



Keith Chapman
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 Cedar Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Police Department



Stephen Clark
Chief of Police

MINUTES
POLICE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Zoom Meeting
7:00 P.M.
Decemberr 8, 2021

In Attendance: Chief Clark
Todd Russell
Patricia Mahoney
Ashlee Taylor-Love-Kailas
Robin Aldieri
Paul Alderucci
Town Councilor Gail Budrejko

John O. Roberts
Town Clerk

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Called to Order at 7:05 PM

I. UPDATE ON DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

A. Staffing

The department currently has 3 vacancies with 3 sergeants retiring at the end of December for a total of 6 vacancies. A lieutenant is retiring in January and possibly another officer, which will result in 8 police officer vacancies.

C. Total Calls for Service January 1, 2021 to November 30, 2021 is 21,076. A breakdown of the calls is as follows:

- Burglary **163**
- Larceny **537**
- Car Breaks **403**
- Stolen Cars **61**
- Pistol Permits **461**
- Sexual Assaults **27**
- Traffic Stop Attempt- Failure to Stop **69**
- Traffic Stops **1,668**
- Arrests **637**

D. Activities

The annual "Stuff a Cruiser" toy drive took place on December 4th at Walmart and was very successful. The toys collected were donated to Newington Human Services and will be given to Newington families.

- II. POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BILL MANDATES AND TRAINING UPDATE
The department continues to meet the mandates set from the Police Accountability Bill. Officers are being drug tested and receiving mental health screenings in accordance with the legislation. The department recently trained all police officers on the state mandated use of force policy, which becomes effective on January 1, 2021. The state requires all police officers be trained by December 31, 2022. The department completed the training a year in advance.
- III. MOBILE CRISIS TEAM
The department continues to work with Newington Human Services and the Central Connecticut Health District on forming a Mobile Crisis Team to assist officers when responding to mental health emergencies. Funding sources are now being explored.
- IV. CAR BREAK UPDATE
Car break continue to be a serious problem. To date there were 403 car breaks compared to 278 last year. The Greater Hartford Regional Auto Theft Task Force, which includes Newington PD, is doing great work and have made a number of arrests. The task force is recovering a number of stolen cars and firearms. The task force is funded by grant money until December 31, 2021.
- V. LICENSE PLATE READER AND CAMERA SYSTEM
The department has been working on a License Plate Reader and Cameras System for the past several months. The units would be placed at various locations on the Berlin Turnpike and Cedar Street. The cost of the system is \$300,000. The town is considering using COVID relief money to fund the purchase.
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENT
During public comment, participants spoke about supporting the police department during budget time, marijuana legalization and drug recognition experts, response procedures for a Mobile Crisis Team, Community Service Officer and police officer recruitment, and the benefits from the police citizens and youth academy.
- VII. MEMBER COMMENT
Todd Russell spoke about PCC assisting the department with community outreach programs especially at a time when police staffing is a problem.
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT
Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Stephen Clark