



To: Hampton Board of Selectmen
From: Alexander J. Reno, Chief of Police
Date: 10 April 2023
Re: Police Department 1st Quarter Report

General Overview:

Throughout the 1st quarter, our leadership team has been hard at work identifying areas where we can increase operational efficiency and reduce costs to the town. These measures have included working with our outside agency partners to reduce the fees paid out by the town for services during summer operations, supply of personnel from partner agencies from the county and state to assist with patrol activities within the town at no additional cost to the department, additional grant opportunities, and cost sharing initiatives. As a result of the default budget for 2023, we have also had to look at significant training and operational restrictions to reduce the significant impact to our budget.

Aside from financial planning, the 1st quarter was dedicated largely to reorganization, stakeholder meetings, summer operations planning, and recruitment efforts which remain critical at this time.

Personnel:

Full Time:

Current Staffing Level: 36 Sworn

Authorized Staffing Level: 39 Sworn

In January, Officer Jarrod MacDonald completed field training and is now assigned to Patrol.

On February 1st, Officer Chelsea Hakker resigned her position as a Full-Time officer to pursue an opportunity with the Greenland Police Department. We wish her the best of luck in her new role.

On February 13th, Carson Webb was sworn in as our newest full-time officer. Officer Webb is from Dover, NH and is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Communications. We are excited to have Carson on the team. He is scheduled to attend the full-time police academy early this summer.

On February 27th, Officer Kalei Chase and Officer Dylan Hanson began their training at the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Full-Time Academy. They are scheduled to graduate on June 16th.

On March 16th, our Sergeant's promotion process was completed. At the end of the process, Officer Shannon Buczek was identified as the top performer and was recommended for promotion to the rank of Sergeant. This promotion will take effect on April 20th during a swearing-in ceremony at the Hampton Police Department. Sergeant Select Buczek began her career in Hampton in 2013. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Worcester State. She has also served in a number of roles in the department to include School Resource Officer, Assistant Prosecutor, and Summer Corporal. We are excited to have Sergeant Buczek as a part of our leadership team. She will be assigned to the Patrol Division as a shift Sergeant upon her official promotion date.

On March 17th Sergeant Stephen Champey was placed in a Temporary Service Out of Rank position to attend to duties as the Support Service Commander. This is a temporary billet designed to accomplish critical tasks while we work to identify a permanent replacement for the vacant position. Sergeant Champey has already begun making headway in the area of recruiting which will be recognized in Quarter 2.

There are presently 2 conditional offers of employment that have been given to full-time officer candidates. Those processes will not be completed until Quarter 2.

Part-Time:

Current Staffing Level: 21 Sworn

Authorized Staffing Level: 70 Sworn

On March 21st, Officer Brady McMillion resigned his position as a part-time officer.

Civilian Personnel:

Full-Time Civilian: 6

Authorized Full-Time Civilian: 9

On February 1st, Ms. Margie Esposito retired from her full-time position as secretary after 25 years of service to the Town of Hampton. We wish Ms. Esposito the best of luck in her retirement and thank her for her years of dedication and service.

On March 21st, Noah Graham resigned his position as a full-time dispatcher to pursue an opportunity in Littleton, Massachusetts. We wish him the best of luck in his future goals.

There are presently 2 conditional offers of employment that have been given to full-time dispatcher candidates. Those processes will not be completed until Quarter 2.

There is one conditional offer of employment that has been given to a full-time secretary candidate. The candidate has completed her background process and is expected to begin working in Quarter 2.

Department Operations:

In January, we met with the new Director of State Parks, Mr. Brian Wilson, on a couple of occasions. We shared some ideas and concerns with him as they relate to public safety, operations, and funding. Director Wilson was receptive to feedback and has agreed to further discuss how we can continue to work together, strengthen our relationship, and provide a safe experience for the beach area.

On February 7th, our department hosted a public information night on warrant articles 17 & 18. Axon, the body/cruiser cam vendor that we chose, assisted with this presentation. It was recorded and placed on Channel 22 and our website for anyone who was not able to make the meeting to view. Ultimately, in March, this joint article failed to pass.

