

Report of the Police Department 2006

The year 2006 once again continued to compel the Police Department to improvise continually to maintain priority services to the residents and the businesses of North Hampton. At the same time, the staff at the police department want to recognize the generous support of the Board of Selectmen, the Budget Committee, and of course the Residents of North Hampton in adding two police officers to the staff in 2005. As reported last year, the full benefit of the addition of these two new officers has not yet been fully recognized mainly due to the fact we had some minimal turnover within the agency in 2006, which required us to run a promotional process, and an entry level process simultaneously. The good news about this is we were extremely fortunate to have two very capable officers within the agency promoted to new positions. The Sergeant's process resulted in our former Detective, Joshua Stokel being promoted to assume a vacant position of Sergeant. Officer Peter Cormier did so well in that same Sergeant's promotional process, Lieutenant Scippa and I decided to award him the Detective position vacated by Joshua Stokel.

The department was just as fortunate when it came to the entry level hiring process that we needed to conduct to fill a vacancy in the approved staffing. This process resulted in the hiring of Steven Janvrin, who started in late September of 2006, and according to his Field Training Officers has excelled in performing his duties so far. Steven is scheduled to attend the New Hampshire Police Academy in Concord, NH between January 8 and March 9, 2007. Once he has successfully completed the academy he will return and complete the remainder of his Field Training, which will enable him to perform his duties independently as early as the end of May 2007. I once again feel compelled to commend Officer Gary Homiak, Officer William Adams, and Officer Michael Oliveira for their self-initiative, and for their willingness to accept the responsibility and the accountability in this critical process of training all of our new officers and making them ready to provide quality, professional services to the Town of North Hampton.

In 2006 the department once again saw increase in overall calls for service with total calls for service totaling 9,445. This is a 4.4 percent increase over the previous year's total of 9044. Arrests also increased considerably by increasing from 265 arrests in 2005, in comparison to 344 arrests in 2006. On-view arrests, i.e. crimes or violations in progress increased from 147 in 2005 to 215 in 2006. The remaining arrests in both years, are categorized as "warrant arrests," which are disposed by follow-up investigation by the Detective Division or the Patrol Division. In 2005 there were 118 warrant arrests compared to 129 such arrests in 2006. Although these figures are not excessive as it pertains to changes over one year's time, these figures are considerably high where they continue to compound with significant increases over the last three calendar years. In addition to these obvious increases, we also continue to maintain similar trends in the nature of crime in North Hampton, along with new trends such as armed robberies of convenience stores and, and recently considerable thefts and burglaries that have taken place in the business district mainly on Lafayette Road.

In June of 2005 Officer Michael Oliveira attended a federally funded school, which provided him with intensive training in leadership as a School Resource Officer. A great deal of this training concentrated on completing a School Safety Plan, and drills to conduct and the steps to take following the adoption of this plan. This effort has continued with collaboration with the fire department and the North Hampton School and the final draft of the plan is now completed and is being reviewed by the teachers and other staff at the school. At the point all parties involved have a clear understanding of the plan, we will implement the drills required to perfect all the procedures that have been documented. During the latter stages of 2006 I also met with representatives of the SAU, the Winnacunnet School Board, and the police chiefs' from multiple jurisdictions. This was done to assure everyone who has children in any of the area schools that all area police departments are willing and able to provide the "mutual aid support" in the event that there is any type of critical or unusual events.

On December 9, 2006 we also had our annual visit from Santa Claus, which took place at the Old Town Hall next to the police department. According to the feedback I have received from persons in attendance at the Santa visit, I once again can say that this event was a huge success. Without the efforts of North Hampton's Recreation Director Diane Wheeler, and volunteers from the Recreation Commission this visit from the North Pole probably would not be the success it is year after year.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of North Hampton for their never ending support, and also to remind them to call us if they see anything they consider dangerous or suspicious. The success of any police agency relies greatly on the eyes and ears of the public so please do not hesitate to call and make us aware of your concerns. We would prefer to receive your call, and find that there was not a crime being committed, than to not get a call and then discover that there was a crime committed and we were unable to intervene while it was in progress.

Brian P. Page
Chief of Police