



# Webster Police Department

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## *Community Committed*

Michael D. Shaw  
Chief of Police

Deputy Chief Tobby M. Wheeler  
Lieutenant Gordon D. Wentworth, Jr.

As I sit down to write the 2021 Annual Report for the Webster Police Department, I cannot believe that three years has passed since I was promoted to Chief of Police. The last two years have been particularly challenging for all of us, with the pandemic lingering and affecting all of our lives in some way. I am hopeful that by the time I write the annual report for 2022, a sense of normalcy has returned to us all.

We started 2021 with a staffing shortage much like in 2020. Officer Michael Yurkevicius retired in December of 2020, however, we were fortunate to hire a lateral transfer from the Framingham Police Department, Officer Nicholas Caruso, who was sworn in in January. We also hired our first group of Non-Civil Service patrol officers. This was an extensive process that started with 72 candidates taking a written exam. Seventy candidates passed and were invited to take the physical fitness portion. Forty two showed up and 11 passed. Those 11 were then subject to a background investigation, which resulted in six finalists that moved on to the interview process. That resulted in the hiring of David Brooks, Joseph Fitzpatrick, and Robert Brooks. They went to the academy in April, and graduated in October. They are currently in the Field Training phase, and are expected to wrap up by the end of January. In April Officer Robert Ela transferred to the Millbury Police Department, and in August Alex Johnson was hired from the Littleton Police Department to fill his vacancy.

We also saw the promotion of Officer Robert Laroche to Patrol Sergeant in May. Officer Patrick Trainor took on the role of Harbormaster, with Officers Jon Brooks and Daniel Mehlhouse assisting. Officer Trainor grew up on the Lake, and has both fresh and saltwater boat experience, which will serve him well. Detective Sergeant Chris Trainor will still be involved, however overseeing the Detective Bureau is his primary focus, as we look to hopefully expand in the coming year. It has taken a long time, but it appears we are fully staffed for the first time several years. Our selection process is exhaustive, but it allows to be extremely selective, and enables us to put the best quality officer out to serve our community.

In keeping on the subject of the lake, we purchased a new boat for patrol, a Brig 18 foot inflatable hull center console. After soliciting three quotes, we purchased it from Lakeview Marina. It was placed in service in July, and the Carolina Skiff was auctioned off to offset the purchase price. Prior to that, we had sold the 1996 Thundermist for the same reason. The rest of the money came out of the Drug Asset Forfeiture account. Given its maneuverability, this boat is much more appropriate for use on the lake. I am hopeful that we can further increase our presence on the lake in 2022, given our level staffing.

We hired two Community Outreach Advocates, Jennifer Genduso, and Shannon Daggett, to act as liaisons for our officers when dealing with citizens with issues where additional resources could benefit them. These ladies followed up on residents with overdoses, substance abuse issues, mental health issues, and any other situation where they could be of service. Many municipalities share these types of resources, but it is my belief that Webster

From the shores of  
*Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg*

needs their own dedicated person, and I give credit to officials of the town for sharing in that vision and belief.

We were fortunate to receive a \$30,000 grant to help fund a full time Community Outreach Advocate, thanks to former Town Administrator Doug Willardson. At the end of August, Jen Genduso was hired to fill that role, and has jumped right in, working side by side with officers to bridge the gap between our residents and whatever needs they have. This position, in addition to our efforts in the Webster Substance Abuse Task Force, shows a clear commitment to our community, in ways other than just law enforcement.

A popular topic across the country this past year was that of police reform, and Massachusetts was certainly not immune from this. Legislation was passed rather quickly, and left many Chiefs with more questions than answers. We did see the creation of a Police Officer Standard Commission (POST), which many of us were in favor of. Several other issues were not addressed appropriately, namely part time officers. This may have a direct result on our Reserve Officers, which we utilize for a host of reasons, and I am hopeful that in the coming months those issues will be addressed and rectified. Our Reserve Officers are an important part of our department. One of our end goals of having that unit is to cultivate future full time officers from their ranks.

Our Community Events rolled on, with our starting with our Annual Duck Off, Cruise Nights, and largely popular Junior Police Academy. We brought back National Night Out, and our end of season car show. We participated in a Touch a Truck day, put on at the Webster Public Library, had our first fishing tournament, and even held a concert at the Webster Town Hall, which featured our very own band consisting of Officers Tom Motyka, Nicholas Caruso, Joseph Stephens, and Reserve Officer Joe Helnarski. Look for more performances in the future!

In the beginning of 2021, we saw Covid-19 vaccinations slowly roll out, with police being among the first group eligible to receive them. We were very fortunate to only have a few officers contract Coronavirus in late 2020 and early 2021. We were very aggressive in our protective measures in the early stages of the pandemic, and we made it through without any huge staffing issues. While we did see an uptick in cases towards the end of 2021, we saw that the cases were not as serious, and officers were able to return faster than earlier in the year.

We were also fortunate to be the recipient of a \$32,000 grant from the Department of Justice. We collaborated with Webster Fire and Webster EMS and purchased Personal Protective Equipment, as well as equipment to provide training in the prevention of COVID-19.

Last year we responded to 21,875 calls for service, which is 190 less than 2020. Arrests were also down, with 530 people arrested in 2021 versus 548 in 2020, for a reduction of 18. There were 755 people summoned into court for various offenses, down from 770 the previous

year. Citations issued were 1,220, versus 1,348 in 2020. Traffic accidents did increase, with 348 crashes reported in 2021, compared to 304 in 2020. Three complaints were filed against police officers in 2021. One was unfounded, and other two reporting parties refused to cooperate.

I would like to thank all of you for your unwavering support, not just this past year, but for my entire tenure as Chief of Police. I feel very fortunate to be able to serve in this capacity, and I am especially thankful to be fortunate to have the men and women under my command. They truly are the best law enforcement has to offer.

## TOWN OF WEBSTER ANNUAL CRIME REPORT 2021

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OFFENSE TYPE	2020	2021
Murder and Manslaughter	0	0
Kidnapping/Abduction	3	4
Forcible Rape	12	9
Statutory Rape	13	7
Forcible Fondling	6	9
Robbery	8	9
Aggravated Assault	131	137
Simple Assault	358	347
Intimidation	67	91
Arson	4	2
Burglary/Breaking and Entering	50	52
Pocket-Picket	1	1
Purse-Snatching	1	2
Shoplifting	15	14
Theft from Building	51	24
Theft from Motor Vehicle	17	16

All Other Larceny	98	99
Motor Vehicle Theft	22	20
Counterfeiting/Forgery	30	17
False Pretenses/Swindling	36	51
Credit Card/Automatic Teller	2	2
Impersonation	82	37
Embezzlement	0	1
Stolen Property Offenses	14	11
Destruction/Vandalism/Damage	130	185
Drug/Narcotic Violations	156	96
Pornography/Obscene Material	8	1
Prostitution/Assisting Promoting Prost.	1	0
Weapons Law Violations	30	52
Bad Checks	0	0
Disorderly Person	145	106
Driving Under The Influence	74	72
Drunkenness	29	24
Family Offenses, Non-Violent	1	3
Runaway/Missing Person	0	1

Liquor Law Violations	15	27
Trespass of Real Property	41	32
All Other Offenses	299	288
Traffic, Town By Law Offenses	1205	1019
Total Number of Calls	22,065	21,875
Total Number People Arrested	548	530
Total Number of People Summoned in For Various Offenses	770	755
Total Number of Citations Issued	1326	1220
Total Number of Traffic Accidents	304	348