway", "maintenance vehicle", "motor bus", "motorcycle", "motor
 200 vehicle registration", "nonresident", "nonskid device", "number plate",
 201 "officer", "operator", "owner", "passenger motor vehicle", "passenger and
 202 commercial motor vehicle", "person", "pneumatic tires", "pole trailer",
 203 "registration", "registration number", "second offense", "semitrailer",
 204 "shoulder", "solid tires", "stop", "subsequent offense", "tail lamp", "tank
 205 vehicle", "tractor", "tractor-trailer unit", "trailer", "truck" and "vanpool"

206 vehicle";

207 Sec. 9. Section 14-212c of the general statutes is repealed and the
208 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

209 A surcharge shall be imposed equivalent to one hundred per cent of
210 the fine established or imposed for a violation of subsection (e) of section
211 14-242, section 14-245, 14-246a, 14-247 or 14-247a for such violation
212 when the driver of a vehicle fails to grant or yield the right-of-way to a
213 person riding a bicycle, as defined in section 14-286, as amended by this
214 act, an electric bicycle or an electric [foot] scooter.

215 Sec. 10. Subsection (a) of section 14-230 of the general statutes is
216 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
217 *1, 2025*):

218 (a) Upon all highways, each vehicle, other than a vehicle described in
219 subsection (c) of this section, shall be driven upon the right, except (1)
220 when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same
221 direction, (2) when overtaking and passing pedestrians, parked or
222 standing vehicles, animals, bicycles, electric bicycles, mopeds, scooters,
223 electric [foot] scooters, vehicles moving at a slow speed, as defined in
224 section 14-220, or obstructions on the right side of the highway, (3) when
225 the right side of a highway is closed to traffic while under construction
226 or repair, (4) on a highway divided into three or more marked lanes for
227 traffic, or (5) on a highway designated and signposted for one-way
228 traffic.

229 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 14-232 of the general statutes is
230 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
231 *1, 2025*):

232 (a) Except as provided in sections 14-233 and 14-234, as amended by
233 this act, (1) the driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding
234 in the same direction shall pass to the left thereof at a safe distance and
235 shall not again drive to the right side of the highway until safely clear of

236 the overtaken vehicle; and (2) the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall
 237 give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle and shall not
 238 increase the speed of his or her vehicle until completely passed by the
 239 overtaking vehicle. For the purposes of this subsection, "safe distance"
 240 means not less than three feet when the driver of a vehicle overtakes and
 241 passes (A) a person riding a bicycle, an electric bicycle or an electric
 242 [foot] scooter, (B) a commercial motor vehicle equipped with a garbage
 243 compactor, a detachable container or a curbside recycling body, (C) a
 244 tank vehicle, (D) a vehicle authorized by the United States government
 245 to carry mail, (E) a vehicle operated by an express delivery carrier, or (F)
 246 an agricultural tractor.

247 Sec. 12. Subsection (b) of section 14-234 of the general statutes is
 248 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
 249 *1, 2025*):

250 (b) The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass, in a marked no-
 251 passing zone, pedestrians, parked or standing vehicles, animals,
 252 bicycles, electric bicycles, mopeds, scooters, electric [foot] scooters,
 253 vehicles moving at a slow speed, as defined in section 14-220, or
 254 obstructions on the right side of the highway, as listed in subdivision (2)
 255 of subsection (a) of section 14-230, as amended by this act, provided such
 256 overtaking and passing may be conducted safely, with adequate sight
 257 distance and without interfering with oncoming traffic or endangering
 258 traffic, as defined in section 14-297, as amended by this act.

259 Sec. 13. Subsection (f) of section 14-242 of the general statutes is
 260 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
 261 *1, 2025*):

262 (f) No person operating a vehicle who overtakes and passes a person
 263 riding a bicycle, an electric bicycle or an electric [foot] scooter and
 264 proceeding in the same direction shall make a right turn at any
 265 intersection or into any private road or driveway unless the turn can be
 266 made with reasonable safety and will not impede the travel of the

267 person riding the bicycle, electric bicycle or electric [foot] scooter.

268 Sec. 14. Section 14-286 of the general statutes is repealed and the
269 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

270 (a) Each person operating a bicycle, an electric bicycle or an electric
271 [foot] scooter upon and along a sidewalk or across any roadway upon
272 and along a crosswalk shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and
273 shall give an audible signal within a reasonable distance before
274 overtaking and passing a pedestrian. Each person operating a bicycle,
275 an electric bicycle, an electric [foot] scooter or a motor-driven cycle upon
276 a roadway shall, within a reasonable distance, give an audible signal
277 before overtaking and passing a pedestrian or another person operating
278 a bicycle, an electric bicycle, an electric [foot] scooter or a motor-driven
279 cycle. No person shall operate a bicycle, an electric bicycle or an electric
280 [foot] scooter upon or along a sidewalk or across a roadway upon and
281 along a crosswalk if such operation is prohibited by any ordinance of
282 any city, town or borough or by any regulation of the Office of the State
283 Traffic Administration issued or adopted pursuant to the provisions of
284 section 14-298, as amended by this act.

285 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, no person shall
286 ride a motor-driven cycle unless that person holds a valid motor vehicle
287 operator's license. No person shall operate a motor-driven cycle on any
288 sidewalk, limited access highway or turnpike.

289 (c) (1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may issue to a person
290 who does not hold a valid operator's license a special permit that
291 authorizes such person to ride a motor-driven cycle if (A) such person
292 presents to the commissioner a certificate by a physician licensed to
293 practice medicine in this state, a physician assistant licensed pursuant
294 to chapter 370 or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed
295 pursuant to chapter 378 that such person is physically disabled, as
296 defined in section 1-1f, other than blind, and that, in the physician's,
297 physician assistant's or advanced practice registered nurse's opinion,

298 such person is capable of riding a motor-driven cycle, and (B) such
 299 person demonstrates to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles that he is
 300 able to ride a bicycle on level terrain, and a motor-driven cycle. (2) Such
 301 permit may contain limitations that the commissioner deems advisable
 302 for the safety of such person and for the public safety, including, but not
 303 limited to, the maximum speed of the motor such person may use. No
 304 person who holds a valid special permit under this subsection shall
 305 operate a motor-driven cycle in violation of any limitations imposed in
 306 the permit. Any person to whom a special permit is issued shall carry
 307 the permit at all times while operating the motor-driven cycle. Each
 308 permit issued under this subsection shall expire one year from the date
 309 of issuance.

310 (d) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the Office
 311 of the State Traffic Administration shall adopt regulations in accordance
 312 with the provisions of chapter 54 determining the conditions and
 313 circumstances under which the operation of bicycles, electric bicycles
 314 and electric [foot] scooters may be permitted on those bridges in the
 315 state on limited access highways which it designates to be safe for such
 316 operation. The operation of bicycles, electric bicycles and electric [foot]
 317 scooters shall not be prohibited on any such bridges under such
 318 conditions and circumstances.

319 (e) As used in this section: (1) "Sidewalk" means any sidewalk laid
 320 out as such by any town, city or borough, and any walk which is
 321 reserved by custom for the use of pedestrians, or which has been
 322 specially prepared for their use. "Sidewalk" does not include crosswalks
 323 and does not include footpaths on portions of public highways outside
 324 thickly settled parts of towns, cities and boroughs, which are worn only
 325 by travel and are not improved by such towns, cities or boroughs or by
 326 abutters; (2) "bicycle" includes all vehicles propelled by the person
 327 riding the same by foot or hand power; and (3) "motor-driven cycle"
 328 [means any motorcycle other than an auticycle, motor scooter or bicycle
 329 with an attached motor with a seat height of not less than twenty-six
 330 inches and a motor having a capacity of less than fifty cubic centimeters

331 piston displacement] has the same meaning as provided in section 14-1,
332 as amended by this act.

333 (f) A person shall operate a motor-driven cycle on any public
334 highway, the speed limit of which is greater than the maximum speed
335 of the motor-driven cycle, only in the right hand lane available for traffic
336 or upon a usable shoulder on the right side of the highway, except when
337 preparing to make a left turn at an intersection or into or from a private
338 road or driveway.

