

Professional Continuing Education

A representative of the Planning Board attended the Citizen Planner Training Collaborative conference on Saturday, in March of 2019, at Holy Cross College, Worcester, MA. In addition, the Planning Board members are committed to attending the American Planning Association seminars and other seminars throughout the year at various locations, so as to update their knowledge on the planning and decision making process. The Planning Board's role is so diverse in nature that the Board members are required to update themselves on recent land use decisions.

Membership

Joseph Scardino and Dan Kelly were elected Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively. The terms of the Planning Board members are as follows: Joseph Scardino (2022); Daniel Kelly (2021); Lynne Jardin (2020) Jonathan Garland (2023) and Senesie Kabba (2024). The Board introduced its newest members, Jonathan Garland and Senesie Kabba. We welcome them to the Board and look forward to the addition of their knowledge and expertise.

The Planning Board extends their thanks to William Angelos and Shawn Bailey in recognition of their outstanding service as Board members.

The Planning Board wishes to acknowledge and thank their staff, all of the many committee members, town employees, and department heads that facilitate our planning endeavors with their invaluable expertise.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Donna M. McNamara, Chief of Police

Mission Statement

Our Purpose

The men and women of the Stoughton Police Department are dedicated to providing excellence in safety, security, and service to the community. We uphold the laws of the Commonwealth and the Constitution of the United States.

We in the Stoughton Police Department exist to serve all people with respect, fairness and compassion. We are committed to the prevention of crime and the protection of peace, order and safety.

Committed to the Community

We will maintain a bond with the community through continued partnerships, initiatives, and outreach. We strive to be a full partner with the people of Stoughton by holding ourselves to the highest standards of performance and ethics.

We are Problem-Solvers Committed to the Future

We shall employ a forward thinking approach in all that we do. We will think innovatively to correct the quality of life problems so important to our residents.

Our highly dedicated members are the most treasured asset and the cornerstone of our department's success. We will attain successes through a dedication to the development of our officers with world-class training and leadership.

It is my privilege and pleasure to submit to you the annual report of the Stoughton Police Department:

Staffing

The current police staffing level consist of 60 sworn personnel. The staffing break down of the current level is 1-Chief, 1-Deputy Chief, 3-Lietuentsants, 9-Sergeants and 48 Patrol Officers (which includes 7- Detectives and 2 School Resource Officers). In October of 2019, two vacancies were hired and began the 26 week training at the MBTA Academy. In 2019 the ATM approved two patrol positions funded for 6 months. Our actual staffing levels have decreased due to some unexpected personnel matters. We are currently in the hiring process to fill the four vacancies with an anticipated academy date of April 2020.

During the calendar year of 2019, the Stoughton Police Department responded to a total of 25,144 actual calls for service. The total number of offense reports investigated was 1,224 an increase of 357, crash reports investigated were 1,211 an increase of 537, and arrest/ summons for criminal offense equaled 1,132 an increase of 155 cases compared to 2018. The men and women of the Stoughton Police Department issued 3,526 motor vehicle citations. Any revenues that were created went directly to the general fund of the Town.

Central Dispatch

The Stoughton Police combined dispatch which is staffed with two civilian dispatchers and one police officer during 3 shifts a day. The Central Dispatch continues to have its challenges with staffing the civilian dispatcher positions. The merging of the police and fire dispatch has improved efficiency during emergency communications when responding to calls for service. An example of the improved efficiency was evident during Monday February 25, 2019, when the police department had an extraordinary 8-4 shift that had 31 calls for service with three arrests, and two criminal application summons' and a house fire which caused many street closure. The Central Dispatch working hand in hand with the Police and Fire staff were able to efficiently dispatch and coordinate all of the necessary apparatus and officers throughout the community. A total of 720 calls were handled by the Stoughton Police Central Dispatch. The calls ranged from 911 emergency calls, all non-emergency police and fire department calls as well as all radio transmission by Police Officers and Firefighters.

Opioid Outreach

The opioid epidemic continues to have a significant impact on our community, as a result of the impact, the Stoughton Police Department has dedicated a police officer to act as an “outreach officer”. The “outreach officer” is responsible for contacting a person who suffered an overdose or whose family member has suffered an overdose to provide any additional resources for treatment and counseling opportunities for those in opioid crisis. Our police department continues to administer Naloxone (Narcan). The total overdoses by year during the past four years consist of 65 for 2019 (3 were fatal), 64 (10 were fatal) in 2018, 50 (seven were fatal) in 2017 and 67 (12 were fatal) in 2016. Stoughton accounted for 10% of the Norfolk County total fatal overdoses of 98. The “outreach officer in 2019 began utilizing a County Wide database to track all overdoses in Norfolk County in order to help all communities follow up with those in need of assistance with the addiction. The database helps when a person who lives on Stoughton overdoses in another community to notify the Stoughton Police “outreach officer” to conduct a follow up and try to encourage the person to enter a program to combat the addiction.

Detective Bureau

Our Detective Unit conducted 79 criminal investigations and successfully solved 57 of the cases which resulted in criminal arrests or criminal summons. The investigations include cases for Home Invasion, Sexual Assaults, Stabbing Indecent Assault, Breaking and Entering, Armed Robbery, Assault, Larceny, Robbery, Firearms Investigations and Narcotics investigations. It is important to note that narcotics investigations generally take an inordinate amount of time and resources and we cannot address these problems without your help. If you see any activity that would warrant a narcotics investigation, please share this information with us. You may contact us by traditional means or use our tip line and tip email. The tip line is 781-232-9344 and the tip email address is tips@stoughton-ma.gov.

