

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

To the Citizens and Taxpayers of Newton:

I thought I had just finished last year's report when, all of a sudden it's time to do another one. There's nothing significant to report this year; the department continues to inch forward in order to provide good quality police service that meets the needs of this community.

One area that we're always working on is our state accreditation. The accreditation that the department received in October 2007 is valid for a three (3) year period. But in reality, the process is a continuous one and is an integral part of our day-to-day procedures.

Another area that we've been working on is the School Campus Critical Incident Response Plan. This response plan, which is specific to the Newton School Campus, required a lot of work and training which the department will complete at the end of this month. Because of the small size of this department and the limited availability of immediate personnel, the plan requires coordination with the Rockingham County Sheriff's Department and the New Hampshire State Police. Essentially the Sheriff's Department provides communications while the State Police provides SWAT capability. Both departments also offer temporary command and control assistance and additional officers for perimeter and related assignments. Hopefully, none of the training or assistance will ever be needed, but better to be prepared than not.

Two additional issues that I would like to address are topics that have been brought to the table before and I feel they are important enough that they warrant discussion again. One concerns police department staffing and the second address's the condition of the police building.

The statistics that follow are almost identical to the statistics provided in last year's report. The numbers have not changed significantly and the need still exists and the problems have actually increased.

The last time the Newton Police Department added a full time officer was in 1996. Since then the department has remained at a total of five (5) full time officers. Over the past eleven (11) years a number of things have occurred within the community that has correspondingly increased the workload of the department.

	<u>1996</u>	<u>2007</u>
• The Town population has grown approximately 15% for a total of 606 residents	3,888	4,494
• Taxable Properties (Primarily Dwellings) increased 20% for a total of 310	1,536	1,846
• Road Miles have increased 17% for a total of 6.75 miles	37.6	44.3
• The number of Town Streets/Roads have increased by 36	83	119

From 1996 to the present date, the Town of Plaistow has added three (3) full time officers and the Town of Kingston has added two (2) full time officers. Obviously each town and community varies and has different needs. These numbers and statistics mean absolutely



nothing unless we can specifically state that hiring an additional officer will lead to achieving *Newton's* public safety needs. I believe this statement is true for the following reasons.

The department does a good job on most day-to-day issues however we get bogged down when we have long and protracted investigations. In 2007, the Newton Police Department generated four hundred and eighty-five (485) incidents/events. In 2008, the number was four hundred and sixty-four (464) which demonstrates fairly consistent activity. Incidents are calls for service that are more than a routine call based on their need for further documentation and follow-up. With five (5) officers, minus the Chief, and the Sergeant who is the case supervisor, that leaves approximately three and a half (3.5) officers to manage between 462 and 485 incidents/events.

The second issue that I would like to address is the condition of the current police building (Police Station). We are literally bursting at the seams; the building and everything in it is overburdened and is being over used.

Two (2) years ago a "Public Safety Building Committee" presented a warrant article of \$2,967,500 for taxpayer consideration for the construction of a combination police and fire station. At that time, the majority of the people in town recognized and acknowledged the need for a new building however, the concerns were:

The cost was too high

The location was wrong

What are we going to do with the old buildings, and

Police and Fire have had issues in other communities. What if something was to happen here and the two departments didn't get along, but still needed to share the same building.

Based on these concerns, we went back to the drawing board and we put together a plan that is practical, affordable and will last the community for at least the next forty (40) years. The plan makes use of the existing police station property and uses the existing building as part of its design concept. The plan calls for an overall proposed construction of 5,291 square feet at a cost of \$924,750 or \$175 per square foot which includes site work.

If the Town supports this article the construction funding would be provided through the New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank at an interest rate of 5.25 % or lower. A bond of \$900,000 over 20 years would impact the tax rate by .18 the first year and continue to decrease over twenty years until it reaches .09 on year 20. For an average resident with a home evaluation of \$300,000 the tax impact would be a total of \$54 the first year and decrease to \$27 over the life of the bond.

I understand that times are indeed difficult, but that also works to our advantage because costs are also low. The need exists and I don't believe we'll see another opportunity to provide a police station for the money requested.

Thank you for your continued support and anticipated thought and consideration on these items.

## **2008 POLICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS**

### **ARRESTS:**

All Other Larceny	4
All Other Offenses	11
Bad Checks	1
Burglary/Breaking and Entering	2
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	3
Driving Under the Influence	9
Drug/Narcotic Violations	9
Drunkenness	23
Forcible Fondling	1
Intimidation	1
Liquor Law Violations	10
Motor Vehicle Theft	1
Runaway	1
Shoplifting	1
Simple Assault	8
Stolen Property Offenses	1
Traffic, Town By-Law Offenses	51
<b>TOTAL ARRESTS</b>	<b>137</b>

### **CALLS FOR SERVICE:**

911 Hangup/Abandoned Call	44
Administrative	1022
Alarm	168
Alcohol Related	14
Animal Complaint	299
Application to Peddle/Solicit	1
Assault	7
Assist Fire Department	64
Assist Motorist	36
Assist Officer	68
Assist Other Agency	78
Assist Rescue	118
Attempted Suicide	6
Bad Check	10
Bomb Scare	1
Burglary	10
Business Check	3167
Child Car Seat Assist	1
Civil Dispute-Domestic Related	6
Civil Problem	37
Civil Standby	26

Criminal Mischief	27
Criminal Threatening	7
Criminal Trespass	6
Cruiser Maintenance	633
Court	5
Death, Unattended	3
Despondent Person	4
Directed Patrol	2003
Disturbance	28
Domestic Disturbance	35
Domestic Related	43
Drug-Related	5
Dumping, Illegal	4
Emotionally Distressed Person	2
Escort/Transport	16
Field Interview	4
Fight/Brawl	9
Fingerprint Non-Criminal	8
Follow-up	758
Fireworks Complaint	7
Fraud	6
Harassment, Other	13
Harassment, Phone	16
Juvenile Problem	39
Lockout, Motor Vehicle	4
Message Delivery	25
Missing Person	10
Motor Vehicle, Abandoned	8
Motor Vehicle Accident	54
Motor Vehicle, Other	56
Motor Vehicle, Speed/Reckless	48
Motor Vehicle Stop	1294
Motor Vehicle Theft	2
Mutual Aid	111
Neighbor Dispute	4
Noise Complaint	62
Non-Criminal	25
OHRV Complaint	22
OHRV Maintenance	1
OHRV Patrol	2
Parking Complaint	24
Police Complaint	4
Police Information	251
Property Damage	12
Property Damage, Unknown Cause	8
Property Lost	9



Property, Recovered	12
Park & Walk	5
Public Assist	211
Reported Hazard	37
Report Writing	213
Restraining Order	4
Restraining Order Violation	1
Road Agent	12
Safe School Act	11
School Crosswalk	83
Serve Paperwork	264
Serve Warrant	23
Sex Offender Registration	6
Sex Offenses	2
Shoplifting	1
Smoke/Fire Investigation	11
Speed Enforcement	565
Suicide, Threatened	4
Suspicious Circumstance	81
Suspicious Vehicle	94
Theft	33
Traffic Hazard	73
Tree Down/Wires Down	40
Truancy Check	3
Underage Drinking Patrol	2
Unsecured Building	6
Vacation Watch	247
VIN Verification	63
Weapon Related	7
Well-Being Check	46
<b>TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE</b>	<b>13,060</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
Lawrence E. Streeter  
Chief of Police