339 (g) Any person who pleads not guilty of a violation of any provision
340 of this section shall be prosecuted within fifteen days of such plea.

341 (h) No person may operate a high-mileage vehicle on any sidewalk,
342 limited access highway or turnpike.

343 (i) A person may park an electric [foot] scooter on any sidewalk
344 provided (1) such electric [foot] scooter is parked in a manner that does
345 not impede the reasonable movement of pedestrians and other traffic on
346 such sidewalk, and (2) such parking is not prohibited by any ordinance
347 of any city, town or borough or by any regulations of the Office of the
348 State Traffic Administration issued or adopted pursuant to the
349 provisions of section 14-298, as amended by this act.

350 (j) Violation of any provision of this section shall be an infraction.

351 Sec. 15. Subsection (a) of section 14-286a of the general statutes is
352 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
353 *1, 2025*):

354 (a) Every person riding a bicycle, as defined in section 14-286, as
355 amended by this act, an electric bicycle or an electric [foot] scooter upon
356 the traveled portion of a highway shall be granted all of the rights and
357 shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of any vehicle
358 subject to the requirements of the general statutes relating to motor
359 vehicles, except (1) as to those provisions which by their nature can have

360 no application, (2) each town, city or borough and the Office of the State
 361 Traffic Administration within its jurisdiction as provided in section 14-
 362 298, as amended by this act, shall have authority to regulate bicycles,
 363 electric bicycles and electric [foot] scooters as provided in sections 14-
 364 289, as amended by this act, and 14-298, as amended by this act, and (3)
 365 as provided by section 14-286c, as amended by this act. No parent of any
 366 child and no guardian of any ward shall authorize or knowingly permit
 367 any such child or ward to violate any provision of the general statutes
 368 or ordinances enacted under section 14-289, as amended by this act,
 369 relating to bicycles, electric bicycles or electric [foot] scooters.

370 Sec. 16. Section 14-286b of the general statutes is repealed and the
 371 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

372 (a) Any person operating a bicycle, an electric bicycle or an electric
 373 [foot] scooter upon a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic
 374 shall ride as close to the right side of the roadway as is safe, as judged
 375 by such person, except when:

376 (1) Overtaking or passing another vehicle proceeding in the same
 377 direction;

378 (2) Preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or
 379 driveway;

380 (3) Reasonably necessary to avoid conditions, including, but not
 381 limited to, fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, bicycles,
 382 pedestrians, animals, surface hazards or lanes that are too narrow for a
 383 bicycle, an electric bicycle or an electric [foot] scooter and a motor
 384 vehicle to travel safely side by side within such lanes;

385 (4) Approaching an intersection where right turns are permitted and
 386 there is a dedicated right turn lane, in which case a person operating a
 387 bicycle, an electric bicycle or an electric [foot] scooter may ride on the
 388 left-hand side of such dedicated lane, even if such person does not
 389 intend to turn right;

390 (5) Riding on a roadway designated for one-way traffic, when the
391 person operating a bicycle, an electric bicycle or an electric [foot] scooter
392 may ride as near to the left-hand curb or edge of such roadway as judged
393 safe by such person; or

394 (6) Riding on parts of roadways separated for the exclusive use of
395 bicycles, electric bicycles or electric [foot] scooters, including, but not
396 limited to, contra-flow bicycle lanes, left-handed cycle tracks or bicycle
397 lanes on one-way streets and two-way cycle tracks or bicycle lanes.

398 (b) Persons riding bicycles, electric bicycles or electric [foot] scooters
399 upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast except on paths or
400 parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles, electric
401 bicycles or electric [foot] scooters. Persons riding two abreast, as
402 provided in this subsection, shall not impede the normal and reasonable
403 movement of traffic, and, on a laned roadway, shall ride within a single
404 lane.

405 (c) No person riding upon any bicycle, electric bicycle, motor-driven
406 cycle, roller skates, skis, sled, skateboard, coaster, toy vehicle, electric
407 [foot] scooter or any other vehicle not designed or intended to be towed
408 shall attach the same or such person to any vehicle moving or about to
409 move on a public roadway nor shall the operator of such vehicle
410 knowingly permit any person riding a bicycle, electric bicycle, motor-
411 driven cycle, roller skates, skis, skateboard, coaster, sled, toy vehicle,
412 electric [foot] scooter or any other vehicle not designed or intended to
413 be towed to attach the same or such person to such vehicle so operated
414 or about to be operated, provided any person operating a bicycle solely
415 by foot or hand power may attach a bicycle trailer or semitrailer thereto,
416 provided such trailer or semitrailer is designed for such attachment.

417 (d) No person operating a bicycle, as defined in section 14-286, as
418 amended by this act, an electric bicycle or an electric [foot] scooter upon
419 a roadway, path or part of roadway set aside for exclusive use of
420 bicycles, electric bicycles or electric [foot] scooters shall carry on such

421 bicycle, electric bicycle or electric [foot] scooter a passenger unless such
 422 bicycle, electric bicycle or electric [foot] scooter is equipped or designed
 423 to carry passengers, provided any person who has attained the age of
 424 eighteen years may carry any child while such person is operating a
 425 bicycle propelled solely by foot or hand power, provided such child is
 426 securely attached to his or her person by means of a back pack, sling or
 427 other similar device. The term "child", as used in this subsection, means
 428 any person who has not attained the age of four years.

429 (e) No person operating a bicycle, as defined in section 14-286, as
 430 amended by this act, an electric bicycle or an electric [foot] scooter shall
 431 carry any package, bundle or other article which prevents such person
 432 from using both hands in the operation of such bicycle, electric bicycle
 433 or electric [foot] scooter. Each person operating such bicycle, electric
 434 bicycle or electric [foot] scooter shall keep at least one hand on the
 435 handlebars thereof when such bicycle, electric bicycle or electric [foot]
 436 scooter is in motion.

437 (f) Violation of any provision of this section shall be an infraction.

438 Sec. 17. Section 14-286c of the general statutes is repealed and the
 439 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

440 (a) Each person riding a bicycle, an electric bicycle or an electric [foot]
 441 scooter, upon the traveled portion of a highway and intending to make
 442 a left turn after proceeding pursuant to the provisions of section 14-244
 443 or subsection (b) of this section may, in lieu of the procedure prescribed
 444 by section 14-241, approach as close as practicable to the right-hand curb
 445 or edge of the highway, proceed across the intersecting roadway and
 446 make such turn as close as practicable to the curb or edge of the highway
 447 on the far side of the intersection, provided such procedure is not
 448 prohibited by any regulation issued by any town, city, borough or the
 449 Office of the State Traffic Administration.

450 (b) Each person riding a bicycle, an electric bicycle or an electric [foot]
 451 scooter upon the traveled portion of a highway and intending to make

452 a right turn may, in lieu of the procedure prescribed by section 14-244,
453 before turning and while in motion or if stopped while waiting to turn,
454 signal such turn by extending such person's right hand and arm
455 horizontally with forefinger extended.

456 (c) No person operating a bicycle, an electric bicycle or an electric
457 [foot] scooter upon the traveled portion of a highway and intending to
458 make a right or left turn shall be required when making a signal of such
459 intention to make such signal continuously.

460 Sec. 18. Section 14-286d of the general statutes is repealed and the
461 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

462 (a) For the purposes of this section and section 14-286e, "bicycle"
463 means any vehicle propelled by the person riding the same by foot or
464 hand power.

465 (b) No child fifteen years of age or under shall operate a bicycle,
466 electric bicycle, nonmotorized scooter, skateboard or electric [foot]
467 scooter or wear roller skates or in-line skates on the traveled portion of
468 any highway, at a skateboarding park or any park unless such child is
469 wearing properly fitted and fastened protective headgear which
470 conforms to the minimum specifications established by the American
471 National Standards Institute, the United States Consumer Product
472 Safety Commission, the American Society for Testing and Materials or
473 the Snell Memorial Foundation's Standard for Protective Headgear for
474 Use in Bicycling, as amended from time to time. Failure to comply with
475 this section shall not be a violation or an offense. Failure to wear
476 protective headgear as required by this subsection shall not be
477 considered to be contributory negligence on the part of the parent or the
478 child nor shall such failure be admissible in any civil action.