During 2019, the Stoughton Police Department seized more than 1,892 grams of Cocaine, 3,060 grams of Heroin, 680-30 mg pills of Percocet, 52 pounds of Marijuana and 797 grams of Fentanyl.

A staggering number of 14 firearms were seized in criminal acts during 2019, which was slightly less than the 18 firearms in 2018 but in comparison to only five in 2017 and seven in 2016. This is extremely concerning numbers which are trending in the wrong direction.

Public Records Request

In 2019, the Stoughton Police Department processed 2,379 public records request. All of these requests were processed by the civilian records clerk and the Sergeant assigned as the Public Records Supervisor. These requests have come via telephone, facsimile, email, US Postal, and in person at the records window. The majority of the records request requires redaction prior to dissemination due to privacy concerns, juvenile involvement, and domestic violence and/or CORI requirements. All of which is supervised by the Public Records Sergeant.

Firearms Licensing

In 2019, 365 firearms license applications were processed to include new and renewal application. This number remains rather consistent with the 369 applications processed in 2018. In addition to the applications the Firearms Licensing Sergeant had several license suspensions which included the seizure of all firearms associated with the license holder. The seizure of firearms is extremely time consuming, due to the importance of documentation and evidence tracking which accompanies the seizure. In 2019 the Firearms Licensing Sergeant seized nearly 190 firearms which were held in evidence.

Grants

In 2019, the Stoughton Police Department received approval for numerous state and federal grants. The Governors Highway Safety Grant for traffic safety was awarded for \$10,000. The traffic enforcement focused on Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety, Texting While Driving and Driver Sober or Get Pulled Over programs. The department was awarded \$17,696.30 from the Department of Justice in the Bulletproof Vest Partnership. The department was again awarded the State 911 grant for \$84,683.

In June of 2017, the town of Stoughton saw a private rehabilitation facility open in our community. We continue to work with the private organization the Andrew House rehabilitation facility to foster the most fitting responses to their operational needs. The Police Department and Fire Department continues to respond to this facility on numerous occasions for fights, overdoses, hazmat incidents, disturbances and mental health incidents. There exists an open dialogue between your police department and the rehabilitation facility to reduce any harm to the community and their patients.

On March 5th and 6th the Massachusetts Police Accreditation program conducted a Re-Accreditation Assessment of the Stoughton Police Department. During the Assessment 3 independent Assessors evaluated the policies and procedures of the Stoughton Police Department. The Stoughton Assessment required the Police Department to accomplish the required 257 mandatory standards and a 70 percentage of the 125 optional standards. At the completion of the Assessment, the Stoughton Police Department did comply with all 257 mandatory standards and complied with 90 percent of the 125 optional standards. The accomplishment of Re-Accreditation not only provides the Town of Stoughton with an insurance credit it also assures the Community that the Police Department is recognized publicly as having the best practices for the Police Profession.

The process to achieve Accreditation is a rigid policy development and organizational review of systems and procedures consisting of the best practices both administratively and operationally. It creates a policy driven organization that will serve as a comprehensive system of checks and balances using the best practices in policing standards. The new Accreditation Sergeant rose to the challenge of the Re-Accreditation. The department remains committed to the process and have dedicated ourselves to accomplishing the task.

Professional training of all personnel is paramount to the success of our department. In order to remain in the forefront of the ever changing law, court decisions and police

standards the department participates in annual in-service which includes training on Use of Force, Firearms and Taser Qualification, First Responder, Defensive Tactics, and de-escalation tactics. In addition the department also attended specialized training for Master Public Information Officer, Glock Armorer certification, Pre-Incident Stress Debriefing for Command Staff, Crisis Intervention Training, New England Regional Opioid Summit, Behavioral Observation, Trauma Management and L.E. Advanced Casualty Care.

The Stoughton Police Department has continued to train Officers in the mental health area with more officers attending the 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training. The training provides officers with the best practices for intervention, treatment and handling of sensitive mental health related issues.

The Stoughton Police have continued to commit to a partnership with the community with our outreach events such as the Haunted Police Station, Child Passenger Safety Inspection program, the Shop with a Cop event, Ride to School with the Chief, numerous reading programs in the Stoughton Public Schools and the Stoughton Library, Coffee with a Cop, and an extremely successful toy drive sponsored with Target during the holiday season. In addition, the Police Department has continued to provide a partnership with public and private organizations with training in active shooter protocols. The ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) program is a comprehensive training which was implemented in the school district in partnership with the Police department since 2011. Also in 2019, our community outreach included the First Community Police Academy. The program was highly successful and there are plans to have this become an annual program allowing citizens of the community to get a glimpse of the training that full time officer go thru.

Animal Control

The Animal Control Officer answered approximately 751 (calls for service) for various animal issues. This is a reduction in calls for service due to the injury off duty which caused the ACO to be absent for three months. The majority of the calls were for reports of loose dogs, stray dogs, dog barking complaints, nuisance wildlife, dog bite investigations, deer struck by motor vehicle and dead animals in the roadway. The additional duty also assigned to the Animal Control Officer is the enforcement of parking violations. During 2019, changes to the municipal parking lots in the town created a flurry of parking violations. A total of 273 parking citations for overtime parking, 43 citations for warnings for overtime, 11 citations for wrong direction, 23 warnings for no parking (mostly Railroad Ave lot) and 5 handicap violations.

The Stoughton Board of Selectmen, all town departments, Finance Committee, town meeting members, town boards and the Stoughton residents have been supportive of our Police Department. The support of your Police Department has not gone unnoticed and our commitment to community engagement continues to be one of our priorities. We remain committed to the safety and security of our community and must continue to strive to strengthen the community trust and collaborate within the community we serve. We welcome your feedback and interaction as this is your Stoughton Police Department.