



Police Department Monthly Report



James L. Cetran
Chief of Police

December, 2010

SPECIAL PROJECTS / ACHIEVEMENTS / INNOVATIONS:

On December 4, 2010 the Wethersfield Police Department conducted the first part of its hiring process by coordinating a written examination for the position of Probationary Police Officer. Four- hundred and fourteen (414) persons took the written examination at the Wethersfield High School. Five-hundred and eighty-one (581) persons had applied for the position. This represents a noticeable increase from the Department's previous Probationary Police Officer hiring process when in December, 2008 the Department received 558 applications and 361 persons took the written examination. The next portion of the hiring process, oral board examinations, are scheduled for the week of January 3, 2011.

In December, 2010 the Wethersfield Police Department submitted their statistics to the Connecticut Police Chief's Association (CPCA) for the 2010 holiday season. This time period included noon Thursday, December 23, 2010 to midnight, Sunday, January 2, 2011. The CPCA collects the statistics from each local department in four areas. During this time period the Wethersfield Police Department recorded 211 motor vehicle stops, four driving under the influence arrests, twenty-five motor vehicle accidents and no motor vehicle accidents involving a fatality.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES:

Patrol Division

Patrol Division (Cases of Interest)

On Tuesday, December 7, 2010 at 1:36 AM officers from the Wethersfield Police Department were dispatched to a commercial business on the Silas Deane Highway for a report of a burglar alarm. Responding officers found that the front door was smashed. Officers later determined that the only items missing from the business were cash and the business cash registers. A short time after this was reported, another Wethersfield officer saw a suspect vehicle on the Berlin Turnpike. This vehicle matched the description of a vehicle that had been used in similar burglaries in area towns. Officers from the Department tried to stop the suspect vehicle, however the operator of the vehicle did not stop and led officers on a pursuit that ultimately lead to Interstate 84, westbound. Officers discovered that this vehicle had been reported stolen in Naugatuck on November 19, 2010. The pursuit was terminated and the vehicle was later located abandoned off of Interstate 84 in Waterbury. This case remains under investigation.

On Saturday, December 11, 2010 at 6:43 PM several officers were dispatched to a home in Wethersfield for a report of a burglar alarm. Arriving officers saw that a car that had been driven into the lower level of the home. The lower level appeared to be a converted garage and the entry door had been knocked off the

frame by the impact and was ajar. The homeowner was contacted and confirmed that no one should have been in the home. During the search of the home it was discovered that the door leading from the finished lower level of the home to the main living area of the home had been forced open. An investigation revealed that the estranged husband of the homeowner was responsible for the damage to the home. He was subsequently charged with Violation of a Protective Order, Burglary Second Degree, and Criminal Mischief First Degree.

On Tuesday, December 28, 2010 at 7:55 PM officers investigated a disorderly conduct complaint. A subsequent investigation revealed that a man had picked up his ex-girlfriend in his truck and drove her around Wethersfield for a short time. During this time, he refused to let her out of the truck. He eventually let her out of the truck unharmed. Officers located this male at a home in Wethersfield a short time later and found him smoking marijuana. He was arrested and charged with Risk of Injury to a Minor, Possession of Less than 4 Ounces of Marijuana, Unlawful Restraint Second Degree and Disorderly Conduct.

Detective Division

In December, 2011 members of the Detective Division initiated or were assigned follow-up to twenty-one new cases. Major case investigations included two death investigations, one fraud complaint, one identity theft complaint, five burglary complaints and one armed robbery. Detectives also continue to perform local background investigations and background investigations for pistol permit applicants.

Detective Division (Case of Interest)

On December 12, 2010 officers were dispatched to a business on the Berlin Turnpike on the report of an armed robbery. Officers arriving on scene found that a male had entered the business and brandished a handgun. The male asked for the money in the cash register, as well as the surveillance tape. When the clerk did not hand over the tape, as the security system did not have one, the male became agitated and continued asking for the tape. The male then fired the handgun at a wall to prove the gun was real. The clerk fled from the store and the male ran out the door with the stolen money. Detectives are following many leads with an active investigation.

Juvenile Unit

In December, 2010 the Wethersfield Police Department, Juvenile Unit handled thirty-one incidents involving forty-four juveniles. In these incidents, five juveniles were arrested for criminal violations and four were diverted to parental punishment.

On December 16, 2011 the Wethersfield Police Explorers held their annual holiday party. This year post members received fleece vests as an annual gift. Vests were also given as gifts to police personnel who volunteered in assisting the program and post members.

School Resource Officer

In December, 2010 the School Resource Officer (SRO) assigned to the Wethersfield High School (WHS) reported covering eighteen incidents which were entered into the School Cop Database. These incidents resulted in seven case numbers and seven incident reports. These incidents included four arrests to include one arrest for Assault Third Degree and Breach of Peace Second Degree, a second arrest for Larceny Sixth Degree and Interfering with a Police Officer, a third arrest for Breach of Peace Second Degree and a fourth arrest for Larceny Sixth Degree.

The SRO, with the assistance of the Hartford Police Department Bomb Squad, investigated a suspicious situation at the Wethersfield High School. No explosives were detected nor located within the school.

The SRO also instructed two Civics classes in regards to the Bill of Rights. The SRO also made another presentation in an English class in regards to ethics and values. Finally, the SRO and a second WPD officer gave a presentation in the Career Prep class pertaining to careers in law enforcement.

Support Services Bureau

In December, 2010 Wethersfield Communications Unit personnel dispatched the Wethersfield Volunteer Ambulance to 104 medical emergencies and Aetna Ambulance to 234 medical emergencies for a total of 338 medical emergencies.

In December, 2010 Wethersfield Communications Unit personnel dispatched the Wethersfield Volunteer Fire Department to forty-three calls for service.