479 (c) A law enforcement officer may issue a verbal warning to the
480 parent or guardian of a child that such child has failed to comply with
481 the provisions of subsection (b) of this section.

482 (d) A person, firm or corporation engaged in the business of renting
 483 bicycles, electric bicycles or electric [foot] scooters shall provide
 484 protective headgear conforming to the minimum specifications
 485 established by the American National Standards Institute, the United
 486 States Consumer Product Safety Commission, the American Society for
 487 Testing and Materials or the Snell Memorial Foundation's Standard for
 488 Protective Headgear for Use in Bicycling, as amended from time to time,
 489 to any person under sixteen years of age who will operate the bicycle,
 490 electric bicycle or electric [foot] scooter if such person does not have
 491 protective headgear in his or her possession. A fee may be charged for
 492 the protective headgear rental. Violation of any of the provisions of this
 493 subsection shall be an infraction.

494 (e) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall post on the
 495 Department of Consumer Protection's Internet web site information
 496 concerning the dangers of riding bicycles, electric bicycles or electric
 497 [foot] scooters, skateboarding, roller skating and in-line skating without
 498 protective headgear and promoting the use of protective headgear while
 499 riding bicycles, electric bicycles or electric [foot] scooters, skateboarding,
 500 roller skating and in-line skating.

501 Sec. 19. Section 14-288 of the general statutes is repealed and the
 502 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

503 (a) Each bicycle, electric bicycle or electric [foot] scooter operated
 504 upon the public highway, during the times or under the conditions as
 505 provided in subsection (a) of section 14-96a, shall display a lighted lamp
 506 upon the forward part of such bicycle, electric bicycle or electric [foot]
 507 scooter. Such lamp shall, when lighted, emit a white light which in clear
 508 weather shall be visible at a distance of not less than five hundred feet
 509 in the direction in which such bicycle, electric bicycle or electric [foot]
 510 scooter is proceeding. Each bicycle, electric bicycle or electric [foot]
 511 scooter shall also, at all times, be equipped with a reflector or reflecting
 512 tail light lens, which reflector or lens shall be attached to the rear of such
 513 bicycle, electric bicycle or electric [foot] scooter in such manner as to

514 reflect rays of light thrown upon the same, and such reflector or
 515 reflecting tail shall be visible at a distance of not less than six hundred
 516 feet from the rear when illuminated by the head lamps of a motor
 517 vehicle. Such bicycle, electric bicycle or electric [foot] scooter shall also
 518 be equipped with reflective material so placed and of sufficient size and
 519 reflectivity to be visible from both sides of such bicycle, electric bicycle
 520 or electric [foot] scooter at a distance of not less than six hundred feet
 521 when illuminated by the head lamps of a motor vehicle. Each bicycle,
 522 electric bicycle or electric [foot] scooter shall also, at all times, be
 523 equipped with a braking device sufficient to enable the operator thereof
 524 to stop within twenty-five feet on dry, level and clean pavement when
 525 moving at a speed of ten miles per hour. No person shall equip a bicycle,
 526 an electric bicycle or an electric [foot] scooter with a siren or device
 527 which emits a whistle or use a siren or device which emits a whistle
 528 while operating a bicycle, an electric bicycle or an electric [foot] scooter.

529 (b) Operation of a bicycle, an electric bicycle or an electric [foot]
 530 scooter in conflict with any provision of this section shall be an
 531 infraction.

532 Sec. 20. Section 14-289 of the general statutes is repealed and the
 533 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

534 Each town, city and borough shall have authority to make any
 535 ordinance not inconsistent with section 14-286, as amended by this act,
 536 or 14-288, as amended by this act, or any regulation of the Office of the
 537 State Traffic Administration issued pursuant to section 14-298, as
 538 amended by this act, respecting governing and controlling the use of
 539 bicycles, electric bicycles and electric [foot] scooters within such town,
 540 city or borough, with appropriate penalties for violation thereof, which
 541 ordinances may include provisions requiring annual licensing of
 542 bicycles, electric bicycles or electric [foot] scooters and providing for
 543 registration of any sale of, or change of ownership in, a bicycle, an
 544 electric bicycle or an electric [foot] scooter.

545 Sec. 21. Subdivision (1) of section 14-297 of the general statutes is
546 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
547 *1, 2025*):

548 (1) The following terms shall be construed as they are defined in
549 section 14-1, as amended by this act: "Authorized emergency vehicle",
550 "class 1 electric bicycle", "class 2 electric bicycle", "class 3 electric bicycle",
551 "driver", "electric bicycle", ["electric foot scooter"] "electric scooter",
552 "head lamp", "highway", "limited access highway", "motor vehicle",
553 "number plate", "operator", "person", "rotary" or "roundabout",
554 "shoulder", "stop", "tank vehicle", "truck" and "vehicle";

555 Sec. 22. Section 14-298 of the general statutes is repealed and the
556 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

557 There shall be within the Department of Transportation the Office of
558 the State Traffic Administration, which shall constitute a successor to
559 the State Traffic Commission, in accordance with the provisions of
560 sections 4-38d, 4-38e and 4-39. For the purpose of standardization and
561 uniformity, said office shall adopt and cause to be printed for
562 publication regulations establishing a uniform system of traffic control
563 signals, devices, signs and markings consistent with the provisions of
564 this chapter for use upon the public highways. The Commissioner of
565 Transportation shall make known to the General Assembly the
566 availability of such regulations and any requesting member shall be sent
567 a written copy or electronic storage media of such regulations by said
568 commissioner. Taking into consideration the public safety and
569 convenience with respect to the width and character of the highways
570 and roads affected, the density of traffic thereon and the character of
571 such traffic, said office shall also adopt regulations, in cooperation and
572 agreement with local traffic authorities, governing the use of state
573 highways and roads on state-owned properties, and the operation of
574 vehicles, including, but not limited to, motor vehicles, bicycles, as
575 defined in section 14-286, as amended by this act, electric bicycles and
576 electric [foot] scooters thereon. A list of limited-access highways shall be

577 published with such regulations and said list shall be revised and
 578 published once each year. The Commissioner of Transportation shall
 579 make known to the General Assembly the availability of such
 580 regulations and list and any requesting member shall be sent a written
 581 copy or electronic storage media of such regulations and list by the
 582 commissioner. A list of limited-access highways opened to traffic by the
 583 Commissioner of Transportation in the interim period between
 584 publications shall be maintained in the Office of the State Traffic
 585 Administration and such regulations shall apply to the use of such listed
 586 highways. Said office shall also make regulations, in cooperation and
 587 agreement with local traffic authorities, respecting the use by through
 588 truck traffic of streets and highways within the limits of, and under the
 589 jurisdiction of, any city, town or borough of this state for the protection
 590 and safety of the public. If said office determines that the prohibition of
 591 through truck traffic on any street or highway is necessary because of
 592 an immediate and imminent threat to the public health and safety and
 593 the local traffic authority is precluded for any reason from acting on
 594 such prohibition, the office, if it is not otherwise precluded from so
 595 acting, may impose such prohibition. Said office may place and
 596 maintain traffic control signals, signs, markings and other safety
 597 devices, which it deems to be in the interests of public safety, upon such
 598 highways as come within the jurisdiction of said office as set forth in
 599 section 14-297, as amended by this act. The traffic authority of any city,
 600 town or borough may place and maintain traffic control signals, signs,
 601 markings and other safety devices upon the highways under its
 602 jurisdiction, and all such signals, devices, signs and markings shall
 603 conform to the regulations established by said office in accordance with
 604 this chapter, and such traffic authority shall, with respect to traffic
 605 control signals, conform to the provisions of section 14-299.

