



Town of Waterford, Connecticut, Police Commission Meeting Agenda

Training Room at the Waterford Police Department

5/8/2023 5:00 pm

Call to order and establish quorum:

Pledge of Allegiance:

Public input:

Acceptance of minutes: April 10, 2023 Regular Meeting

Correspondence:

- a. Thank you email from Kerry Tetreault, Citizen's Academy
- b. Thank you email from Ellen McMahon, Citizen's Academy
- c. Thank you email from LT Timothy Henderson, Commanding Officer, CT State Police Troop E
- d. Email of Appreciation from Mark Greczkowski, Director of Operations, Waterford Ambulance

Traffic Commission Review:

- a. Sign Proposal North Phillips Street
- b. Sign Proposal Coolidge Court
- c. Sign Proposal Burlake Road

Chief's report:

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

Old Business:

- a. Police Chief Selection Process

New Business:

- a. Staffing Discussion



MINUTES
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
April 10 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioner Brule, Chairperson T. Sheridan, Commissioner M. Gelinas,
Commissioner J. Dimmock

ABSENT: Commissioner C. Gamble

DEPARTMENT: Chief M. Balestracci, LT T. Silva, LT N. VanOverloop, Sgt T. Gelinas,
Traffic Officer J. Nickerson, Training Officer N. Surdo

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

PUBLIC INPUT:

No public input.

CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH A QUORUM:

Commissioner Dimmock called the meeting to order at 5:05p.m. in the General Meeting Room of the Waterford Police Department. A Quorum was established.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Dimmock and seconded by Commissioner Brule to accept the minutes from the March 13, 2023 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Gelinas abstained.
Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence was reviewed.

TRAFFIC COMMISSION REVIEW:

Traffic Officer Nickerson presented the proposed roadway changes to Willetts Avenue due to increased traffic from new housing developments and the pending second phase of additional housing. He stated that this proposed roadway project will cost the Town nothing and will not be up for approval from the Traffic Commission until the plan is finalized.

Officer Nickerson presented a proposed plan to help mitigate speeding on Fog Plain Road.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Gelinas and Seconded by Commissioner Dimmock to approve the plan for painting to be completed on Fog Plain Road which will be completed when fiscally achievable by Public Works. Motion passed unanimously.

Officer Nickerson presented a request for approval of a plan to narrow the roadway with fog lines on Oswegatchie Road that will slow traffic speeds and add a buffer for pedestrians.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Gelinas and Seconded by Commissioner Dimmock to approve the plan for painting to be completed on Oswegatchie Road which will be completed when fiscally achievable by Public Works. Motion passed unanimously.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

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

- g. Patrol Report for March
March report was received.
- h. Animal Control Report for March
March report was received.
- i. Community Engagement Report for March
March report was received.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Discussion of the current draft of the Police Chief Selection Process Policy.
Commissioner Dimmock asked for any modifications to be completed before the next BOPC meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. In-series Budget Transfer Requests were presented to the Commission.
- b. Discussion of continued Zoom access to BOPC meetings. Chief Balestracci cited required retention schedule and storage are issues and noted that the BOPC was one of the few Boards still using Zoom. Chief suggested participation by phone if not able to attend in person. The Commission agreed. Commissioner Brule stated that the Town is working on being able to record and post meetings on YouTube.

There was discussion of letters sent to Town Officials from various groups concerning proposed Data Center on the Millstone property.

Chief Balestracci announced that a meeting for the purpose of promotions will be scheduled the week of June 12.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Brule and Seconded by Commissioner Dimmock to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:



Diane Driscoll
Recording Secretary

Diane Driscoll

From: Marc Balestracci
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 1:18 PM
To: Diane Driscoll
Subject: FW: Citizens Academy Ride Along

Diane,

Can you please place a copy in Officer Barrows' file and forward to the next BOPC meeting.

Thank you,

Marc Balestracci
Chief of Police
Waterford Police Department
41 Avery Lane, Waterford, Connecticut
860-442-9451 Ext. 2282



From: Kerry Tetreault, RE/MAX LEGENDS <kerrytetreault@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 15, 2023 7:08 PM
To: Marc Balestracci <mbalestracci@waterfordct.org>
Subject: Citizens Academy Ride Along

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization.

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

Chief Balestracci,

I just wanted to let you know I had my ride a long Friday night with Officer Barrows.

Right when he greeted me in the lobby he was upbeat and friendly. Thought the evening wasn't busy he engaged in conversation, answered all my questions, showed me how the computer system in his car worked etc. He drove me right to my car when the ride was over. He couldn't have been nicer. He is a real asset to your department.

Regards,
Kerry Tetreault

April 17, 2023

Chief Balestracci ~

I wanted to personally reach out to tell you what a wonderful program I believe the Citizen's Police Academy to be. The town offers many programs - I feel this one to be the most important. A special thank you to Officer Fredericks (Hodges) and all the other officers who gave their time to organize and participate in this program. Every single one of them was fascinating and easy to listen to.

Each class has shown just how much it takes to be chosen to work on (and *stay* on) the force. To be honest, I just don't know how it is possible for any one human being to do what they do in such tense and emotional situations. What I see are Officers who are asked or should I say "expected" to perform without any missteps. They must know the law, be social workers, EMT's, mechanics, peace makers, investigators, constitutional historians, compassionate human beings, protectors of fellow officers and so much more. I am not aware of any other profession that requires as much from an individual.