On February 11th and 12th, the Town of Hampton was host to the 24th Annual Penguin Plunge and 15th Annual High School Plunge to benefit NH Special Olympics. This is a great event and one that we have been proud to be a part of since it's beginning. It was a beautiful weekend for the event. The two-day event brought in almost \$900,000 in their first in-person plunge since 2020. This event was made possible by a large number of volunteers as well as the assistance of our police, fire, and public works departments. We look forward to this event continuing next year.

On February 12th, K9 Icky and his handler Officer Brandon Whitehead completed Narcotics Detection Certification through the Boston K9 Academy. This training complements the Patrol and Tracking training that K9 Icky has already received.

On February 13th the Hampton Police Department responded to multiple reports of shots being fired in the town area. After a thorough investigation, officers were able to identify the area where the shots came from and quickly identified a suspect. Subsequently, Richard Butler of Hampton was arrested and charged with a number of felonies in regard to this matter. My thanks goes out to the officers in this case who were able to quickly isolate the incident and identify all parties involved despite very little available information. We also appreciate the assistance of NH Fish & Game who assisted us in this matter.

On February 15th we met with NH State Police to discuss our summer operations. The NH State Police reaffirmed their commitment to assisting us with public safety assets this summer in a variety of different ways that will assist us with proactive patrols and rapid response to

emergencies. We are thankful for the continued partnership with NH State Police and the various offices of that agency that assist us with keeping our community safe.

In February, we received notification from the U.S. Department of Justice that the town had been selected to receive a grant in the amount of \$1,376,000 through the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Technology Grant as a result of the 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act. This grant is for radio systems upgrades that will benefit the police, fire, and public works departments with some needed communications infrastructure upgrades.

On February 17th, along with NH State Police, AAA, the New Hampshire Office of Highway Safety, and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Hampton Parks & Recreation hosted us for a lunch and learn event with our senior citizens to talk about “Keeping the Keys”, a program designed to provide safe driving tips and help minimize driving risks for senior aged drivers. This event was well attended and we look forward to working with these partners in the future to provide similar presentations.

On March 7th, we participated with SAU 90 and SAU 21 school safety planning teams to continue our efforts to provide a safe environment as well as the most up-to-date response planning to critical incidents. In addition to these meetings with SAU leadership and the daily operations of our devoted School Resource Officers, our department has a team of officers that work collectively to enhance our readiness for critical incidents. This team is dedicated to advanced equipment acquisition and deployment as well as refining operational responses to critical incidents within our school community. We understand that planning and preparedness is key to prevention and response in these matters. The Hampton Police Department continues to diligently strive to provide the safest possible environment for the children of our community to learn and grow.

On March 15th, I met with area police Chiefs that had previously assisted our department with personnel coverage during our summer months. As a result of that meeting, newly defined operations plans and expectations were put forward and billed costs were reestablished. The end result is expected to increase efficiency in operations and drive-down costs over previous years. We are thankful for the outside agencies that have stepped up to assist us with our manning during the busy summer months.

As we enter into Quarter 2, we will continue preparations for our busy summer season. We have begun planning neighborhood meetings throughout town to address concerns in specific areas. Our first such meeting will be April 11th at 5:00pm at the Hampton Police Department for the North Shore sector which includes residents from north of Church Street on Ocean Boulevard to the North Hampton boarder and all neighboring streets along that route, and west to Locke Road. This will be followed by a meeting with the beach area residents in May. That date will be announced at a later time.

We continue to seek qualified individuals to fill our part-time officer ranks as well as our full-time dispatch team. More information on vacancies can be found on our website as well as at policeapp.com

Activity:

Our 1st Quarter 2023 Police Activities compared to same period last year:

CATEGORY	% CHANGE	Q1 2023	Q1 2022
Calls for Service	Down 9.93%	3818	4239
Motor Vehicle Stops	Down 36.07%	780	1220
Arrests	Down 16.24%	98	117
DWI	Down 62.75%	19	51
Drug Offences	Down 33.33%	10	15
Incidents Reported	Up 3.81%	218	210
Offences	Down 14.86%	275	323
Felonies	Up 21.88%	39	32
Parking Tickets	Down 33.14%	117	175
Accidents	Down 9.46%	67	74