606 Sec. 23. Section 14-300i of the general statutes is repealed and the
 607 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

608 (a) As used in this section, (1) "vulnerable user" means: (A) A
 609 pedestrian; (B) a highway worker; (C) a person riding or driving an

610 animal; (D) a person riding a bicycle, an electric bicycle or an electric
 611 [foot] scooter; (E) a person using a skateboard, roller skates or in-line
 612 skates; (F) a person operating or riding on an agricultural tractor; (G) a
 613 person using a wheelchair or motorized chair; (H) a person who is blind
 614 and such person's service animal; and (I) a person operating (i) a
 615 commercial motor vehicle equipped with a garbage compactor, a
 616 detachable container or a curbside recycling body, (ii) a tank vehicle, (iii)
 617 a vehicle authorized by the United States government to carry mail, or
 618 (iv) a vehicle authorized by an express delivery carrier service, (2)
 619 "public way" includes any state or other public highway, road, street,
 620 avenue, alley, driveway, parkway or place, under the control of the state
 621 or any political subdivision of the state, dedicated, appropriated or
 622 opened to public travel or other use, (3) "substantial bodily harm" means
 623 bodily injury that involves a temporary but substantial disfigurement,
 624 causes a temporary but substantial loss or impairment of the function of
 625 any bodily part or organ, or causes a fracture of any bodily part, (4)
 626 "serious physical injury" has the same meaning as provided in section
 627 53a-3, and (5) "service animal" has the same meaning as provided in
 628 section 22-345.

629 (b) Any person operating a motor vehicle on a public way who fails
 630 to exercise reasonable care and causes substantial bodily harm to, or the
 631 serious physical injury or death, of a vulnerable user of a public way,
 632 provided such vulnerable user has shown reasonable care in such user's
 633 use of the public way, shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars.

634 Sec. 24. Section 14-300j of the general statutes is repealed and the
 635 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

636 (a) For the purposes of this section, "moving traffic" includes, but is
 637 not limited to, a motor vehicle, bicycle, electric bicycle or electric [foot]
 638 scooter using a highway for the purpose of travel and a pedestrian or a
 639 person riding a bicycle, electric bicycle or electric [foot] scooter on a
 640 sidewalk, shoulder or bikeway for the purpose of travel, and "bikeway"
 641 has the same meaning as provided in subsection (a) of section 13a-153f.

642 (b) No person shall open the door of a motor vehicle in such a manner
643 as to cause physical contact with moving traffic with such door,
644 provided moving traffic is traveling at a reasonable rate of speed and
645 with due regard for the safety of all persons and property.

646 (c) No person shall leave the door of a motor vehicle open for a period
647 of time longer than necessary to load or unload passengers and in such
648 a manner as to cause physical contact with moving traffic with such
649 door.

650 (d) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall have
651 committed an infraction.

652 Sec. 25. Subsection (b) of section 51-164n of the general statutes is
653 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
654 *1, 2025*):

655 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any person
656 who is alleged to have committed (1) a violation under the provisions of
657 section 1-9, 1-10, 1-11, 2-71h, 4b-13, 7-13, 7-14, 7-35 or 7-41, subsection (c)
658 of section 7-66, section 7-83, 7-147h, 7-148, 7-283, 7-325, 7-393, 8-12, 8-25,
659 8-27, 9-63, 9-322, 9-350, 10-185, 10-193, 10-197, 10-198, 10-230, 10-251, 10-
660 254, 10a-35, 12-52, 12-54, 12-129b or 12-170aa, subdivision (3) of
661 subsection (e) of section 12-286, section 12-286a, 12-292, 12-314b or 12-
662 326g, subdivision (4) of section 12-408, subdivision (3), (5) or (6) of
663 section 12-411, section 12-435c, 12-476a, 12-476b, 12-476c, 12-487, 13a-
664 26b, 13a-71, 13a-107, 13a-113, 13a-114, 13a-115, 13a-117b, 13a-123, 13a-
665 124, 13a-139, 13a-140, 13a-143b, 13a-253, 13a-263 or 13b-39f, subsection
666 (f) of section 13b-42, section 13b-90 or 13b-100, subsection (a) of section
667 13b-108, section 13b-221 or 13b-292, subsection (a) or (b) of section 13b-
668 324, section 13b-336, 13b-337, 13b-338, 13b-410a, 13b-410b or 13b-410c,
669 subsection (a), (b) or (c) of section 13b-412, section 13b-414 or 14-4,
670 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-12, subsection (d) of
671 section 14-12, subsection (f) of section 14-12a, subsection (a) of section
672 14-15a, section 14-16c, 14-20a or 14-27a, subsection (f) of section 14-34a,

673 subsection (d) of section 14-35, section 14-43, 14-44j, 14-49, 14-50a, 14-58
 674 or 14-62a, subsection (b) of section 14-66, section 14-66a or 14-67a,
 675 subsection (g) of section 14-80, subsection (f) or (i) of section 14-80h,
 676 section 14-97a or 14-98, subsection (a), (b) or (d) of section 14-100a,
 677 section 14-100b, 14-103a, 14-106a, 14-106c, 14-145a, 14-146, 14-152, 14-
 678 153, 14-161 or 14-163b, subsection (f) of section 14-164i, section 14-213b
 679 or 14-219, subdivision (1) of section 14-223a, subsection (d) of section 14-
 680 224, section 14-240, 14-250, 14-253a, 14-261a, 14-262, 14-264, 14-266, 14-
 681 267a, 14-269, 14-270, 14-272b, 14-274, 14-275 or 14-275a, subsection (c) of
 682 section 14-275c, section 14-276, subsection (a) or (b) of section 14-277,
 683 section 14-278, 14-279 or 14-280, subsection (b), (e) or (h) of section 14-
 684 283, section 14-283d, 14-283e, 14-283f, 14-283g, 14-289l, as amended by
 685 this act, 14-291, 14-293b, 14-296aa, 14-298a, 14-300, 14-300d, 14-300f, 14-
 686 319, 14-320, 14-321, 14-325a, 14-326, 14-330 or 14-332a, subdivision (1),
 687 (2) or (3) of section 14-386a, section 15-15e, 15-25 or 15-33, subdivision
 688 (1) of section 15-97, subsection (a) of section 15-115, section 16-15, 16-16,
 689 16-44, 16-256e, 16-278 or 16a-15, subsection (a) of section 16a-21, section
 690 16a-22, subsection (a) or (b) of section 16a-22h, section 16a-106, 17a-24,
 691 17a-145, 17a-149 or 17a-152, subsection (b) of section 17a-227, section
 692 17a-465, subsection (c) of section 17a-488, section 17b-124, 17b-131, 17b-
 693 137, 19a-33, 19a-39 or 19a-87, subsection (b) of section 19a-87a, section
 694 19a-91, 19a-102a, 19a-102b, 19a-105, 19a-107, 19a-113, 19a-215, 19a-216a,
 695 19a-219, 19a-222, 19a-224, 19a-286, 19a-287, 19a-297, 19a-301, 19a-309,
 696 19a-335, 19a-336, 19a-338, 19a-339, 19a-340, 19a-425, 19a-442, 19a-502,
 697 19a-565, 20-7a, 20-14, 20-153a, 20-158, 20-231, 20-233, 20-249, 20-257, 20-
 698 265, 20-324e, 20-329c or 20-329g, subsection (b) of section 20-334, section
 699 20-341l, 20-366, 20-482, 20-597, 20-608, 20-610, 20-623, 21-1, 21-38, 21-39,
 700 21-43, 21-47, 21-48 or 21-63, subsection (d) of section 21-71, section 21-
 701 76a or 21-100, subsection (c) of section 21a-2, subdivision (1) of section
 702 21a-19, section 21a-20 or 21a-21, subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of
 703 section 21a-25, section 21a-26, subsection (a) of section 21a-37, section
 704 21a-46, 21a-61, 21a-63, 21a-70b or 21a-77, subsection (b) or (c) of section
 705 21a-79, section 21a-85 or 21a-154, subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of
 706 section 21a-159, section 21a-278b, subsection (c), (d) or (e) of section 21a-