I spent Friday evening with Officer Caler. In three hours, I saw him exercise great judgement, concern for his fellow officers, the ability to think ahead and size up a situation quickly. He is detail oriented and thorough. Several times he mentioned other officers as being "great officers" going on to explain why. He too, is one of those great officers. Each one of the instructors was fascinating to listen to. They frequently commented that "they are lucky to work in Waterford. I believe *we* are lucky ones to have them watching out for us!!!!!!

Last - **ALL** the officers have nothing but wonderful things to say about you. As the saying goes, "it starts at the top". Whatever you are doing, it is working and working well. Thank you for being the kind of Chief that inspires them.

I love the Waterford Police Department.

Ellen McMahon
Quaker Hill

CC; Officer Eric Fredricks

Diane Driscoll

From: Marc Balestracci
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 3:53 PM
To: Diane Driscoll
Subject: FW: Gold Star Bridge Incident

Diane,

Please include in the BOPC meeting packet for May.

Thank you,

Marc Balestracci
Chief of Police
Waterford Police Department
41 Avery Lane, Waterford, Connecticut
860-442-9451 Ext. 2282



From: Henderson, Timothy <Timothy.Henderson@ct.gov>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 12:48 PM
To: Marc Balestracci <mbalestracci@waterfordct.org>; mfinkelstein@eastlymepolice.org
Cc: Gregorzek, John <John.Gregorzek@ct.gov>
Subject: Gold Star Bridge Incident

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization.

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Chief Balestracci and Chief Finkelstein

I am sorry for the delay in this email, but the last two days I have been pulled in a few directions. I want to personally thank your departments for the help with the incident on the Gold Star Bridge on Friday 4/21/22. Although your Officers may have not been physically on the Gold Star, your departments were vital to making that critical incident go the way it did. Unfortunately, at the same time, Troop E was dealing with a pursuit that resulted in a crash and another fatal accident, so we did not have any Troopers close by. In fact, I ended up being the first CSP unit on scene. Your Officers assisted in shutting down on ramps to I95 Northbound in both your Towns.

I was advised that both your departments assisted in shutting down I95 Northbound at the I395 Northbound split, and sending all traffic I395 NB. I did not have any Troopers available to be able to accomplish this task and you Officers' assistance has not gone unnoticed. In 17 years in law Enforcement in Southeastern CT, I don't remember a time when both sections of the Gold Star Bridge have been shut down for that long, except for the President and Vice President visits. Even those visits, the shutdown is only 5 minutes. I know this caused significant issues within your Towns, especially with Exit 74 being under construction.

I believe Region 4 DEMHS is planning an AAR / Debriefing of the Incident soon.

Thank you for your time and as always, stay safe.

Lieutenant Timothy Henderson #066

Commanding Officer

Connecticut State Police

Troop E - Montville

Timothy.henderson@ct.gov

Diane Driscoll

From: Marc Balestracci
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 3:54 PM
To: Diane Driscoll
Subject: FW: Thank you

Diane,

Please include in the BOPC meeting packet for May.

Thank you,

Marc Balestracci
Chief of Police
Waterford Police Department
41 Avery Lane, Waterford, Connecticut
860-442-9451 Ext. 2282



From: Mark Greczkowski <operations@waterfordambulance.org>
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2023 10:34 PM
To: Marc Balestracci <mbalestracci@waterfordct.org>
Subject: Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe.

Chief, good evening!

I wanted to take a moment to recognize all your officers that were on scene of the the RT 32 accident today.

This accident involved two (2) very critical patients. All your officers on the scene offered their assistance in anyway possible, which allowed us to quickly extricate both patients and transport them to definitive care. Without their assistance, this would not have been possible.

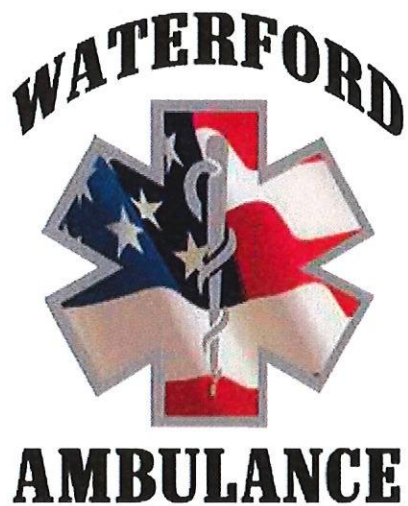
Please pass along my appreciation to all your involved staff, they were a huge assistance!

Regards,

Mark Greczkowski NRP, EMSI
Director of Operations

Waterford Ambulance Service, Inc. (WAS)
204 Boston Post Road Waterford, CT 06385

Voice - 860.448.5642
Email- Operations@WaterfordAmbulance.org



[Waterford Ambulance Website](#)

WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAFFIC REPORT

• April 2023 •

Traffic Complaints:

The Traffic Officer (TO) received 5 Complaints for speeding. The roads with the most complaints were Dimmock Road, Shore Road and Gurley Road.

Trailer Display Signs

The display signs and battery powered speed display signs were used throughout the town according to complaints received and historical issues on roadways.

Speed Bumps

The temporary speed bumps were once again deployed at the Waterford High School to aid in slowing down traffic in the parking lot. Discussions with Board of ED and the Friendship school resumed regarding a more permanent solution.

Sign Requests

Three sign requests were received, two from Public Works and one from a resident.

Sign Proposal

North Phillips Street "Hammerhead"

A request was made by our public works department to install signs in the "hammerhead" section of North Phillips Street. The signs will be "no parking signs" and will be installed at the curb lines of the intersection.

Cars are usually parked within the section of roadway and make trash pickup very difficult and drivers are concerned about causing accidents as they maneuver the trucks. Limiting parking in the area where the intersection is will allow for the trucks to maneuver easier and safer.

