

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Hampden Police Department had to face changes within our department over the last year due to the current budget restraints that were placed on our department.

The Department currently consists of seven full time police officers, which include the Chief, two Sergeants and four patrol officers. We have three full time dispatchers and three permanent part time dispatchers. Also, we rely on the twelve reserve officers currently in the department.

Over the last year we have faced a reduction in our workforce, due to our current budget limitations. We are down from ten full time officers to seven from a year ago and we are still down a full time dispatcher. We rely even more on our reserve officers to properly staff our department, which continues to be a challenge for our full time department. We continue to have officers working alone, at times, due to our current budget. Our training continues to suffer, but minimum requirements are still being met.

Our department has experienced members who have moved on over the last twelve months. Reserve Officer Thomas S. Cortis and Officer Michael J. Hawk resigned from our department for personal reasons. We accepted the resignation of our Senior Resource Officer, Gary Courtney, who is still greatly missed by the department and the senior citizens of Hampden. Other officers who moved on to other opportunities were Reserve Officer Josh E. Dufrense, Massachusetts State Police, Officer Carl V. Mazzaferro, Enfield Police Department, Reserve Officer Dominick A. Corsetti, Amherst Police Department and William J. Albano, Longmeadow Police Department. A big loss to the Town of Hampden and our agency came with the departure of Chief Douglas W. Mellis, who left to expand his career as Chief of Police in the neighboring Town of East Longmeadow.

Sergeant Jeff Farnsworth was selected to lead our department as Acting Chief until a permanent chief was selected.

Over the year, we have appointed Jason B. Roath, Tawrin G. Seega, Jeffrey J. Wojcik, Daniel D. Devine, Kevin A. Carroll and Marc S. Siegel to our reserve force, which brings us to the current number of twelve reserve officers.

Cheri Tanguay and Tim Lord worked as permanent part time dispatchers for us and have gone back to part time status only. Kayse L. Rosati resigned from a permanent part time position and has moved on. Cory A. Darrah and Khristy L. Lord were appointed to fill two permanent part time vacancies within our department.

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I was selected to become the permanent Chief of Police. Unfortunately, the town and I were unable to reach an agreement through contract negotiations, so I returned back to a prior position within our police department.

Over this period of time as Police Chief, I experienced a great deal and learned a lot in a short time. I had an opportunity to work very closely with other town agencies during the October flooding, which occurred in our town. I would like to say a "Job well done" to all those who were involved. Also, a special thanks to the Hampden Fire Department and Hampden Highway Department.

Hopefully, in our next budget; full time personnel can be restored and training can be reinstated. This will enable our department to give the residents of Hampden the best service possible.

I would like to thank all the members of the Hampden Police Department for the support they have given me as being their "Chief". A special thanks to Kathy Zanetti and Racky Kenison for all of their help and support. I would like to thank the residents of this town for their support and the Board of Selectman for allowing me this opportunity to serve as the Town of Hampden's Chief of Police.

Respectfully Submitted:

Scott B. Trombly
Chief of Police