



Webster Police Department

357 Main Street, Webster, MA 01570
Phone: 508-943-1212 • Fax: 508-943-7979
www.websterpolice.com



Timothy J. Bent
Chief of Police

Deputy Chief Michael D. Shaw
Lieutenant Tobby M. Wheeler

Community Committed

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

As anticipated, it was another re-building year for the Webster Police Department. Our main focus was the hiring process, and our objective was to hire the best “recruit officers” from a large pool of candidates. Our standards are high, as we have always felt our residents deserve the best officers possible. To that end, we were extremely successful.

We hired Patrick Trainor, Daniel Melhouse, and Kaitlyn DiBuono. We also hired Jack Ochocki, a lateral transfer from Burriville, Rhode Island. We feel these officers are outstanding, and all did well in the police academy as well as field training. At the writing of this report, we are in the process of one more hire. Once this is completed, we will be at full strength, which is something we have not been in several years. Although we anticipate a few more vacancies in the coming year, substantial progress has been made.

As reported last year, a community network approach was formed to address the opioid epidemic. Deputy Chief Shaw has overseen this initiative. I am pleased to report the Opioid Task Force is making great strides in assisting those in need. The Town hired Crystal Brown on a part-time basis to assist with the much needed follow-up for overdose victims. Assistance is offered for those who are receptive. This approach will reduce overdose recidivism. The Task Force also offered education/information for families affected by the epidemic. Narcan classes were held and a Peer Recovery Group was opened on Mechanic Street. We will continue to re-evaluate our services in an effort to provide as much assistance as possible. Together, we will make a difference.

Our Community Policing efforts remained strong with several new programs added. Proceeds from some of these programs will benefit the Detective Cynthia Johnson/Officer Michael Lee Scholarship Fund. We held our first Duck Race in July, followed by our Junior Police Academy. Our Hoops for Hope youth basketball program ran throughout the summer. The first Webster Police Car Show was held in August in the Police Department parking lot, and it was a huge success. We also began a new initiative called Coffee with a Cop in which officers go to various local coffee shops to sit and talk with residents. This program has been well received.

Our calls for service were consistent with the previous year, at 22,317. We noted a slight increase in arrests, with 684. Citations issued and traffic accidents increased from the previous year. Destruction/vandalism cases noted a significant decrease, while disorderly persons noted an increase. All other offenses remained fairly consistent with the previous year.

At the writing of this report, I have only a few days until I officially retire. My career as a Webster Police Officer spanned thirty-one (31) years, thirteen (13) as your Police Chief. I would like to thank the residents of Webster for your continued support – it has meant more than I can articulate. Throughout the inevitable challenges that come with this position, I have always felt supported by the community. Although leaving a job (and team) I love is difficult, I am more than comfortable with my decision to retire. I would like to thank my department members, past and present, for their commitment to our

From the shores of
Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

profession. Your dedication and enthusiasm has made my job so much easier. I would also like to sincerely thank the town employees from all the various departments. It has been a pleasure working with you. I will have nothing but fond memories of my time here. Success in any tenured career is not attainable without support. I cannot find the words to thank my wife Lynn, and children, Timothy and Cassandra. Without your constant support, love, guidance, and understanding I would not have made it.

My official retirement date is January 12, 2019. The future of the department looks exceptional. On January 13, 2019, Michael D. Shaw will assume command as Chief of Police. Toby M. Wheeler will be promoted to Deputy Police Chief. Gordon D. Wentworth, Jr. will be promoted to Lieutenant. As I stated to them, "You will take this department to places it has only imagined". I personally could not be happier with the Town Administrator's promotions, and have nothing but confidence in Chief Shaw's ability to lead the Webster Police Department. All three promotions are well deserved.

On a sad note, retired Officer Ronald Morrill passed away on November 18, 2018.

The Police Department logged three (3) complaints against officers during the course of the year, with no Internal Investigations. 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 2018

OFFENSE TYPE	2017	2018
Murder and Manslaughter	0	1
Kidnapping/Abduction	5	9
Forcible Rape	9	14
Statutory Rape	13	4
Forcible Fondling	10	7
Robbery	11	12
Aggravated Assault	133	105
Simple Assault	299	325
Intimidation	65	83
Arson	6	1
Burglary/Breaking and Entering	61	63
Pocket-Picket	7	0
Purse-Snatching	3	1
Shoplifting	57	21
Theft from Building	77	51
Theft from Motor Vehicle	13	16

All Other Larceny	108	93
Motor Vehicle Theft	20	26
Counterfeiting/Forgery	12	13
False Pretenses/Swindling	49	47
Credit Card/Automatic Teller	10	3
Impersonation	14	15
Embezzlement	6	3
Stolen Property Offenses	13	17
Destruction/Vandalism/Damage	175	123
Drug/Narcotic Violations	101	82
Pornography/Obscene Material	1	3
Prostitution/Assisting Promoting Prost.	0	1
Weapons Law Violations	12	11
Bad Checks	21	2
Disorderly Person	172	220
Driving Under The Influence	62	99
Drunkenness	97	67
Family Offenses, Non-Violent	0	1
Runaway/Missing Person	0	0

Liquor Law Violations	13	30
Trespass of Real Property	19	33
All Other Offenses	223	263
Traffic, Town By Law Offenses	859	1084
Total Number of Calls	22,154	22,317
Total Number People Arrested	641	684
Total Number of People Summoned in For Various Offenses	542	597
Total Number of Citations Issued	1076	1288
Total Number of Traffic Accidents	400	451