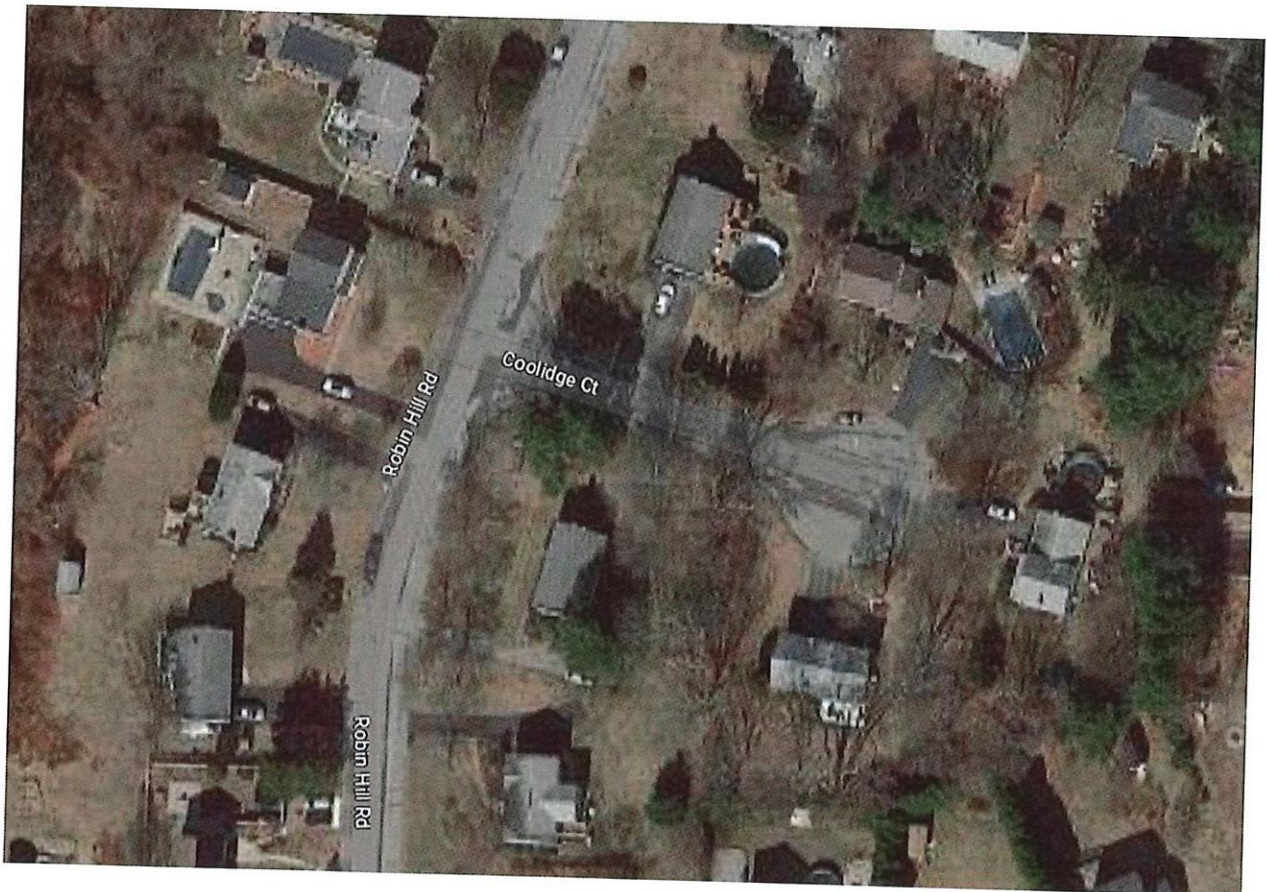


Sign Proposal

Coolidge Court Stop Sign

A request was made by our public works department to install a stop sign at the intersection of Coolidge Court and Robin Hill Road. It appears to have been an oversight as there is no record of a stop sign being installed at that location.

The other intersections in the development have stop signs associated with the intersections but Coolidge Court does not. I request on stop sign be placed at the exit of Coolidge Court onto Robin Hill Road, it will be the only stop sign at the intersection.