707 279a, section 21a-415a, 21a-421eee, 21a-421fff or 21a-421hhh, subsection
708 (a) of section 21a-430, section 22-12b, 22-13, 22-14, 22-15, 22-16, 22-26g,
709 22-30, 22-34, 22-35, 22-36, 22-38, 22-39, 22-39f, 22-49, 22-54, 22-61j or 22-
710 61l, subdivision (1) of subsection (n) of section 22-61l, subsection (f) of
711 section 22-61m, subdivision (1) of subsection (f) of section 22-61m,
712 section 22-84, 22-89, 22-90, 22-96, 22-98, 22-99, 22-100 or 22-111o,
713 subsection (d) of section 22-118l, section 22-167, subsection (c) of section
714 22-277, section 22-278, 22-279, 22-280a, 22-318a, 22-320h, 22-324a or 22-
715 326, subsection (b), subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (e) or subsection
716 (g) of section 22-344, subsection (a) or (b) of section 22-344b, subsection
717 (d) of section 22-344d, section 22-344f, 22-350a, 22-354, 22-359, 22-366,
718 22-391, 22-413, 22-414, 22-415, 22-415c, 22a-66a or 22a-246, subsection (a)
719 of section 22a-250, section 22a-256g, subsection (e) of section 22a-256h,
720 section 22a-363 or 22a-381d, subsections (c) and (d) of section 22a-381e,
721 section 22a-449, 22a-450, 22a-461, 23-4b, 23-38, 23-45, 23-46 or 23-61b,
722 subsection (a) or subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 23-65, section
723 25-37 or 25-40, subsection (a) of section 25-43, section 25-43d, 25-135, 26-
724 18, 26-19, 26-21, 26-31, 26-40, 26-40a, 26-42, 26-43, 26-49, 26-54, 26-55, 26-
725 56, 26-58 or 26-59, subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 26-61,
726 section 26-64, subdivision (1) of section 26-76, section 26-79, 26-87, 26-89,
727 26-91, 26-94, 26-97, 26-98, 26-104, 26-105, 26-107, 26-114a, 26-117,
728 subsection (b) of section 26-127, 26-128, 26-128a, 26-131, 26-132, 26-138,
729 26-139 or 26-141, subdivision (1) of section 26-186, section 26-207, 26-215,
730 26-217 or 26-224a, subdivision (1) of section 26-226, section 26-227, 26-
731 230, 26-231, 26-232, 26-244, 26-257a, 26-260, 26-276, 26-280, 26-284, 26-
732 285, 26-286, 26-287, 26-288, 26-290, 26-291a, 26-292, 26-294, 27-107, 28-13,
733 29-6a, 29-16, 29-17, 29-25, 29-143o, 29-143z or 29-156a, subsection (b), (d),
734 (e), (g) or (h) of section 29-161q, section 29-161y or 29-161z, subdivision
735 (1) of section 29-198, section 29-210, 29-243 or 29-277, subsection (c) of
736 section 29-291c, section 29-316 or 29-318, subsection (b) of section 29-
737 335a, section 29-381, 30-19f, 30-48a or 30-86a, subsection (b) of section
738 30-89, subsection (c) or (d) of section 30-117, section 31-3, 31-10, 31-11,
739 31-12, 31-13, 31-14, 31-15, 31-16, 31-18, 31-23, 31-24, 31-25, 31-32, 31-36,
740 31-47 or 31-48, subsection (b) of section 31-48b, section 31-51, 31-51g, 31-

741 52, 31-52a, 31-53 or 31-54, subsection (a) or (c) of section 31-69, section
742 31-70, 31-74, 31-75, 31-76, 31-76a, 31-89b or 31-134, subsection (i) of
743 section 31-273, section 31-288, 31-348, 33-624, 33-1017, 34-13d or 34-412,
744 subdivision (1) of section 35-20, subsection (a) of section 36a-57,
745 subsection (b) of section 36a-665, section 36a-699, 36a-739, 36a-787, 38a-
746 2 or 38a-140, subsection (a) or (b) of section 38a-278, section 38a-479qq,
747 38a-479rr, 38a-506, 38a-548, 38a-626, 38a-680, 38a-713, 38a-733, 38a-764,
748 38a-786, 38a-828, 38a-829, 38a-885, 42-133hh, 42-230, 42-470 or 42-480,
749 subsection (a) or (c) of section 43-16q, section 45a-283, 45a-450, 45a-634
750 or 45a-658, subdivision (13) or (14) of section 46a-54, section 46a-59, 46a-
751 81b, 46b-22, 46b-24, 46b-34, 46b-38d, 47-34a, 47-47 or 47-53, subsection
752 (i) of section 47a-21, subdivision (1) of subsection (k) of section 47a-21,
753 section 49-2a, 49-8a, 49-16, 52-143 or 52-289, subsection (j) of section 52-
754 362, section 53-133, 53-199, 53-212a, 53-249a, 53-252, 53-264, 53-280, 53-
755 290a, 53-302a, 53-303e, 53-311a, 53-314, 53-321, 53-322, 53-323 or 53-331,
756 subsection (b) of section 53-343a, section 53-344, subsection (b) or (c) of
757 section 53-344b, subsection (b) of section 53-345a, section 53-377, 53-422
758 or 53-450 or subsection (i) of section 54-36a, or (2) a violation under the
759 provisions of chapter 268, or (3) a violation of any regulation adopted in
760 accordance with the provisions of section 12-484, 12-487 or 13b-410, or
761 (4) a violation of any ordinance, regulation or bylaw of any town, city or
762 borough, except violations of building codes and the health code, for
763 which the penalty exceeds ninety dollars but does not exceed two
764 hundred fifty dollars, unless such town, city or borough has established
765 a payment and hearing procedure for such violation pursuant to section
766 7-152c, shall follow the procedures set forth in this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2025	14-289l
Sec. 2	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 3	October 1, 2025	14-289k
Sec. 4	October 1, 2025	14-1(32)
Sec. 5	October 1, 2025	14-1(59)

Sec. 6	October 1, 2025	14-1(61)
Sec. 7	October 1, 2025	14-164c(c)
Sec. 8	October 1, 2025	14-212(1)
Sec. 9	October 1, 2025	14-212c
Sec. 10	October 1, 2025	14-230(a)
Sec. 11	October 1, 2025	14-232(a)
Sec. 12	October 1, 2025	14-234(b)
Sec. 13	October 1, 2025	14-242(f)
Sec. 14	October 1, 2025	14-286
Sec. 15	October 1, 2025	14-286a(a)
Sec. 16	October 1, 2025	14-286b
Sec. 17	October 1, 2025	14-286c
Sec. 18	October 1, 2025	14-286d
Sec. 19	October 1, 2025	14-288
Sec. 20	October 1, 2025	14-289
Sec. 21	October 1, 2025	14-297(1)
Sec. 22	October 1, 2025	14-298
Sec. 23	October 1, 2025	14-300i
Sec. 24	October 1, 2025	14-300j
Sec. 25	October 1, 2025	51-164n(b)

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) redefine "electric foot scooter" and "motor-driven cycle", (2) specify electric vehicles that do meet the definition of electric bicycles, and (3) make selling or advertising such electric vehicles as electric bicycles an unfair or deceptive trade practice.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Penalties for E-bike Law Violations

The bill imposes a specific penalty for the following e-bike laws by making violations infractions (see BACKGROUND): (1) riding e-bikes where prohibited, including on trails and paths under certain circumstances (as described above); (2) riding a class 3 e-bike under age 16; and (3) riding an e-bike, including as a passenger, without a helmet meeting the law's requirements.

Under current law, there is no specific penalty for violating these provisions, but riders or passengers may be subject to the general penalty for vehicle highway use violations that are not designated an infraction or do not have a specified penalty (i.e. a fine of up to \$50, CGS § 14-296). By making these violations infractions, the bill treats e-bike law violations the same as bicycle and other traffic violations.

Manufacturer Penalties

The bill also imposes a penalty on e-bike manufacturers of up to \$100 for a first offense, and \$100 to \$300 for a subsequent offense, for failing to (1) ensure e-bikes they offer for sale in Connecticut comply with applicable federal requirements for bicycles and e-bikes, (2) equip these class 3 e-bikes with a speedometer, and (3) ensure that e-bike motors disengage according to the specifications of their classification. Current law does not specify a penalty for these violations.

