

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

To the Citizens and Taxpayers of Newton:

Every year I try to make the Annual Town Report meaningful by attempting to include what the department has accomplished during the past year and also by describing what the department would like to accomplish in the coming year. The reality is however, and as everyone is aware, the past couple of years have been difficult for a lot of people. Some people have suffered more than others, but the truth is that most of us have experienced some type of professional or personal setback which sometimes makes it difficult to celebrate and elaborate on accomplishments. Most of us continue to trudge along and try to fine tune the little things. However, sometimes it's a good thing to slow down, see what's going on around us, reassess, make adjustments and then move along with a renewed sense of purpose.

Through all this the taxpayers of Newton continue to be extremely supportive of the police department. While people decisively stated that they do not want to expand the department with additional officers, the taxpayers have insured that the department has the resources it needs to enable modest, but reasonable gains. I believe that the police department continues to maintain a professional posture and is maturing according to accepted standards and, more importantly, continues to be in concert with the community.

While we continue to try to provide good quality service to the Town of Newton, the police building remains an issue and an obstacle that we, as a community, need to address in some fashion. I think that few of us would argue that the current police building is too small and does not provide adequate space needs. The issue is money; can we afford it and do we want to spend the money for a police station.

One option is that we could choose to do nothing and leave the building the way it is. At some point over the next ten (10) years, the building will become dilapidated and uninhabitable. If the Town continues to grow at the same pace that it grew during the past eleven (11) years, the building will certainly become unusable. The police department moved into the current building in 1996 with the same number of full time officers as it has today. If we experience the same level of growth over the next ten (10) years it will mean that in 2020, the department will be policing a community with a thirty (30%) percent larger population, with approximately forty (40%) more taxable properties using the same amount of officers and from the same building.

There are no RSA's that require a Town to fund a police department. Another more radical option is that the Town could choose to regionalize or district with another town and its police agency and utilize the other agency's building and resources at a reduced cost. The Town could also abolish the department altogether and rely on the Rockingham County Sheriff's Department and the NH State Police to provide police services.

My intent here is to try to point out that the taxpayers do have alternatives to the current system. If however, the Town would like to maintain its current arrangement and its own police department, then we need to make some suitable arrangements to appropriately house it in the very near future.

As always, thank you for your patience and your consideration given to me and the Newton Police Department.

## **2009 POLICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS**

### **ARRESTS:**

All Other Larceny	5
All Other Offenses	11
Burglary/Breaking and Entering	3
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Disorderly Conduct	1
Driving Under the Influence	5
Drug/Narcotic Violations	4
Drunkenness	16
Family Offenses, Nonviolent	1
Intimidation	1
Liquor Law Violations	7
Simple Assault	8
Stolen Property Offenses	1
Traffic, Town By-Law Offenses	35
Weapon Law Violations	1
<b>TOTAL ARRESTS</b>	<b>100</b>

### **CALLS FOR SERVICE:**

911 Hang-up/Abandoned Call	41
Administrative	902
Alarm	161
Alcohol Related	4
Animal Complaint	251
Assault	4
Assist Fire Department	82
Assist Motorist	46
Assist Officer	47
Assist Other Agency	120
Assist Rescue	64
Bad Check	10
Bomb Scare	4
Burglary	9
Business Check	2611
Child Car Seat Assist	4
Civil Dispute-Domestic Related	2
Civil Problem	10
Civil Standby	14
Criminal Mischief	27
Criminal Threatening	2
Criminal Trespass	1
Cruiser Maintenance	651



## 2009 POLICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

Court	8
Death, Unattended	1
Despondent Person	3
Directed Patrol	4044
Disturbance	34
Domestic Disturbance	25
Domestic Related	14
Drug-Related	6
Dumping, Illegal	6
Emotionally Distressed Person	1
Escort/Transport	12
Field Interview	3
Fight/Brawl	3
Fingerprint Non-Criminal	21
Follow-up	475
Fireworks Complaint	1
Forgery	2
Fraud	3
Harassment, Other	6
Harassment, Phone	14
Juvenile Problem	16
Lockout, Motor Vehicle	2
Message Delivery	10
Missing Person	12
Motor Vehicle, Abandoned	4
Motor Vehicle Accident	58
Motor Vehicle, Other	98
Motor Vehicle, Speed/Reckless	83
Motor Vehicle Stop	1040
Motor Vehicle Theft	2
Mutual Aid	42
Neighbor Dispute	21
Noise Complaint	46
Non-Criminal	4
OHRV Complaint	9
OHRV Maintenance	1
Parking Complaint	23
Police Complaint	1
Police Information	218
Property Damage	11
Property Damage, Unknown Cause	2
Property Lost	7
Property, Recovered	20
Park & Walk	8

## 2009 POLICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

Reported Hazard	35
Report Writing	237
Restraining Order	22
Restraining Order Violation	3
Road Agent	4
Safe School Act	9
School Crosswalk	74
Serve Paperwork	398
Serve Warrant	29
Sex Offender Registration	10
Sex Offenses	6
Shoplifting	1
Smoke/Fire Investigation	6
Speed Enforcement	510
Suicide	1
Suicide, Attempted	4
Suicide, Threatened	3
Suspicious Circumstance	180
Suspicious Vehicle	62
Theft	38
Traffic Hazard	40
Tree Down/Wires Down	15
Truancy Check	3
Unsecured Building	10
Unwanted Subject	9
Use of Force	1
Vacation Watch	591
VIN Verification	45
Weapon Related	12
Well-Being Check	30

**TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE**

**13,875**

Respectfully submitted,  
Lawrence E. Streeter  
Chief of Police