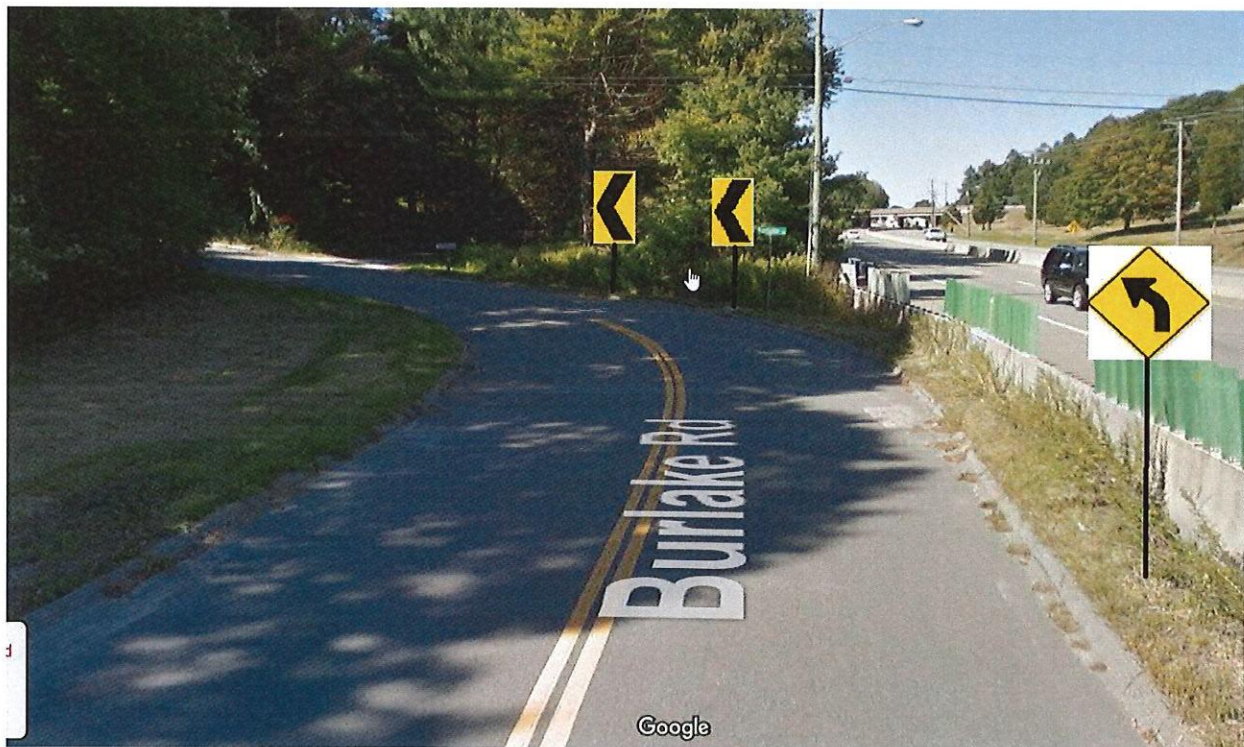


Sign Proposal

Old Norwich Road @ Burlake Road

A request was made by a resident as a result of another accident at the intersection of Old Norwich Road and Burlake Road. A vehicle continued to drive straight on Old Norwich and did not navigate the hard left turn onto Burlake. The result was the vehicle traveling off the roadway into the wooded area. This is not the first accident of this type at this location. The resident requested any addition signs to alert drivers.

I request an advanced warning sign for the sharp left curve be installed prior to the turn. I also request Two left Chevron signs be installed on the corner/intersection. The signs will be reflective and will aid in notifying drivers of the hard left turn and the abrupt end to Old Norwich Road.





THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



K-9 Activity Report

April 2023

K-9 Neo

Monthly Uses: 2

2023 Uses: 16

K-9 Ozzy

Monthly Uses: 3

2023 Uses: 17

Training

Monthly K-9 training was conducted on 04/11 & 04/25 in obedience, tracking, article search, narcotics, and aggression.

K-9 Usage

Neo

- ♦ On 04/12/2023 K-9 Neo was deployed to assist the Investigative Services Unit with a narcotics investigation. During this investigation a traffic stop was conducted and K-9 Neo was deployed for an exterior open air sniff and interior search of the vehicle. Drug paraphernalia was located inside the vehicle.
- ♦ On 04/25/2023 K-9 Neo was deployed for a narcotics search for a demonstration with the Citizen's Academy.

Ozzy

- ♦ On 04/04/2023 Officer Genung conducted a traffic stop and after making contact with the operator, he recognized the operator as someone who had an extensive narcotics and distribution history. Officer Genung then deployed K-9 Ozzy for an exterior open air sniff of the vehicle.
- ♦ On 04/13/2023 Officer Genung and K-9 Ozzy assisted East Lyme Police with a traffic stop after officers observed a hand to hand drug transaction. K-9 Ozzy was deployed for an exterior open air sniff and an interior search of the vehicle. K-9 Ozzy showed alert behavior on a purse located on the front passenger floorboard. 63 wax paper baggies containing a white powdery substance were later located in the purse where K-9 Ozzy alerted to. K-9 Ozzy was also utilized for an article search for this same incident after it was suspected heroin was thrown into a backyard.
- ♦ On 04/21/2023 K-9 Ozzy was deployed for a search of a missing 76 year old female with medical issues. K-9 Ozzy tracked for a short time and located the female deep underneath a bush.





THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Youth Office Activity Report



April 2023

- ♦ SRO Malbaurn took a student attending the Waterford Country School to lunch during spring break in an ongoing attempt to build a mentorship with the student due to the students behavior and substance abuse issues.
- ♦ SRO Malbaurn and SRO Lane continue to conduct numerous meetings with parents during the month involving various concerns including social media and mental health issues. These issues occur during and outside of school hours, but often carry into the school day.
- ♦ SRO Lane held a safety meeting with Clark Lane Middle School security and staff to ensure proper safety measures are in place and to make the school safer.
- ♦ SRO Malbaurn assisted Investigative Services with a shooting that happened on Anthony Road in New London.
- ♦ SRO Lane taught numerous classes on the topic of social media to various grades. SRO Lane also assisted with teaching Youth Promise classes at the elementary schools and gave some first graders a tour of the police department.
- ♦ SRO Malbaurn coordinated and assisted with many officers going to the Waterford High School to teach various topics in the Criminal Justice Classes. SRO Malbaurn also attended coffee with a cop with a few high school students.



Month at a Glance

0 – Home Visits
1 – CAD Report
1 – Case Reports
0 – Arrests

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



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Investigative Services Division



April 2023

In the month of April 2023 the Investigative Services Division worked or assisted with 29 active investigations.