§§ 4 & 5 — ONE-, TWO-, AND THREE-WHEELED VEHICLE CLASSIFICATIONS***Motor-Driven Cycle Definition***

Under current law, a "motor-driven cycle" is any of the following with a seat at least 26 inches high and a motor displacing less than 50 cubic centimeters (cc): a (1) motorcycle; (2) motor scooter; or (3) bicycle with attached motor, except electric bicycles. Because cc is a measurement of cylinder volume in an internal combustion engine, this definition only explicitly captures gas-powered vehicles. So, it is unclear under current law whether a similar electric-powered vehicle would be considered a motor-driven cycle or a motorcycle.

The bill expands this definition to include vehicles with gasoline,

electric, or hybrid motors that have a capacity of less than 50cc, have a wattage of 3,700 watts or less, or produce five brake horsepower or less, as applicable. It also (1) excludes electric scooters (see below) from the motor-driven cycle definition and (2) incorporates into this definition one-wheeled vehicles "with a floorboard that can be stood upon while riding or with foot rests for the operator" (i.e. motorized unicycles). (These vehicles are not subject to the motor-related or minimum seat height requirements.)

As under existing law, street-legal two- or three-wheeled vehicles that exceed these engine capacities are generally considered motorcycles. Unlike motorcycles, motor-driven cycles do not need to be registered and riders do not need a motorcycle endorsement.

Modification of Electric Foot Scooter Definition

The bill replaces the definition of "electric foot scooter" with one for "electric scooter" and broadens the definition to also include certain electric scooters designed to be ridden while sitting down. In doing so, it treats certain low-powered, seated electric scooters in the same way that electric foot scooters are treated under the law.

Under current law, an electric foot scooter is a device that (1) weighs up to 75 pounds; (2) has two or three wheels, handlebars, and a floorboard that a rider can stand on; (3) is powered by an electric motor and human power; and (4) has a maximum speed of 20 mph on a paved level surface, with or without human propulsion. The bill renames these devices "electric scooters" and (1) increases their maximum weight to 100 pounds, (2) eliminates the floorboard requirement and instead requires they be designed to be ridden in either an upright or seated position, and (3) excludes e-bikes and one-wheeled vehicles from the definition.

BACKGROUND

Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA)

By law, CUTPA prohibits businesses from engaging in unfair and deceptive acts or practices. It allows the consumer protection commissioner, under specified procedures, to issue regulations defining

an unfair trade practice, investigate complaints, issue cease and desist orders, order restitution in cases involving less than \$10,000, impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000, enter into consent agreements, ask the attorney general to seek injunctive relief, and accept voluntary statements of compliance. It also allows individuals to sue. Courts may issue restraining orders; award actual and punitive damages, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees; and impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000 for willful violations and up to \$25,000 for a restraining order violation.

Infractions

Infractions are punishable by fines, usually set by Superior Court judges, of between \$35 and \$90, plus a \$20 or \$35 surcharge and an additional fee based on the fine's amount. There may also be other applicable charges depending on the type of infraction. For example, certain motor vehicle infractions trigger a Special Transportation Fund surcharge of 50% of the fine. An infraction is not a crime and violators can generally pay the fine by mail without making a court appearance.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 34 Nay 0 (03/19/2025)

In Connecticut, town ordinances (local laws) must align with and cannot contradict state laws. State law generally governs matters of statewide concern and can preempt local ordinances if they conflict or if the state has fully occupied the field. Towns in Connecticut can enact ordinances within their powers granted by the state, either through charters or state statutes, but these ordinances cannot contradict state statutes or infringe on state authority.

Here's a more detailed breakdown:

1. Authority for Ordinances:

- Connecticut towns derive their power to create ordinances from two primary sources:
 - **Town Charters**: Towns can adopt charters (either through home rule or special act) that grant them specific powers to legislate.
 - **State Statutes**: The state legislature can grant municipalities specific powers through general statutes.
- In essence, a town's authority to pass ordinances is limited to the powers explicitly granted to it by the state.

2. Preemption:

- **State Preemption**:

State law can preempt (invalidate) a local ordinance if:

- The ordinance directly conflicts with state law.
- The state has "fully occupied the field" of law, meaning the state has regulated the area so thoroughly that it intends to exclude local regulation, [according to State Court Report](#).
- **State vs. Local Concerns:**

State law generally takes precedence over local ordinances on matters of statewide concern.

- **Example:**

Connecticut's extensive hunting laws preempt a municipal ordinance that regulates the discharge of firearms, as hunting is a matter of state control.

3. How to Determine Conflict:

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Express Conflict:

A direct contradiction between an ordinance and a state law is a clear example of conflict.

- **Field Preemption:**

If the state has extensively regulated an area, even without a direct conflict, it may be interpreted as preempting local action.

4. Application to Zoning:

- **Zoning and State Property:**

While no statute explicitly exempts the state from local zoning, Connecticut case law suggests the state is generally immune from local zoning regulations, particularly regarding state functions or property.

- **Zoning and State Functions:**

Municipalities cannot regulate state functions or property through zoning, as this would infringe on state sovereignty.

- **Transit-Oriented Development:**

However, if a project involves both public and private development, like a transit-oriented development with a parking garage, the state's interest in the public function of the project can be considered when assessing the validity of local zoning regulations.

5. Importance of State Law:

- State law changes can significantly impact town ordinances, potentially requiring revisions to local codes.
- Town attorneys need to be aware of state law to ensure their ordinances remain valid.

Sec. 7-148. Scope of municipal powers. (a) **Definitions.** Whenever used in this section, "municipality" means any town, city or borough, consolidated town and city or consolidated town and borough.

(b) **Ordinances.** Powers granted to any municipality under the general statutes or by any charter or special act, unless the charter or special act provides to the contrary, shall be exercised by ordinance when the exercise of such powers has the effect of:

(1) Establishing rules or regulations of general municipal application, the violation of which may result in the imposition of a fine or other penalty including community service for not more than twenty hours; or

(2) Creating a permanent local law of general applicability.

(c) **Powers.** Any municipality shall have the power to do any of the following, in addition to all powers granted to municipalities under the Constitution and general statutes:

(1) **Corporate powers.** (A) Contract and be contracted with, sue and be sued, and institute, prosecute, maintain and defend any action or proceeding in any court of competent jurisdiction;

(B) Provide for the authentication, execution and delivery of deeds, contracts, grants, and releases of municipal property and for the issuance of evidences of indebtedness of the municipality;

(2) **Finances and appropriations.** (A) Establish and maintain a budget system;

(B) Assess, levy and collect taxes for general or special purposes on all property, subjects or objects which may be lawfully taxed, and regulate the mode of assessment and collection of taxes and assessments not otherwise provided for, including establishment of a procedure for the withholding of approval of building application when taxes or water or sewer rates, charges or assessments imposed by the municipality are delinquent for the property for which an application was made;

(C) Make appropriations for the support of the municipality and pay its debts;

(D) Make appropriations for the purpose of meeting a public emergency threatening the lives, health or property of citizens, provided such appropriations shall require a favorable vote of at least two-thirds of the entire membership of the legislative body or, when the legislative body is the town meeting, at least two-thirds of those present and voting;

(E) Make appropriations to military organizations, hospitals, health care facilities, public health nursing organizations, nonprofit museums and libraries, organizations providing drug abuse and dependency programs and any other private organization performing a public function;

(F) Provide for the manner in which contracts involving unusual expenditures shall be made;

(G) When not specifically prescribed by general statute or by charter, prescribe the form of proceedings and mode of assessing benefits and appraising damages in taking land for public use, or in making public improvements to be paid for, in whole or in part, by special assessments, and prescribe the manner in which all benefits assessed shall be collected;

(H) Provide for the bonding of municipal officials or employees by requiring the furnishing of such bond, conditioned upon honesty or faithful performance of duty and determine the amount, form, and sufficiency of the sureties thereof;

(I) Regulate the method of borrowing money for any purpose for which taxes may be levied and borrow on the faith and credit of the municipality for such general or special purposes and to such extent as is authorized by general statute;

(J) Provide for the temporary borrowing of money;

(K) Create a sinking fund or funds or a trust fund or funds or other special funds, including funds which do not lapse at the end of the municipal fiscal year;

(L) Provide for the assignment of municipal tax liens on real property to the extent authorized by general statute;

