



Webster Police Department
57 Thompson Road
Webster, MA 01570

Phone: (508) 943-1212

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REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

During the past year the Webster Police Department continued to move forward in fighting crime and disorder. With a drastic reduction in the police budget and the personnel shortage, officers continue to gain the respect and trust of the residents of this community. It is unfortunate that due to the loss of personnel we had to sever ties with the School District by removing the School Resource officer from the schools. This officer has taken great strides to gain the respect, trust and concern of not only the students but the staff as well. Officer Johnson handled many incidents within the school system, including an incident where a student had brought a firearm to school. The School Resource Officer position will be deeply missed by all. The police department was also forced to reduce the number of detectives from three to one. This placed a heavy workload on the remaining detective and affected investigative procedures at every level. The above-mentioned officers returned to the patrol division to respond to the ever-increasing call for service volume.

During the year a fleet of new cruisers were leased, 4 cruisers and a 4 wheel drive Explorer. The vehicles were redesigned to replicate the older black and white cruisers of the past.

Remodeling has begun in the department. A generous vote of the town voters approved \$140,000 for the redesign of the booking rooms and new radio console. This was necessary to bring communications up to date. As stated in the past however, we have long since outgrown the building itself. This remains a major concern as the station no longer suites our needs and would be far too costly to completely update.

Several grants were awarded to the Webster Police: Homeland Security Grant of \$12,000, which was shared with the Webster Fire and Rescue Squad. Community Policing Grant of \$18,000, Click-it-Ticket Governor's Highway Safety Grant of \$11,400 which was written and monitored by Officer Daniel Difusco, and Bullet Proof Vest Grant, which has paid for half of the bullet proof vests that the officers wear, with the other half coming from the Executive Officer of Public Safety. This program has been in place for the past six years. An additional Homeland Security Grant was received in which a Weapons of Mass Destruction disaster drill was held with several of the adjoining towns and emergency personnel as well as other disaster agencies and Hubbard Regional Hospital. This drill was organized and designed by Officer Gordon Wentworth who was the lead person and a committee of other personnel. This drill was attended by 50 individuals throughout the area and showed successful results.

During the year we have lost two officers, Scott Nelson transferred to the Town of Milford, and Thomas Pysell who resigned and is working in the private sector.

On a personal note I would like to thank the residents of the community, elected officials, and the several Administrators that had faith in me when they placed me in the Chief of



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Police position in July of 2003. A great thanks to all the Department Heads of the Town of Webster who were there for me when I needed them for help, they are all true professionals and dedicated to their jobs. But the greatest thanks goes to the men and women of the Webster Police Department, who have continued to uphold the oath that we have all taken as Police Officer's, "to protect the rights, lives and property of all citizens and uphold the honor of the Police profession..."

As I return to Sergeant, I look forward to working with the newly appointed Chief of Police Timothy Bent. I will share all my experience that I have learned over the last two and a half years as Chief of Police with Chief Bent and look forward to continue working with the community and businesses of Webster.

Sincerely

Sgt. William Keefe