



Timothy J. Bent
Chief of Police

Webster Police Department

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Deputy Chief Rodney L. Budrow
Lieutenant Michael D. Shaw

Community Committed

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

It was an exceptional, history-making year in some respects and an average year in others. In terms of calls for service and crime statistics, it was an average year. History was made with the promotion of a Deputy Chief and Lieutenant.

Rodney L. Budrow was promoted to Deputy Chief of Police on July 1, 2012. Sergeant Michael D. Shaw was promoted to Lieutenant on November 11, 2012. The addition of these positions provides the department with a command staff indicative of a department our size. It also provides us better accountability and organization. The Deputy will assist administration, the Lieutenant operations, or the patrol side of the department. The promotions of both veteran officers were well deserved and will enhance the professionalism of an already professional department; there is always room for improvement.

Our department logged 22,754 incidents/calls for service and made 712 in custody arrests in 2012. This was a decrease of 1,808 and 206 respectively from the previous year. Again, these are average numbers for the Webster Police Department. We did note an increase in crimes against property such as larceny from a building and breaking and entering. We also noted an increase in shopliftings, again probably due to the economy. It was encouraging to record an overall decrease in crimes against the person, namely, simple assaults and rapes. As always, our patrol division worked diligently with great resolve. As I have said in the past, I attribute the overall absence in crime to the hard working Patrol and Detective Divisions and an excellent criminal conviction ratio. Simply put, there is no substitute for hard work.

Our community policing outreach had another strong year. The “Hoops for Hope” program was once again held at the Park Avenue Elementary School during the summer months. The Town’s youth attended in record numbers. This so-called midnight basketball league has become very popular and has proven to be a valuable tool for addressing the needs of our youth. In partnership with Lanessa Extended Care Facility and the Webster Manor, we held both a spring and fall “Senior Memories Dance” at the Town Hall. This event is highly attended and greatly appreciated by our senior citizens. The “Webster Police Toy Drive” delivered toys to over three hundred children (over one hundred families) this Christmas season. We appreciate the generosity of the community as this would not be possible without you.

The Police/Fire Station Building Committee was extremely busy during the course of the year. It is hard to believe the group has been working together for over four years. July of 2012

From the shores of
Lake Chargoggagogmanchauggagoggchaubunungamaugg



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marked the demolition of the “Vito Block” as the excitement and reality of the project began to take hold of the Town. Our architect and project manager have been making great progress. At the time of this report, the project is officially out to bid. A general contractor will then be chosen to spearhead the project. We anticipate breaking ground in the spring.

The Police Department Command Staff will meet with Town Administrator McAuliffe and the Board of Selectmen over the coming year to discuss the goals of the department. General criticism over the years is that the department does the big things (major criminal investigations) well but lacks in the lower priority issues. The volume of high priority issues and heavy workload per officer have always been contributing factors. Together, we will evaluate these concerns and develop an aggressive plan that addresses the needs of the Town. As stated so many times in the past, the Town of Webster has a great Police Department. We are respected by our colleagues and are the type of department officers enjoy working for. This is evident as an officer laterally transferred from our department to another recently and returned a short time later.

The Town hired Bruce Hamm and Christopher Trainor as full-time officers. At the time of this report, they are attending the State Police Academy in New Braintree. They are expected to graduate in February 2013.

The Police Department logged seven (7) complaints regarding police conduct during the course of the year. One complaint developed into an Internal Investigation, resulting in a sustained finding. Citizen complaints regarding police department personnel may be directed to the shift supervisor who, in turn, will either investigate the complaint or forward the same to the Chief’s office for further investigation.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy J. Bent
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