Current Active Investigations (18 Cases):

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

Homicide—1

Fraud—1

Burglary—4

Pistol Permits—9

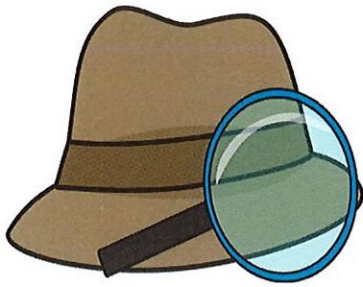
Crypto Scam—1

Narcotics—2

Year to Date Statistical Report

Det. Sgt. Mike Fedor has been utilizing Neighborhood Watch Captains as a conduit for security footage related to car thefts, car burglaries, and catalytic converter thefts. By utilizing the Neighborhood Watch as a force multiplier, Investigative Services has been able to obtain data from privately owned security cameras when crimes occur within the community.

Case Numbers	Amount Investigated	Recovered - Seized	Search Warrants	Sex Assaults	Arrests
40	\$172,268.98	\$119,387.00	13	8	18
Ex-Parte's	Auto Theft	Burglary	Unattended Deaths	Robbery	Background Checks
0	0	4	1	0	0



THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Investigative Services Division



April 2023

April 2023 Arrests:

Denetria Griffin – 40-Years-old of New London, CT was charged with three counts of Failure to Appear in the Second Degree

April 2023 Investigations:

Det.'s Bonkowski and Carroll located a vehicle involved in an on-going larceny investigation. They were able to interview a suspect who admitted to being present in the vehicle during the crime. This information was forwarded to the investigating Patrol Officer.

Investigator Zaldivar identified a larceny suspect and completed an arrest warrant for their arrest. This suspect was involved in 2 separate crimes in Waterford.

Investigative Services conducted multiple surveillance operations related to different neighborhood narcotics complaints. In one operation, the reported activity was not verified, but a wanted person was identified and arrested on 3 active warrants. The second is on-going.

Investigative Services assisted the Federal Bureau of Investigation with a search warrant execution on a residence in the Quaker Hill section of Waterford, Connecticut.

Det. O'Connell obtained three (3) extraditable arrest warrants for the subjects identified in a \$94,000.00 commercial burglary. All the stolen goods were recovered and the subjects are currently in custody in the State of New York.

Task Force Report:

In the month of April, the VCTF executed 2 search warrants resulting in the recovery of 1 handgun and various narcotics in Norwich & Groton.

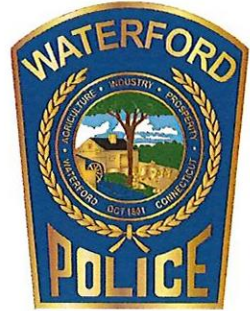
The Task force was asked by Connecticut Major Crime to conduct surveillance on churches. They had two (2) churches set on fire and were looking for suspects. CSP Major Crime had not obtained any suspect or vehicle descriptions. TFO Rodriguez was surveilling a church and observed a vehicle enter the parking lot and 2 subjects exit a car. These subjects were positively identified, found to be under 18 years old, and the vehicle contained a gas can. The vehicle was photographed and the subjects were released. CSP Major Crime later obtained security footage of a suspect vehicle from a previous arson, which matched the one identified by the VCTF. CSP Major Crime has the investigation.

VCTF has opened 4 narcotics and weapons investigations, as well as currently investigating a Waterford narcotics case.

THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



TRAINING REPORT APRIL 2023



New Officer Updates

Hiring Process: Waterford Police Department has opened up the hiring process for both entry level and certified officers through April 30, 2023. Training Officer Nicolas Surdo continues his efforts in recruiting by attending the monthly Law Enforcement Council (LEC) written examination. This is a good opportunity to engage with the candidates, inform them of the opportunities at the police department and provide information on the next steps and what to expect going forward in the hiring process. A physical agility test is scheduled for May 7, 2023 at the Waterford High School.

Recruit Andrew Reed is continuing his training at the Law Enforcement Council (LEC) Eastern Regional Police Academy and continues to accelerate. Recruit Reed is currently assigned as a squad leader (Corporal) for the class.

In-House Trainings: Officer Gilbert Maffeo conducted a one-hour standardized field sobriety test (SFST) and advanced roadside impairment driving enforcement (ARIDE) refresher. All members of the police department attended the training which consisted of classroom discussion and practical's.

Chief Marc Balestracci and Officer Gilbert Maffeo conducted a four-day Advanced Driving Under the Influence course held at the Waterford Police Department. The course included classroom instruction and a wet lab, which is required by the State of Connecticut to be eligible to attend the ARIDE training. Three (3) members of the Waterford Police Department attended the training.

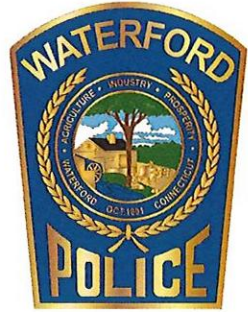
Supervisory Assistant States Attorney Louis Luba came to the police department to speak with officers regarding search and seizure. Attorney Luba answered officers questions regarding search and seizure and elaborated on certain aspects of search and seizure that officer's had questions to.

THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



TRAINING REPORT

APRIL 2023



Officer Stephen Rogers attended a five-day Basic SWAT Operator I course at the Sig Sauer Academy in Epping, NH. The course focused on basic fundamentals of room clearing, breaching, planning, scouting and warrant service.

Officer Kyle McComic and Christopher Ewing attended a five-day Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) in Hartford, CT. The course brings community and law enforcement resources together to address common issues related to mental health.

Officer Eric Fredricks attended a five-day Gracie Survival Tactics (GST) Level 1 Instructor course in Bethel, CT. The course focused on technical instruction, teaching methodologies, and a final evaluation.

Detective Raymond Carroll and Officer Nicolas Surdo attended a five-day Advanced SWAT II course at Sig Sauer, Epping, NH. The course focused on numerous hostage rescue techniques.