(3) **Property.** (A) Take or acquire by gift, purchase, grant, including any grant from the United States or the state, bequest or devise and hold, condemn, lease, sell, manage, transfer, release and convey such real and personal property or interest therein absolutely or in trust as the purposes of the municipality or any public use or purpose, including that of education, art, ornament, health, charity or amusement, cemeteries, parks or gardens, or the erection or maintenance of statues, monuments, buildings or other structures, require. Any lease of real or personal property or any interest therein, either as lessee or lessor, may be for such term or any extensions thereof and upon such other terms and conditions as have been approved by the municipality, including without limitation the power to bind itself to appropriate funds as necessary to meet rent and other obligations as provided in any such lease;

(B) Provide for the proper administration of gifts, grants, bequests and devises and meet such terms or conditions as are prescribed by the grantor or donor and accepted by the municipality;

(4) **Public services.** (A) Provide for police protection, regulate and prescribe the duties of the persons providing police protection with respect to criminal matters within the limits of the municipality and maintain and regulate a suitable place of detention within the limits of the municipality for the safekeeping of all persons arrested and awaiting trial and do all other things necessary or desirable for the policing of the municipality;

(B) Provide for fire protection, organize, maintain and regulate the persons providing fire protection, provide the necessary apparatus for extinguishing fires and do all other things necessary or desirable for the protection of the municipality from fire;

(C) Provide for entertainment, amusements, concerts, celebrations and cultural activities, including the direct or indirect purchase, ownership and operation of the assets of one or more sports franchises;

(D) Provide for ambulance service by the municipality or any person, firm or corporation;

(E) Provide for the employment of nurses;

(F) Provide for lighting the streets, highways and other public places of the municipality and for the care and preservation of public lamps, lamp posts and fixtures;

(G) Provide for the furnishing of water, by contract or otherwise;

(H) Provide for or regulate the collection and disposal of garbage, trash, rubbish, waste material and ashes by contract or otherwise, including prohibiting the throwing or placing of such materials on the highways;

(I) Provide for the financing, construction, rehabilitation, repair, improvement or subsidization of housing for low and moderate income persons and families;

(5) **Personnel.** (A) Provide for and establish pension systems for the officers and employees of the municipality and for the active members of any volunteer fire department or any volunteer ambulance association of the municipality, and establish a system of qualification for the tenure in office of such officers and employees, provided the rights or benefits granted to any individual under any municipal retirement or pension system shall not be diminished or eliminated;

(B) Establish a merit system or civil service system for the selection and promotion of public officials and employees. Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to validate any merit system or civil service system established prior to May 24, 1972;

(C) Provide for the employment of and prescribe the salaries, compensation and hours of employment of all officers and employees of the municipality and the duties of such officers and employees not expressly defined by the Constitution of the state, the general statutes, charter or special act;

(D) Provide for the appointment of a municipal historian;

(6) Public works, sewers, highways. (A) Public facilities. (i) Establish, lay out, construct, reconstruct, alter, maintain, repair, control and operate cemeteries, public burial grounds, hospitals, clinics, institutions for children and aged, infirm and chronically ill persons, bus terminals and airports and their accessories, docks, wharves, school houses, libraries, parks, playgrounds, playfields, fieldhouses, baths, bathhouses, swimming pools, gymnasiums, comfort stations, recreation places, public beaches, beach facilities, public gardens, markets, garbage and refuse disposal facilities, parking lots and other off-street parking facilities, and any and all buildings or facilities necessary or convenient for carrying on the government of the municipality;

(ii) Create, provide for, construct, regulate and maintain all things in the nature of public works and improvements;

(iii) Enter into or upon any land for the purpose of making necessary surveys or mapping in connection with any public improvement, and take by eminent domain any lands, rights, easements, privileges, franchises or structures which are necessary for the purpose of establishing, constructing or maintaining any public work, or for any municipal purpose, in the manner prescribed by the general statutes;

(iv) Regulate and protect from injury or defacement all public buildings, public monuments, trees and ornaments in public places and other public property in the municipality;

(v) Provide for the planting, rearing and preserving of shade and ornamental trees on the streets and public grounds;

(vi) Provide for improvement of waterfronts by a board, commission or otherwise;

(B) Sewers, drainage and public utilities. (i) Lay out, construct, reconstruct, repair, maintain, operate, alter, extend and discontinue sewer and drainage systems and sewage disposal plants;

(ii) Enter into or upon any land for the purpose of correcting the flow of surface water through watercourses which prevent, or may tend to prevent, the free discharge of municipal highway surface water through said courses;

(iii) Regulate the laying, location and maintenance of gas pipes, water pipes, drains, sewers, poles, wires, conduits and other structures in the streets and public places of the municipality;

(iv) Prohibit and regulate the discharge of drains from roofs of buildings over or upon the sidewalks, streets or other public places of the municipality or into sanitary sewers;

(v) Enter into energy-savings performance contracts;

(C) Highways and sidewalks. (i) Lay out, construct, reconstruct, alter, maintain, repair, control, operate, and assign numbers to streets, alleys, highways, boulevards, bridges, underpasses, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, public walks and parkways;

(ii) Keep open and safe for public use and travel and free from encroachment or obstruction the streets, sidewalks and public places in the municipality;

(iii) Control the excavation of highways and streets;

(iv) Regulate and prohibit the excavation, altering or opening of sidewalks, public places and grounds for public and private purposes and the location of any work or things thereon, whether temporary or permanent, upon or under the surface thereof;

(v) Require owners or occupants of land adjacent to any sidewalk or public work to remove snow, ice, sleet, debris or any other obstruction therefrom, provide penalties upon their failure to do so, and cause such snow, ice, sleet, debris or other obstruction to be removed and make the cost of such removal a lien on such property;

(vi) Grant to abutting property owners a limited property or leasehold interest in abutting streets and sidewalks for the purpose of encouraging and supporting private commercial development;

(7) Regulatory and police powers. (A) Buildings. (i) Make rules relating to the maintenance of safe and sanitary housing and prescribe civil penalties for the violation of such rules against an owner of rental property not to exceed two thousand dollars per violation, provided if multiple violations are discovered on the same date, such violations shall be enforced as one violation, and any such owner assessed a civil penalty pursuant to this subparagraph shall have a right of appeal to the legislative body of the municipality, or to the board of selectmen in a municipality where the legislative body is a town meeting, upon the grounds that such violation was proximately caused by a tenant's reckless or wilful act;

(ii) Regulate the mode of using any buildings when such regulations seem expedient for the purpose of promoting the safety, health, morals and general welfare of the inhabitants of the municipality;

(iii) Regulate and prohibit the moving of buildings upon or through the streets or other public places of the municipality, and cause the removal and demolition of unsafe buildings and structures;

(iv) Regulate and provide for the licensing of parked trailers when located off the public highways, and trailer parks or mobile manufactured home parks, except as otherwise provided by special act and except where there exists a local zoning commission so empowered;

(v) Establish lines beyond which no buildings, steps, stoop, veranda, billboard, advertising sign or device or other structure or obstruction may be erected;

(vi) Regulate and prohibit the placing, erecting or keeping of signs, awnings or other things upon or over the sidewalks, streets and other public places of the municipality;

(vii) Regulate plumbing and house drainage;

(viii) Prohibit or regulate the construction of dwellings, apartments, boarding houses, hotels, commercial buildings, youth camps or commercial camps and commercial camping facilities in such municipality unless the sewerage facilities have been approved by the authorized officials of the municipality;

(B) Traffic. (i) Regulate and prohibit, in a manner not inconsistent with the general statutes, traffic, the operation of vehicles on streets and highways, off-street parking and on-street residential neighborhood parking areas in which on-street parking is limited to residents of a given neighborhood, as determined by the municipality;

(ii) Regulate the speed of vehicles, subject to the provisions of the general statutes relating to the regulation of the speed of motor vehicles and of animals, and the driving or leading of animals through the streets;

(iii) Require that conspicuous signage be posted in any area where a motor vehicle may be subject to towing or to the use of a wheel-locking device that renders such motor vehicle immovable, and that such signage indicate where the motor vehicle will be stored, how the vehicle may be redeemed and any costs or fees that may be charged;

(C) Building adjuncts. Regulate and prohibit the construction or use, and require the removal of sinks, cesspools, drains, sewers, privies, barns, outhouses and poultry pens and houses;

