



Keith Chapman
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

300 Garfield Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Police Department



Stephen Clark
Chief of Police

MINUTES
POLICE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Zoom Meeting
7:00 P.M.
December 2, 2020

Adam O. Roberts
Town Clerk

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
IN NEWINGTON CT
2020 DEC - 8 AM 11:09

In Attendance: Chief Clark
Mary Houle
Todd Russell
Ashlee Taylor-Love-Kailas
Town Councilor Gail Budrejko

Called to Order at 7:04 PM

I. UPDATE ON DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

A. Staffing

The department currently has two police officer vacancies and is expected to have a third vacancy in January due to another retirement. The department is in a hiring process looking for both certified police officers and entry level officers.

C. Calls for Service January 1, 2020, to November 30, 2020 compared to same period last year. The results show continued increases in crime.

Burglary **up 37%**
Domestic Violence **up 14%**
Larceny **up 13%**
Car Breaks **up 75%**
Stolen Cars **up 90%**
Recover Stolen Cars **up 142%**

D. Activities

The department is beginning to post Newington police general orders on the police department website for the public to review. More orders will be posted in the near future.

II. STOLEN VEHICLES AND THEFTS

The department is experiencing a substantial increase in stolen vehicles and motor vehicle thefts. The department has increased patrols in residential neighborhoods.

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Officers have made numerous attempts to stop suspicious and stolen vehicles. The vehicles fail to stop and engage officers in a pursuit. Pursuit policies prohibit officers from chasing these vehicles. The Town Council is drafting a letter to the Newington legislative delegation for assistance in curbing this problem hopefully through legislative actions.

III. JUVENILE DETENTION PROCEDURES

The current law states that no child may be placed in detention unless a judge of the Superior Court determines there is probable cause to believe that the child has committed the acts alleged and there is no appropriate less restrictive alternative available. Furthermore, that the level of risk that the child poses to public safety if released to the community prior to the court hearing cannot be managed in a less restrictive setting. Based on the present language it is very difficult to get a juvenile in detention.

IV. UPDATE HEADLIGHT & TAILLIGHT PROGRAM

The program is ready to implement and will start the week of December 6th.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sean Bevier

- Asked how often offenders are apprehended when fleeing from the police. Chief Clark responded: Not very often due to the vehicles and marker plates being stolen and identification being difficult.
- Wanted to know why the pursuit policies are so restrictive. Chief Clark responded: The policy is written by Connecticut's Police Officers Standards and Training Council and is based on how pursuits endanger the public, case law, and civil liability.

VI. MEMBER COMMENT

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Stephen Clark