Officer Nicholas Genung attended a four-day Power & Control K9 Collaboration course in Hartford, CT. The course focused on building search and tactics, obedience, limit barking, multiple scenario events with a team and how to implement K9 in tactical teams.

Officer Norman Malbourn and Officer Daniel Lane attended a one-day United States Secret Service (USSS) Research and Recommendations on Prevention of Targeted School Violence course. The course was a free seminar and held in Westerly, RI.

The Waterford Police Department Records Department

Activity for APRIL 2023

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

Ticket/Written Warning Entries	Freedom of Information Requests	Motor Vehicle Accident Entries	Warrants (Entering or clearing)	Phone calls	Walk in Lobby Window	Background Check Requests
216	148	51	88	177	107	7

Protective Order Entries	Officer Tasking Requests	Case Erasures	State/Federal Report Entries	Supervisor Tasking Requests	DCF Requests
43	19	206	0	26	27

Court Request	Case Copies	Abstracts
33	5	201



CSO Monthly Statistical Report April 2023



Waterford Arrests

#

Adult	19
Juvenile	0
Total Processed	19

Fingerprints

#

Pistol Permits	13
Employment	9
Miscellaneous	7
Peddler / Precious Permits	1
Total Fingerprints	39

Firearms

#

Firearms Transfer	50
Pistol Permits Issued	2

Initial Complaints (3A's)

#

Total	42
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- CSO's covered 62 shifts during the month.
- CSO Beebe has submitted his letter of resignation effective June 26, 2023. CSO Beebe has accepted a position as a Police Officer with the Town of Stonington.
- Hiring process has been started with 4 candidates applying for the position of CSO



Patrol Report

Commissioners Activity Report

April 2023



Assist to the Connecticut State Police

On April 21, 2023 there were two fatal motor vehicle accidents on the highway that significantly affected traffic in town. The first accident involved a fuel tank truck on the Gold Star Bridge that set fire, causing I-95 N and I-95 S to be shut down for quite some time. The second accident was on the RTE 32 Connector in Quaker Hill a short time later that caused the connector to be shut down. For both accidents officers assisted by shutting down the highway in multiple locations and managing the overflow of traffic in town.



Suspicious Vehicle Arrest

On April 24, 2023 officers were dispatched to Sam's Mart Gas Station at the intersection of RTE 1 and Clark Lane for the report of two people acting suspicious in a vehicle in the parking lot. The people in the car were reportedly acting strange and appeared to be hallucinating. When officers arrived on scene they investigated and later determined both subjects were in possession and under the influence of crack cocaine. Both parties were arrested and charged with Illegal Possession of a Controlled Substance and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Patrol Calls for Service Monthly Snap Shot:

Total Service Calls	2310
Case Numbers	164
Arrests	72
Juvenile Arrests	1
Larcenies	27
Arrest Warrants	18
Domestic Violence Investigations	16
Traffic Crash	50
DUI Investigations	4
EDPI/Welfare Check	37
School Checks	47
Motor Vehicle Stops	395
Written Warnings	137
Infractions	46
Verbal Warnings	195
Misdemeanor	17

SELF INITIATED MOTOR VEHICLE ACTIVITY BY BADGE NUMBER



**Weapon in a Motor Vehicle Arrest**

On April 15, 2023 Officer Caler conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for traveling fast and running a red light. During the course of his investigation he noticed the operator acting suspicious by refusing to make eye contact, refusing to provide proper documentation, and attempting to hide what was inside the center console when he had opened it. Officers on scene noticed ammunition in the rear of the car, therefore the occupants were instructed out of the car and a vehicle search was conducted. An unregistered firearm was located inside the vehicle and the operator, who stated the firearm was his, did not have a pistol permit. The operator was charged with Carrying of Pistol or Revolver without Permit, Weapons in a Vehicle, and Traveling Unreasonably Fast.

Larceny / Warrant Arrest

On April 7, 2023 officers were dispatched to Target for the report of a shoplifting in progress. Officers located the female and during their investigation determined that she had four PRAWN warrants out of other local police departments. The female was charged with Larceny 5th Degree and four counts of Failure To Appear for the PRAWN warrants.

Breach of Peace Arrest

On April 5, 2023 officers were dispatched to Henny Penny on RTE 85 for the report of a male in the store that seemed intoxicated, was swearing, and was trying to fight people. When officers arrived on scene the male was gone, but they located him in a parking lot a short distance away. When officers were dealing with the male he continued to scream obscenities at them, was intoxicated, and kept encroaching on the officers personal space. The male was arrested and charged with Breach of Peace.

Suspicious Vehicle / Drug Arrest

On April 28, 2023 Officer Barrows was conducting a business check at Home Depot, a location where shopliftings happen often. Officer Barrows noticed a vehicle that was parked in a location out of the view of the cameras with a male in the operators seat constantly checking his cell phone. The vehicle left the parking lot a short time later, and due to it not being registered Officer Barrows conducted a traffic stop and made contact with the operator. During the course of his investigation, Officer Barrows determined the operator did not steal anything, however he located illegal Suboxone strips and determined the operator had numerous other motor vehicle violations. The operator was charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance, Misuse of Marker Plates, Operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Failure to Insure a Private Motor Vehicle, and Operating a Motor Vehicle without a License.



