

2003 Report of the Police Department

The year 2003 once again encouraged the police department to improvise continually to maintain priority services to the residents and the businesses of North Hampton, and also to provide the services needed for citizens who have been victims of crimes or any other type of incident in town. Throughout 2003 the seriousness of the crimes committed continued to escalate requiring more time for initial investigation and follow-up investigation by the officers involved. At the same time the department continued to receive countless calls from residents pleading with us to give more patrol to their streets to curb the serious problem of speeding vehicles and reckless drivers.

Because of the incredible support of the Board of Selectmen, the Budget Committee and the residents of North Hampton the police department is now back up to our approved staffing for the first time since 1991. The department also hired John Scippa to fill the Lieutenant's position on the department after this position had been left vacant for three years. With these changes the department was put in a much better position to investigate and solve serious crimes, and become much more assertive in the enforcement of traffic laws. This assertive approach has enabled the department to discover such crimes as Residential Burglary in progress, Transportation and Trafficking of Drugs, and Thefts from businesses at night. This approach also caused a significant increase in several categories of our yearly statistics. Examples of these increases are; total calls for service 8505 (+14%), total motor vehicle stops 2160 (+21%), total motor vehicle collisions 225 (+16%), total arrests 236 (+13%), and investigative case follow-ups 1164 (+67%). Below is a break down of some specific calls for service in 2003:

Inv. Case Follow-ups	1164	Under-age alcohol offenses	28
Assist fire and rescue	241	Criminal related arrests	104
Animal control	187	Juvenile related arrests	37
Alarm Responses	448	Motor vehicle arrests	70
Citizen Assists	138	Other Arrests	25
Directed Patrols	74	Driving while intoxicated	16
Domestic Violence Calls	48	Assaults	26
Protective order violations	6	Prosecution (arrest dispositions)	261
Child Abuse/Neglect	1	Burglaries	9
Dare instruction	22	Robberies	1
Motor Vehicle warnings	1829	Thefts of motor vehicles	6
Motor Vehicle citations	331	Thefts	123
Motor vehicle collisions	225	Forgery/Fraud	17
Weapons permits	47	Identity theft/fraud	5
Yard Sale permits	69	Vandalism	54
Assist to other agencies	293	Sexual Assaults	10
Sex Offender registrations	6	Drug related crimes	20

Overall, with the support of the town and our residents the police department has been successful in reducing such crimes as burglary (-70%), motor vehicle theft (-35%). We continue to enjoy our interaction with the children of the community by bringing Santa Claus to North Hampton, assisting with the Egg Scramble, teaching the DARE classes, and attending and controlling traffic at the annual school picnic prior to the beginning of the school year in August.

I would like to thank all members of the North Hampton Police Department for their dedicated service to the Town of North Hampton. Their teamwork work made it possible for the department to continue providing a high quality service while struggling with a considerable increase in Calls for Service. Congratulations for a job well done!

Finally I would like to thank the citizens of North Hampton for their never-ending support, which enables the police department to continue providing this high quality service.

Chief of Police