



Town of Webster
Police Department

"Improving the Quality of Life"

Chief Timothy J. Bent

57 Thompson Road
Webster, MA 01570
phone: (508)943-1212
fax: (508) 943-7979
www.websterpolice.com

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

What is the most valuable resource of any successful company or business? Every Chief Executive Officer will say it is the company's personnel. The Webster Police Department is certainly no exception.

I need to open this year's report acknowledging the fact that the Webster Police Department's Patrol and Detective Divisions worked tirelessly during the course of 2011. Although I have stated in the past that as a department we do not concentrate solely on statistics, the fact is police work is driven by statistics. Our police officers' proactive production (arrests, citations, investigations) recorded dramatic increases in virtually every category. This can only be attributed to the commitment and strong work ethic of the men and women of our department. Our officers continue to meet the increased demands that are placed upon them. If I relay nothing else in this report, I would like to emphasize the following statement: **The Webster Police Department has the most professional and knowledgeable law enforcement officers in central Massachusetts.** They have my full support, and I admire their abilities. I realize this is a bold statement but one that I stand behind.

The Fels Family Foundation donated six million dollars toward construction of a new police station. The Becker Family donated five hundred thousand dollars for the purchase of the Vito Block, site of the new police station. At a special town meeting, our citizens came out and overwhelmingly supported another six million dollar, long-term borrowing plan. With the Town's support, the twelve million dollar new police station/renovated fire station project is underway. Demolition and groundbreaking will begin in the summer of 2012. We are thankful to all who supported this project and are excited to be in the beginning phases of a revitalized downtown. We would also like to thank the members of the building committee who volunteer so much of their time, effort, and professional abilities to this project.

Our Main Street Police Patrol has been well received, generating great feedback. As anticipated, the walking patrol has added a much needed police presence to the area. Thank you to Nancy Healy for donating office space on Main Street for a new Webster Police Sub Station. Main Street Officer Ela solicited several other donations from Commerce Insurance, The Party Planner, Graphics Unlimited and Matte's Hardware. The sub-station provides a convenient location for business owners and residents to meet with Officer Ela. We also added Police Chief Office Hours on Monday evenings from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

We have updated our community alert system and contracted with a new provider. The Nixle system we formally had could no longer provide services free of charge. After evaluating the system, we concluded that, if we had to pay for a system, we should go with one that provided a better service. We contracted with Tip 411 and feel this system suits the needs of our community better. Not only does this system provide community alerts but it also provides an anonymous tip service that we feel will be

beneficial. We contracted for a two year period, funding the contract from the drug-seizure account.

We did some much needed updating to our patrol boats. At this point, both vessels have been re-lettered and have updated equipment such as lights, sirens, and cloth tops. We have also been budgeted for more funding in the Harbor Master account. This enables us to run both patrols on the weekends for eight hours a day. We were also able to run an alternating evening patrol during the week. We will continue to evaluate this program, making improvements whenever possible.

Due to the condition of the AJS building we have moved our “Hoops for Hope” night basketball program to the Park Ave. Elementary School. This was possible due to the close relationship we share with the School Department. The program experienced a two week delay but recovered quickly. Shaw’s Supermarket has been very supportive of our community programs and continues to monetarily support this program.

The Webster and Dudley Police Departments worked with District Attorney Joseph Early’s staff, receiving a competitive federal grant to operate a week-long basketball camp with a supportive message (the DA’s office knew we ran the “Hoops for Hope” program). The camp was held during the summer at the Webster/Dudley Boys and Girls Club. Children attending the camp were mentored by Webster and Dudley Police Officers, staff members from the DA’s Office, and staff members of the Boys and Girls Club. Other topics included issues pertaining to drugs, bullying, and aggressive behavior as a result of being a bystander. It was an informational, fun, and well-run event.

During the summer months the police department participated in two pilot programs that addressed community needs. One program, developed by the cafeteria personnel at the Middle School, provided lunch for children in need at no cost to the child. The police department assisted in advertising the program and provided transportation when needed. We also assisted the Webster/Dudley Food Share in providing lunch for those in need. Lunches were prepared at Food Share and distributed on Davis Street by utilizing our police van. This program was developed by Donna Farrow. Officer Cynthia Johnson assisted both programs. We look forward to assisting both organizations this coming summer as both programs are invaluable to this community.

Sergeant Budrow, Officer Bates, Detective Wentworth and Town Administrator McAuliffe attended a Data-Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) training. This training teaches police to analyze data using geo-mapping to identify areas that have high incidences of crime and crashes. Police then saturate these locations with highly visible traffic enforcement, thereby fighting crime and reducing traffic crashes. The program is currently in the process of development and should be launched in 2012.

In an effort to remain as technologically advanced as possible, we purchased five (5) in-car video systems. This purchase was made possible through our drug-seizure

account. This latest technology will provide video and audio for five marked cruisers. Officers will be equipped with a microphone on their persons. The purchase of these systems will provide an accurate account of what transpires on the street, thereby providing evidence for the prosecution of cases. The systems will also protect officers from false allegations. As the cruisers return to the station, the information will automatically download from the cruiser to a hard-drive through a portal located outside the station. At the writing of this report, the systems are being installed.

The Police Department logged 24,562 incidents/calls for service in 2011, an increase of 2,180 from the previous year. The department recorded 918 in custody arrests and summonsed 792 individuals to court, an increase of 182 and 50 respectively. The Patrol Division issued 2210 motor vehicle citations, up 912 from the previous year, and issued 1209 verbal warnings. As seems to be the trend in a sluggish economy, crimes against property (breaking and entering, vandalism) recorded increases of 31% and 15% respectively. We observed an increase in all the assault categories, as well as a noticeable 100% increase in the counterfeiting/forgery category. The drugs/narcotics category also observed an alarming 181% increase. Other noticeable increases were recorded in the disorderly conduct category and the drunkenness/protective custody category.

On a sad note, retired Webster Auxiliary Captain Norman L. Chenevert passed away on December 26, 2011. Captain Chenevert served with the Auxiliary Department for thirty-two years. Norman was a true leader and a man of integrity and character.

The Chief's office received no complaints regarding police conduct during the course of the year. 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