



# Webster Police Department

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Chief of Police

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Lieutenant Gordon D. Wentworth, Jr.

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*Community Committed*

## Annual Report of the Webster Police Department 2019

In 2019, the Webster Police Department, for the first time in 13 years, saw a change in the Chief of Police. Chief Timothy Bent retired, officially on January 12, 2019. With his retirement, a brand new command staff was installed. In addition to myself, Tobby Wheeler was promoted from Lieutenant to Deputy Chief, and Gordon Wentworth was promoted from Sergeant to Lieutenant.

Our first priority was to bring our staffing to an appropriate level. Officer Francescka Cedeno was hired, and graduated the academy on November 8<sup>th</sup>. She is doing fantastic, and is expected to wrap up her Field Training in early February. She will be a tremendous asset to our department. We were also able to hire two lateral transfers from the city of Framingham, Officers Derek Mroczek and Phillip Hurton. Both were seasoned veterans with great experience. Officer Michael O'Leary left us to take a position with the Millbury Police Department. We wish him the best in his future there. This allowed us to hire officer Joseph Stephens from the Hudson Police Department, who demonstrated a strong desire to come to work specifically for Webster. We have long prided ourselves on having high expectations of our officers, and our goal in hiring has always been to get the best officers available, and these recent hires have been exactly that. I have no doubt they will all live up the high standard we have placed on them.

We also saw the promotion of Officer Aaron Desantis, and Detective Christopher Trainor to Sergeant. Officer Joseph Reed was also brought into the Detective Bureau. The promotions to sergeant complete front line supervisor vacancies, and we are confident they will do a fine job. Detective Reed also backfills a vacancy in the Detective Bureau, which we will be hoping to supplement early in 2020.

We saw two long term members, Detective Sergeant James Hoover and Officer James Young Sr. retire this past October. Officer Young Sr. had over 32 years of service, which is something that I cannot recall in my 23 years here happening. Detective Sergeant Hoover had 26 years with the Police Department, and several more with the Webster Water Department, prior to becoming a police officer. On behalf of everyone in the Department, I would like to thank you both for your service, and working with you was an absolute pleasure. You will be missed, and please do not hesitate to stop in, you will always be welcome.

The Webster Police Department did some outstanding police work in 2019. In May, there was a random abduction from the May Street Park. Through some of the finest investigatory work I have ever been a part of, a suspect was potentially identified a few days later. With the

From the shores of  
*Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg*

cooperation of the FBI, Connecticut State Police, US Attorney General's Office, and Worcester County District Attorney's Office, an arrest was made. The case is currently winding its way through the Federal Court System, and we are hopeful it will be resolved later this year. Detective Chris Trainor seized two kilograms of cocaine with assistance from the US Postal Inspectors. Arrests were made in both cases. Sergeant Trainor was a long time member of the DEA High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force, which was critical in him developing his investigative skills in narcotic investigations. Those skills will certainly pay dividends down the road.

We were fortunate to receive a grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security for traffic enforcement, which allowed us to have an increased presence on Fridays and Saturdays. This allowed for an increase in officer presence, which I have no doubt has an effect on deterring crime. Officers also participated in several proactive patrol functions, including a warrant sweep, motor vehicle enforcement, as well as narcotic investigations.

In 2019, we received our mobile surveillance camera, through funds that were appropriated at Town Meeting. This camera is able to be placed at various locations throughout town to enhance security. It was placed at Memorial Beach, sporting events, Lakeside Boat Ramp, and numerous other functions throughout the year.

We have auctioned two of our three police boats, and purchased a new one, a Carolina Skiff. It was decided to keep the 2007 Thundermist. Sergeant Trainor will take over Harbormaster duties. An increased presence was seen on the lake this past year, which was made possible from the additional training of several officers in the duties and responsibilities of the Marine Patrol.

Our Community Policing events were in full effect. We had our eleventh annual Junior Police Academy, headed by Officer Bruce Hamm. National Night Out was another success, as was our Hoops for Hope program, which we also ran during school vacations. We also had our second annual Duck Off, as well as Car Show. I would like to thank all of the officers and their families for their help during these, and all of the other events we have throughout the year. Their success would not be possible without you.

In July, State Representative Joseph McKenna secured a \$25,000 earmark for the Webster Opiate Task Force. This allowed us to hire Community Outreach Advocates Jen Comeau, Jen Genduso, and Shannon Dagget. They go out into the community with myself or other officers and offer individuals affected with Substance Use Disorder services that may assist them in overcoming their addiction.

The department saw an increase in calls for service, arrests, and citations compared to 2018. Calls for service were about by about 1,000 to 23,425. Arrests were down by about 20, however

about 150 more summons for court were issued. Approximately 1500 more citations were issued compared to 2018 as well.

The Police Department logged 14 complaints against officers. 8 were unfounded, 3 were not sustained, and three were sustained. Citizen complaints regarding police department personnel may be directed to the shift supervisor. They will either investigate and handle the complaint, or forward it to the Chief's office for further investigation.

In closing, I would like to recognize retired Webster Police Chief Timothy Bent. My first full year as Police Chief has gone by very quickly, and I could not be happier with where the department is. I cannot thank Chief Bent enough for his guidance and wisdom throughout the years. I thank you and wish you and your family well in the next chapter of your life.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael D. Shaw  
Chief of Police

## TOWN OF WEBSTER ANNUAL CRIME REPORT 2019

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OFFENSE TYPE	2018	2019
Murder and Manslaughter	1	0
Kidnapping/Abduction	9	5
Forcible Rape	14	16
Statutory Rape	4	5
Forcible Fondling	7	4
Robbery	12	4
Aggravated Assault	105	135
Simple Assault	325	292
Intimidation	83	59
Arson	1	0
Burglary/Breaking and Entering	63	60
Pocket-Picket	0	3
Purse-Snatching	1	1
Shoplifting	21	22
Theft from Building	51	45
Theft from Motor Vehicle	16	34

All Other Larceny	93	118
Motor Vehicle Theft	26	16
Counterfeiting/Forgery	13	10
False Pretenses/Swindling	47	62
Credit Card/Automatic Teller	3	7
Impersonation	15	23
Embezzlement	3	0
Stolen Property Offenses	17	11
Destruction/Vandalism/Damage	123	140
Drug/Narcotic Violations	82	103
Pornography/Obscene Material	3	6
Prostitution/Assisting Promoting Prost.	1	0
Weapons Law Violations	11	32
Bad Checks	2	0
Disorderly Person	220	140
Driving Under The Influence	99	112
Drunkenness	67	82
Family Offenses, Non-Violent	1	0
Runaway/Missing Person	0	0

Liquor Law Violations	30	37
Trespass of Real Property	33	32
All Other Offenses	263	244
Traffic, Town By Law Offenses	1084	1248
Total Number of Calls	22,317	23,425
Total Number People Arrested	684	663
Total Number of People Summoned in For Various Offenses	597	734
Total Number of Citations Issued	1288	2916
Total Number of Traffic Accidents	451	450