In the Community Interest





Monthly Report April 2023

	WATERFORD	EAST LYME
CALLS FOR SERVICE	72	30
AFTER HOURS CALL OUTS	2	1
DOG BITES	2	2
INFRACTIONS	0	0
WRITTEN WARNINGS	1	2
ANIMALS REDEEMED	0	3
ANIMALS ADOPTED	4	8
ANIMALS DOA	2	0
EUTHANIZED	0	0
ANIMALS PROCESSED TOTAL	6	11
TOTAL MONEY TAKEN IN	\$ 20.00	\$ 179.70
DONATIONS TAKEN IN	\$ 5.00	\$ 99.70

- 1) In the shelter we have two dogs that were seized on an animal cruelty warrant by the state way back on 3/25/2022. Animal control facilities across the state assisted in housing animals for them, without cross cooperation, large seizures like this would be overwhelming. The court system has finally come to a judgement and allowed the state to take full custody of the 100 assorted animals that they seized and attempt to find them new homes. We are in the process of finding places for them after a full year in our shelter.



- 2) 4/10/23 Each year, just after Easter, many animal control facilities find roaming rabbits, this is because some parents purchase “Easter bunnies” for their children and then realize that they are difficult to care for and just abandon them outside thinking they will fend for themselves. This is often a death sentence for these domestic rabbits who have no idea how to forage for food or avoid predators. This handsome bunny was found on Avery lane near the WPD.



- 3) 4/11/23 In the early morning hours, I received a call from a citizen in Salem, who is a personal friend of mine. He told me that he had found two dogs roaming in Salem. For some reason when he contacted the Connecticut State Police, he was told there was no one who could assist him, so he called me. Knowing that Montville was covering Salem for animal control services, I met with him and took custody of the two dogs. When I contacted Montville, I learned that they had no room to house the dogs so we kept them at our facility until they could open up some kennel space or adopt the dogs out. Local municipal shelters often help each other out like this, it greatly reduces the need to euthanize good animals for space constraints.



- 4) 4/25/23 the camera system we had installed at the shelter was instrumental in helping to identify the license plate of a vehicle who dumped 2 dogs. Sadly, the plate was a misuse and New London authorities are still looking into the incident. Regardless of the outcome, the camera system, (that we got installed FREE OF CHARGE) is doing its job.





THE WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



Community Engagement Report April 2023

Internships: Intern Brian Dec shadowed Day Shift Patrol, SRO Lane, and Dispatch. Intern Dec helped at the Central CT University Police Job Fair and observed SFSTs refresher training. Intern Anthony Jessuck shadowed Day Shift Patrol and the Records Department. Intern Jessuck was brought to the CT Police Academy for a tour.

Citizen's Academy: Participants attended classes about the Youth Office, Investigative Services, Offensive Tactics, Use of Force, Dispatch, Marine Patrol, the K-9 unit, and Electronic Crimes. They witnessed a Phazzer demo and K-9 demos.

Domestic Violence Follow-ups: Conducted 5 follow-ups with DV victims.

Rotary Club: Attended monthly meeting and student scholarship award ceremony.



K-9 Officer Hodges: Visited M&T Bank, Ballestrini's Daycare, Shoreline Eye Group, and Citizen's Bank. Visited with a victim's family during a homicide trial. Performed a K-9 Demo at Lillie B. Haynes School. Hodges interacted with attendees at the Traveler's Insurance Safety Fair and WTFD Little League South's Opening Day.

Interaction with Youth Services: Spoke to students at a Youth Promise class. Attended the Youth Promise Final Jeopardy Event.

Recruiting: Held 3 recruitment sessions at Eastern CT State University. Assisted Mitchell College with two mock police interviews for students. Created a Waterford Police career board to use at job fairs. Attended Central CT State University's Police Job Fair.

Assistance to Youth Officers: Organized Great Neck School first grade students to visit the police department for a tour and a K-9 Hodges demo. Spoke about traffic stop safety at Rae's Driving School. Received a donation of sports equipment from Dick's Sporting Goods that will be distributed to Waterford schools.

Dancing with the Stars: Participated in the Camp Dash fundraising event.

Interaction with Senior Services: Hodges visited Bayview Healthcare.

Officer Buchanan Memorial Peer Support Award: Received an award for peer support work along with other facility K-9 handlers at CIT Conference.

Coffee with a Cop: Organized the event where police officers and citizens had causal conversations at the WTFD Community Center. Starbucks donated free coffee and other WTFD emergency services participated.

DRAFT (2)

Purpose: To outline the procedure for appointing/hiring a new Chief of Police for the Town of Waterford Connecticut Police Department

To outline the procedure for appointing an Interim Chief of Police should the existing Chief of Police retire, separate from employment for any reason, or is deemed unable to perform the duties required.

To detail the criteria for application and potential promotion from within the agency and to detail the criteria required should it be necessary to seek a Chief of Police from outside the agency. This may refer to candidates within the State of Connecticut as well as nationwide if so desired.

Chief of Police: The Police Commission will first consider internal candidates that meet the criteria set forth below. If no suitable candidate is identified, the Police Commission will then consider external candidates, taking into consideration what is best for the members of the agency as well as the Town of Waterford.

Internal Candidates Required:

- Bachelor's Degree related to Criminal Justice/ Public Safety Administration or related field
- Must hold/held a promoted rank as a Division Commander for a minimum of two years
- Continued police service of at least fifteen years.
- POSTC Certified
- Active Connecticut driver's license

Internal Candidates Preferred:

- Master's Degree related to public Safety Administration or Criminal Justice.
- FBI National Academy or similar advanced training

Interested candidates will notify the Police Commission in writing of their intent to be considered for selection as Chief of Police and will submit all requested documentation as requested by the Police Commission, which may include an updated resume and biography that outlines/illustrates qualifications.

