



Webster Police Department

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Timothy J. Bent
Chief of Police

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Community Committed

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

It was an emotionally draining and unprecedented year for the Webster Police Department. We have never experienced the deaths of two currently serving Police Officers.

On July 18, 2017 our sister, Detective Cynthia Johnson, lost her courageous battle with ovarian cancer. Cindy was 46 years old. Her death tore through the rank and file of our department. It was not only a devastating loss to our department, but also a significant loss to the Webster Public Schools (Cindy served as the School Resource Officer) and Town as well. As we honored her service, we grew tremendously as a department. We took pride in coming together and doing what needed to be done. As we grieved, our pain transformed into an overall closeness and strength we have never quite experienced before.

On October 7, 2017 tragedy struck again. Our brother, Officer Michael J. Lee, was killed in an off-duty motor vehicle accident. Mike was 38 years old. The sudden loss was incomprehensible. How could this be, we were still mourning the death of Detective Johnson. As the news filtered through the department, one by one, we met at the police station. Department members, family members, friends, and colleagues gathered to grieve. We once again prepared to bury a loved one, and we again did what needed to be done. For a second time, we felt an unexplainable sense of pride that we still carry with us today.

We will honor both Cindy and Mike's service and commitment forever. Both were dedicated and talented officers; both were extremely popular within our department and community as well. Cindy and Mike are, in our opinion, irreplaceable. We would like to thank our colleagues in the law enforcement community for helping us through this. We would especially like to thank our town residents and town departments for your compassion, understanding, and support. You were there for us when we needed you, and we will never forget.

Several narcotic search warrants were executed during the course of the year, culminating in multiple arrests and the seizure of large amounts of illegal substances. In many cases Webster Detectives were assisted by members of the South Worcester County Counter Crime and Drug Task Force, and members of the DEA HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) Task Force. Webster Detectives also worked with the Worcester Police Gang Unit, Worcester Police Vice Squad, and the Massachusetts State Police Drug Unit on several cases. As illegal drug sales have no boundaries, collaboration among law enforcement agencies is imperative to combating drug sales and addressing addictions.

With the opioid epidemic in mind, we, like many communities, feel enforcement is critical but not enough to combat the ever increasing problem. In collaboration with Town Administrator Willardson, we began forming a Webster Opioid Task Force. We partnered with Crystal Brown from the Worcester County Sheriff's Department, Webster EMS, Webster Fire Department, our Board of Health Agent, and several other agencies. Our original focus was providing follow-up care and services to local overdose victims. Ms. Brown began contacting overdose victims, and providing after care and rehabilitation services. We immediately noticed improvement. We also began providing substance abuse education and information to families. In the coming year we will continue developing the Task

From the shores of
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Force. We are committed to finding innovative ways to end the cycle of drug abuse that has plagued our community for so many years.

On a positive note, Michael Shaw was promoted to Deputy Police Chief. This promotion was long awaited, greatly deserved, and well received. Bobby Wheeler was promoted to Lieutenant, a strong and solid promotion. Patrick Perry was then promoted to the rank of Sergeant, another beneficial promotion. The department also welcomed new hires Michael O'Leary, Sean Ebbeling, and Jonathan Brooks as patrol officers. Lastly, we accepted a lateral transfer, Aaron Desantis, from the Town of Ware. We look forward to the contributions these new officers will add to a strong department. Officer David Brody retired at the end of the year. Thank you for over thirty years of service, Officer Brody. We anticipate several more hires in the coming year. On a sad note, retired Chief Paul Minarik and retired Sergeant Richard Guerin passed away.

We feel our community partnerships have never been stronger. As mentioned earlier, we also feel we are strongly supported in and outside our community. With each passing year, our outreach programs such as Hoops for Hope, National Night Out, the Junior Police Academy, Winter Wonderland, and Senior Lunch at Point Breeze continue to improve. As a result, we are forming strong relationships with our residents and businesses. We could not provide these programs and services without help from North Village (Winn Management) and Point Breeze Restaurant, who do so much for the residents of the Town of Webster.

While most categories remained consistent, our calls for service logged a slight decrease from last year. We also observed a notable decrease in Thefts from a Motor Vehicle, Larcenies, and Liquor Law Violations. Increases in Weapons Law Violations and Motor Vehicle Accidents were also noted.

To the members of the Webster Police Department, you amaze me. Your diligence, focus, and work ethic are impressive. I don't have the words to thank you for the extraordinary service you provide. Many of you have noted that we have something special here, and I could not agree more.

I also owe a debt of gratitude to my Executive Assistant, Nancy Consolie, for your years of dedicated service. I often take your strong work ethic and pleasant demeanor for granted.

The Police Department logged nine (9) complaints against officers during the course of the year. Two (2) Internal Investigations were conducted resulting in: five (5) unfounded findings, six (6) sustained findings, and one (1) exonerated finding. Citizen complaints regarding police department personnel may be directed to the shift supervisor who, in turn, will either investigate the complaint or forward it to the Chief's office for further investigation.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy J. Bent
Chief of Police

TOWN OF WEBSTER ANNUAL CRIME REPORT 2017

OFFENSE TYPE	2016	2017
Kidnapping/Abduction	3	5
Forcible Rape	11	9
Statutory Rape	11	13
Forcible Fondling	15	10
Robbery	12	11
Aggravated Assault	113	133
Simple Assault	313	299
Intimidation	71	65
Arson	9	6
Burglary/Breaking and Entering	63	61
Pocket-Picket	9	7
Purse-Snatching	4	3
Shoplifting	42	57
Theft from Building	86	77
Theft from Motor Vehicle	38	13
All Other Larceny	163	108

Motor Vehicle Theft	31	20
Counterfeiting/Forgery	16	12
False Pretenses/Swindling	39	49
Credit Card/Automatic Teller	15	10
Impersonation	20	14
Embezzlement	6	6
Stolen Property Offenses	16	13
Destruction/Vandalism/Damage	168	175
Drug/Narcotic Violations	92	101
Pornography/Obscene Material	1	1
Prostitution/Assisting Promoting Prost.	1	0
Weapons Law Violations	0	12
Bad Checks	10	21
Disorderly Person	204	172
Driving Under The Influence	73	62
Drunkenness	93	97
Family Offenses, Non-Violent	1	0
Runaway/Missing Person	3	0
Liquor Law Violations	30	13

Trespass of Real Property	27	19
All Other Offenses	231	223
Traffic, Town By Law Offenses	921	859
Total Number of Calls	22,154	21,905
Total Number People Arrested	641	655
Total Number of People Summoned in For Various Offenses	542	559
Total Number of Citations Issued	1076	1101
Total Number of Traffic Accidents	400	457