



Webster Police Department

57 Thompson Road, Webster, MA 01570
Phone: 508-943-1212 • Fax: 508-943-7979
www.websterpolice.com



Timothy J. Bent
Chief of Police

Deputy Chief Rodney L. Budrow
Lieutenant Michael D. Shaw

Community Committed

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Police Department continued to make progress in suppressing crime and maintaining order within the Town of Webster during 2013. As each year passes, we get closer and closer to realizing our Mission Statement.

Mission Statement of the Webster Police Department:

In accordance with the rights and protections afforded by the Constitution and in accordance with the town charter for the Town of Webster, the Webster Police Department is committed to improving the quality of life and enhancing public safety by working in partnership with the community to deliver law enforcement and related services that focus on innovative methods to preserve the peace, safeguard lives and property, and minimize the fear of crime.

It has always been our perspective that true law enforcement is a community effort. Unless citizens and business owners are involved in the process, positive results are seldom realized. Without tangible support from the community, any degree of success in our business is difficult. In the year 2013 the police department renewed a conscious effort to work in partnership with the citizens we serve.

Current information that is continuously being updated on the department's website, Facebook and Twitter accounts, enable us to keep the community informed and involved. Social media is not only helpful with community events but is also instrumental in solving crimes and drawing attention to relevant issues of concern. Our community is now more involved with the police department than in any other time in history.

At the writing of this report, our new police station is half completed. It is exciting to see a beautiful new building at the Main Street location. The Police/Fire Station Building Committee is now in its sixth year and continues to meet regularly. As hard as I try, I can't put into words the amount of dedication and commitment this committee has displayed. We remain on schedule for a July 15, 2014 completion date. A new state of the art building will continue our ongoing efforts to assess and improve our service to the Town.

During the course of the year, we worked tirelessly on the concept of a Regional Dispatch for our area. With the construction of the new police station, we felt this would be perfect timing for a Dispatch Communication Center that would serve several towns in South Worcester County. We wrote, and received, a grant in the amount of \$1,038,000.00 to regionalize our

From the shores of
Lake Chargoggagogmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

dispatch. At the time of this report, the Town's of Webster and Dudley have signed an agreement to regionalize our dispatch centers. We anticipate other communities joining in the future. We also anticipate future grant awards. The end result of Regional Dispatch is better service to Webster and our contiguous communities.

The tragedy of the Boston Marathon bombing left us all unsettled. The effects of this incident were felt around the world. As mutual aid was requested, the Central Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council's SWAT Team was deployed. As our community is aware, the Webster Police Department is strongly involved in the management of the Council. Webster Lieutenant Michael Shaw, Commander of the SWAT Team, scheduled continual coverage in Boston. Accompanied by Webster Officers Joshua Collins, Michael Lee and several other SWAT Team Operators representing central Massachusetts, our officer's protected soft targets, engaged the suspect vehicle on that tragic Thursday evening, and searched homes in Watertown for suspect number two. Later that week, more K-9 Teams were requested. Webster Officer Aaron Suss and his team were deployed to assist. We can all be proud of the fact that Webster answered the call and responded without hesitation. Our officers were honored by the Webster Board of Selectmen.

Our Detective Division executed several narcotic search warrants during the course of the year. Several arrests and seizures were made. Detectives Hoover and Wheeler were commended for their efforts. The drug seizure account enabled the department to purchase a new K-9 vehicle and a new vehicle for the Deputy Chief.

On a very positive note, Detective Gordon Wentworth was promoted to Sergeant. Officer Steven Cacciapouti takes his place in the Detective Bureau, well deserved by both officers. Officer Robert Larochelle, who was a lay-off from the Worcester Police Department, returned to Worcester. The Town hired Timothy Whiting to replace Larochelle. At the time of this report, Officer Whiting is in the Worcester Police Academy. We were saddened by the passing of retired Officer Lawrence Gevry, Sr. Officer Gevry served the Town with distinction for well over thirty years.

The police department's "Hoops for Hope" program was once again a huge success. We partnered with the Webster/Dudley Boy's and Girl's Club this year. To refresh your memories, police officers mentor the Town's youth, offering them a place to congregate and play basketball during the summer months. Webster Officers Joseph Reed, Robert Ela and Timothy Whiting were honored by the Webster Board of Selectmen for their continued efforts with this popular program. We maintain the importance of this outreach program: instilling values within our Town's youth and breaking down barriers that inherently exist between youth and police. We held another successful Junior Police Academy during the summer. Young men and women

interested in law enforcement were instructed by Webster Police Officers in various forms of discipline. This is an exciting course; thank you to the youth who attended and the many officers who make this program successful. The Webster Police Toy Drive logged record numbers. We helped over 150 families this past year. Thank you to all our residents who make this toy drive the wonderful program that it is. Without you, this would not be possible. We will continue our community policing events such as Professional Wrestling in the Town Hall. These events fund our outreach programs, such as Winter Wonderland, The Senior Memories Dances, The Junior Police Academy, Hoops for Hope, and others.

The Police Department logged 21, 936 incidents for the year, a slight decrease from last year. Our category of crimes against property, such as breaking and entering and larceny from a building, recorded substantial decreases. Crimes against the person recorded slight increases and decreases depending on the crime itself; an example would be the various forms of assaults. Our total number of arrests increased slightly from the previous year, from 712 to 723. We recorded a substantial increase in the number of citations written, from 1,646 in 2012 to 2,378 in 2013.

The Police Department logged ten (10) complaints against officers during the course of the year. One complaint developed into an Internal Investigation, resulting in a *not 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

Chief of Police