Upon identifying all candidates from within the agency that wish to participate in the selection process and meet the required criteria, the Law Enforcement Council of Connecticut or other organization in contract at the time, will be notified that a Chief of Police selection process is being started by the Town of Waterford. The organization will be asked to organize a Chief of Police oral board interview process.

Upon completion of the external interview process, the Police Commission will obtain the results and consult with the Waterford Human Resources Director and Town Labor Attorney, if so desired, before initiating an interview process with the candidates advancing in the process.

To advance through this part of the process, all candidates shall have received a score or combined score of 80 and above.

If the existing Chief of Police is still active, an interview with them shall be held in executive session for the purpose of evaluating potential candidates. If the Chief of Police is no longer available, the Police Commission will meet with senior ranking officers who hold the rank of Lieutenant or above for additional perspective.

Upon completion of the oral interview process, the Police Commission may decide to appoint an Interim Chief of Police for a set probationary period before consideration of full appointment, appoint an Interim Chief during a period in which the Police Commission explores Connecticut certified external candidates or select an Interim Chief of Police while a larger search is conducted.

Any internal candidates selected as Interim Chief of Police will coordinate with the Waterford Police Union, the Waterford First Selectman and the Town of Waterford Human Resources Director to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding in regards to compensation.

If no internal candidates are identified, a statewide search may be conducted. The posting will consist of the Town of Waterford Chief of Police job description and any other relevant details as determined by the Police Commission and Human Resources Director. The following criteria will be detailed for external candidates:

External Candidates Required:

- Bachelor's Degree related to Criminal Justice/ Public Safety Administration or related field
- Must hold/held a promoted rank as a Division Commander for a minimum of two years
- Continued police service of at least fifteen years
- POSTC Certified
- Active Connecticut driver's license

External Candidates Preferred:

- Master's Degree related to public Safety Administration or Criminal Justice.
- FBI National Academy or similar advanced training
- Experience in Police Administration

Candidates who are interested will submit the application through the Town of Waterford Human Resources Department.

After obtaining all valid applications as detailed in the job posting, the Police Commission will follow the process as detailed for internal candidates to include external interviews, Police Commission interviews and consultation with the Chief of Police and/or Lieutenants, the Human Resources Director and the Town of Waterford Labor Attorney, if so desired.

The Waterford Police Commission reserves the right to make necessary changes to this process as long as they discuss and approve the changes in public at a properly advertised public meeting.



Marc Balestracci
Police Chief

WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT
41 AVERY LANE
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To: First Selectman Rob Brule
Cc: Board of Police Commissioners
From: Marc Balestracci, Chief of Police
Date: May 10, 2023
Re: Request for additional officers

First Selectman Brule,

Over the past year, you and I have had many discussions in reference to public safety in the Town of Waterford. Our discussions outlined ways that the police department can best prepare for the current and future needs of our community. This request, which you have supported in our conversations, allows the department to better manage several major concerns, most notably traffic enforcement and school safety.

The Waterford Police Department is currently authorized forty-nine (49) sworn officers. Since the mid 1980's, our department has only increased in size by two (2) officers. The department, which remains one of the busier departments in eastern Connecticut, has an incredibly positive relationship with the community, handles calls for service in a professional manner and makes every effort to prevent, interrupt and solve crime in our jurisdiction.

As our department manages the changing laws in the State of Connecticut and the impact of those laws on how police officers work to reduce criminal and motor vehicle violations, we are also planning and preparing for the future needs of our community. Over the past year and a half, we have reviewed policies, procedures, assignments, staffing and long standing challenges in our community. For many years, we have continued to shift patrol officers from their main function in an attempt to positively impact school safety and traffic concerns in town. Those efforts have not resulted in long lasting results and have reduced effectiveness in other areas, of which patrol officers should be focused on. Although Waterford is a safe town to live, work and visit, the residents have also made it clear that school safety and motor vehicle enforcement are priorities.

Beyond the school safety and traffic concerns, our department is planning for the significant amount of development currently being constructed and other projects that are approved and will likely be built in the following areas:



**WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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**Marc Balestracci
Police Chief**

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- Approximately 400 apartments on Willetts Avenue and approximately 400 apartments on Hartford Turnpike
- Stand-alone residential developments on Clark Lane and Great Neck Road
- Large commercial projects on Hartford Turnpike, Oil Mill Road and potential redevelopment at the site of the Crystal Mall
- Various other proposed projects in town to include a potential multicultural magnet school on Daniels Ave.

Therefore, I am respectfully requesting an increase to the police department by three (3) sworn police officers. If approved, this increase will allow the department to improve in both school safety and traffic enforcement as we plan to add another School Resource Officer assignment and form a much needed traffic unit.

The new School Resource Officer will complement our current staffing of two (2), which will increase our presence in all Waterford Schools. In addition, two officers will be assigned to work with our current Traffic Officer to form an effective traffic unit. The officers assigned to the traffic unit will focus on motor vehicle enforcement such as speeding, distracted driving, impaired driving, reckless driving and traffic crashes, reducing patrol's heavy tasking in those areas and allowing them to prioritize calls for service and criminal activity.

As you know, the recruitment, hiring, training and certification process for police officers can take between six (6) to eighteen (18) months to complete. Due to this extended process, I am seeking authorization of the increase in sworn officers as soon as practicable.

In an attempt to be fully transparent, with current collective bargaining agreement considerations, this request would increase the operating budget for the police department in FY24 by approximately \$234,000 if fully approved and funded. The Police Union CBA states that salaries for police officers will increase by 2.75% each year until the end of the contract.

I again thank you for your support of all public safety efforts in Waterford and appreciate any consideration of this request.

Marc Balestracci
Chief of Police
Waterford Police Department