(D) **Animals.** (i) Regulate and prohibit the going at large of dogs and other animals in the streets and public places of the municipality and prevent cruelty to animals and all inhuman sports, except that no municipality shall adopt breed-specific dog ordinances;

(ii) Regulate and prohibit the keeping of wild or domestic animals, including reptiles, within the municipal limits or portions thereof;

(E) **Nuisance.** Define, prohibit and abate within the municipality all nuisances and causes thereof, and all things detrimental to the health, morals, safety, convenience and welfare of its inhabitants and cause the abatement of any nuisance at the expense of the owner or owners of the premises on which such nuisance exists;

(F) **Loitering and trespassing.** (i) Keep streets, sidewalks and public places free from undue noise and nuisances, and prohibit loitering thereon;

(ii) Regulate loitering on private property with the permission of the owner thereof;

(iii) Prohibit the loitering in the nighttime of minors on the streets, alleys or public places within its limits;

(iv) Prevent trespassing on public and private lands and in buildings in the municipality;

(G) **Vice.** Prevent vice and suppress gambling houses, houses of ill-fame and disorderly houses;

(H) **Public health and safety.** (i) Secure the safety of persons in or passing through the municipality by regulation of shows, processions, parades and music;

(ii) Regulate and prohibit the carrying on within the municipality of any trade, manufacture, business or profession which is, or may be, so carried on as to become prejudicial to public health, conducive to fraud and cheating, or dangerous to, or constituting an unreasonable annoyance to, those living or owning property in the vicinity;

(iii) Regulate auctions and garage and tag sales;

(iv) Prohibit, restrain, license and regulate the business of peddlers, auctioneers and junk dealers in a manner not inconsistent with the general statutes;

(v) Regulate and prohibit swimming or bathing in the public or exposed places within the municipality;

(vi) Regulate and license the operation of amusement parks and amusement arcades including, but not limited to, the regulation of mechanical rides and the establishment of the hours of operation;

(vii) Prohibit, restrain, license and regulate all sports, exhibitions, public amusements and performances and all places where games may be played;

(viii) Preserve the public peace and good order, prevent and quell riots and disorderly assemblages and prevent disturbing noises;

(ix) Establish a system to obtain a more accurate registration of births, marriages and deaths than the system provided by the general statutes in a manner not inconsistent with the general statutes;

(x) Control insect pests or plant diseases in any manner deemed appropriate;

(xi) Provide for the health of the inhabitants of the municipality and do all things necessary or desirable to secure and promote the public health;

(xii) Regulate the use of streets, sidewalks, highways, public places and grounds for public and private purposes;

(xiii) Make and enforce police, sanitary or other similar regulations and protect or promote the peace, safety, good government and welfare of the municipality and its inhabitants;

(xiv) Regulate, in addition to the requirements under section [7-282b](#), the installation, maintenance and operation of any device or equipment in a residence or place of business which is capable of automatically calling and relaying recorded emergency messages to any state police or municipal police or fire department telephone number or which is capable of automatically calling and relaying recorded emergency messages or other forms of emergency signals to an intermediate third party which shall thereafter call and relay such emergency messages to a state police or municipal police or fire department telephone number. Such regulations may provide for penalties for the transmittal of false alarms by such devices or equipment;

(xv) Make and enforce regulations for the prevention and remediation of housing blight or blight upon any commercial real property, including regulations reducing assessments and authorizing designated agents of the municipality to enter property during reasonable hours for the purpose of remediating blighted conditions, provided such regulations define blight and require such municipality to give written notice of any violation to the owner of the property and provide a reasonable opportunity for the owner to remediate the blighted conditions prior to any enforcement action being taken,

except that a municipality may take immediate enforcement action in the case of a violation at a property that is the third or more such blight violation at such property during the prior twelve-month period, and further provided such regulations shall not authorize such municipality or its designated agents to enter any dwelling house or structure on such property, and including regulations establishing a duty to maintain property and specifying standards to determine if there is neglect; prescribe civil penalties for the violation of such regulations (I) for housing blight upon real property containing six or fewer dwelling units, of not more than one hundred fifty dollars for each day that a violation continues if such violation occurs at an occupied property, not more than two hundred fifty dollars for each day that a violation continues if such violation occurs at a vacant property, and not more than one thousand dollars for each day that a violation continues at a property if such violation is the third or more such violation at such property during the prior twelve-month period, (II) for housing blight upon real property containing more than six but fewer than forty dwelling units, not more than ten cents per square foot of each residential building upon such real property for each day that a violation continues, (III) for housing blight upon real property containing forty or more dwelling units, not more than twelve cents per square foot of each residential building upon such real property for each day that a violation continues, and (IV) for blight upon any commercial real property, not more than ten cents per square foot of any commercial building upon such real property for each day that a violation continues. If any such civil penalties are prescribed, such municipality shall adopt a citation hearing procedure in accordance with section [7-152c](#). For the sole purpose of determining if a violation is the third or more such violation at such property during the prior twelve-month period, "violation" means a violation of any municipal blight regulation for which the municipality has issued a notice of violation and either, in the determination of such municipality, the conditions creating such violation were previously cured or one hundred twenty days have passed from the notice of violation and the conditions creating such violation have not been cured. A third violation may also be established where three or more conditions constituting such violation exist at a property simultaneously;

(xvi) Regulate, on any property owned by or under the control of the municipality, any activity deemed to be deleterious to public health, including the burning of a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe or similar device, whether containing, wholly or in part, tobacco or cannabis, as defined in section [21a-420](#), and the use or consumption of cannabis, including, but not limited to, electronic cannabis delivery systems, as defined in section [19a-342a](#), or vapor products, as defined in said section, containing cannabis. If the municipality's population is greater than fifty thousand, such regulations shall designate a place in the municipality in which public consumption of cannabis is permitted. Such regulations may prohibit the smoking of cannabis and the use of electronic cannabis delivery systems and vapor products containing cannabis in the

outdoor sections of a restaurant. Such regulations may prescribe penalties for the violation of such regulations, provided such fine does not exceed fifty dollars for a violation of such regulations regarding consumption by an individual or a fine in excess of one thousand dollars to any business for a violation of such regulations;

(8) **The environment.** (A) Provide for the protection and improvement of the environment including, but not limited to, coastal areas, wetlands and areas adjacent to waterways in a manner not inconsistent with the general statutes;

(B) Regulate the location and removal of any offensive manure or other substance or dead animals through the streets of the municipality and provide for the disposal of same;

(C) Except where there exists a local zoning commission, regulate the filling of, or removal of, soil, loam, sand or gravel from land not in public use in the whole, or in specified districts of, the municipality, and provide for the reestablishment of ground level and protection of the area by suitable cover;

(D) Regulate the emission of smoke from any chimney, smokestack or other source within the limits of the municipality, and provide for proper heating of buildings within the municipality;

(9) **Human rights.** (A) Provide for fair housing;

(B) Adopt a code of prohibited discriminatory practices;

(10) **Miscellaneous.** (A) Make all lawful regulations and ordinances in furtherance of any general powers as enumerated in this section, and prescribe penalties for the violation of the same not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars, unless otherwise specifically provided by the general statutes. Such regulations and ordinances may be enforced by citations issued by designated municipal officers or employees, provided the regulations and ordinances have been designated specifically by the municipality for enforcement by citation in the same manner in which they were adopted and the designated municipal officers or employees issue a written warning providing notice of the specific violation before issuing the citation, except that no such written warning shall be required for violations of a municipal ordinance regulating the operation or use of a dirt bike, all-terrain vehicle or mini-motorcycle;

(B) Adopt a code of ethical conduct;

(C) Establish and maintain free legal aid bureaus;

(D) Perform data processing and related administrative computer services for a fee for another municipality;

(E) Adopt the model ordinance concerning a municipal freedom of information advisory board created under subsection (f) of section [1-205](#) and establish a municipal freedom of information advisory board as provided by said ordinance and said section;

(F) Protect the historic or architectural character of properties or districts that are listed on, or under consideration for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, 16a USC 470, or the state register of historic places, as defined in section [10-410](#).