In December, 2010 there were forty-six calls involving animal control issues. Of those calls, thirty were handled by a part-time animal control officer and sixteen were handled by police officers.

In December, 2010 fifteen persons were taken into custody and held requiring 451 hours of incarceration. Of the persons held, nine were arrested by warrant. Support Services personnel transported fifteen prisoners to court to include ten males and five females. Also, during the month Support Services personnel processed twenty arrestees.

The Support Services Bureau Commander continues to receive requests for added or replacement street signs. Work orders completed in December, 2010 include replacing the existing 30 mph speed limit sign in the 900-block of Ridge Road (southbound) with a 35 mph limit sign, repairing the existing speed limit sign in the 700-block of Ridge Road and replacing the existing "No Parking Anytime" sign at several locations on Hartford Avenue. Finally, upon completion of roadway construction on Middletown Avenue near Broad Street, the Support Services Bureau Commander, along with the Town of Wethersfield Engineer, reviewed the traffic signage and made several modifications to include lowering the stop sign at Foote Path, removing the two-way traffic sign in front of 18 Broad Street, having the general contractor correct the curbing and finally removing the "No Parking" signs on one side of Middletown Avenue leaving the "No Parking" signs on just one of two sides.

Support Services Bureau, Training Unit

On Wednesday, December 1, 2010 six Department members of the Capitol Region Emergency Services Team (CREST) began attending monthly two-day training.

On Wednesday, December 1, 2010 an officer attended a one day training class entitled "The Bulletproof Mind—Psychological Preparation for Combat." This class was held at the Connecticut Police Academy, Meriden, CT. The instructor for this class was Lt. Col. (ret.) Dave Grossman. Grossman is a nationally known speaker and was a consultant in the Paducah school shooting and other major murder cases. The objective of this training program is to help understand officers' actions and behaviors prior to, during and after crisis incidents.

On Thursday December 2, 2010 Chief James Cetran began attending a course entitled "S-BELT (Scenario Based Executive Level Training.)" This program is designed to sustain and promote homeland security leadership across the country. Participants learn about leadership theories and traits that will assist them in planning and preparing for a national or domestic all-hazards catastrophic event.

On Monday, December 6, 2010 a detective began attending a five day training class entitled "Intermediate Crime Scene Processing." This training was held at the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden, CT. This detective had previously attended the Basic Crime Scene Processing class. Course objectives include lifting latent prints from unusual surfaces, locating and collecting trace evidence, learning casting methods and preparing a case for court.

On Tuesday, December 7, 2010 an officer, who is a member of the CREST team, attended a monthly one day training class entitled "Explosive Breaching School." Training was held at the West Hartford Police Department and the New Britain Police Range. This training included updates to explosives used by SWAT teams in breaching buildings.

On Wednesday December 8, 2010 a records clerk began attending a two day class entitled, "Uniform Crime Reporting Program, NIBRS-Format Training". This program will assist the administration in learning about the NIBRS dataset, how to connect to other NIBRS information sources and to easily create custom NIBRS datasets.

On Monday, December 13, 2010 an officer began attending a five day training class entitled "Interview and Interrogation Techniques for the Investigator." Training was held at the Connecticut Police Academy, Meriden, CT. Course objectives included ability to analyze verbal and written statements, identifying the most common interviewing pitfalls, identifying evasive verbal responses and non-verbal body language.

On Wednesday December 15, 2010 a sergeant began attending a course entitled "Connecticut Conference on the Prevention of Violence Against Women." This program is dedicated to addressing and preventing all forms of sexual violence through education, outreach and advocacy.

On Wednesday December 15, 2010 two lieutenants and a sergeant attended a course entitled "Law Enforcement Employment Practices Liability." This program, presented by Michael J. Rose Esq., and sponsored the by Town's worker's compensation provider, CIRMA, was an informative look at areas of employee liability in law enforcement. Areas included due process, discrimination, disparate treatment, harassment and retaliation.

Administrative Services Bureau

In December, 2010 police personnel responded to sixty-three police related alarms to include sixty burglar alarms and three hold-up/ panic alarms. Locations included twenty-eight residential alarms, thirty-two non-residential alarms and three state/ town government alarms. A total of 1,452 alarm permits are currently on file with the Police Department. During the month, fifty-three locations experienced a false alarm resulting in a 96% compliance rate. This month there were ninety-three items of correspondence sent in connection with billing, registration and false alarm violations with \$3,425.00 in alarm billing.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

In December, 2010 the Wethersfield Police Department Child Seat Technicians inspected/installed eleven child seats. The Support Services Division receives requests for this service via the Wethersfield Police Department website as well as phone requests.

The Support Services Bureau continues to address citizen complaints involving traffic, parking violations, and other motor vehicle violations. Citizens regularly complain of a variety of different violations on various town streets and several town schools. To address these complaints, officers performed selective enforcement at numerous locations throughout town. In December, 2010 officers performed selective enforcement six times and spent a total of three and-a-half hours doing selective enforcement on various roads in town.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

	December 2009	December 2010	YTD 2009	YTD 2010
Criminal Arrests				
Criminal Arrests	93	65	777	719
Family Violence Arrests				
Family Violence Arrests	8	9	98	101
Traffic Related				
Infractions/ MV Summons	302	248	2996	2725
DUI	31	21	236	189
MV Accidents	52	56	645	634
Parking Tags	44	79	742	1021
Miscellaneous Activities				
911 Calls	817	863	10189	9618
Alarm Responses	59	63	721	747
Records Requests	n/a	268	n/a	n/a
Prisoners Transported	21	15	192	165

The following are the burglary and robbery statistics for the month of December, 2010 along with comparative statistics for the same period of last year. The figures in the parenthesis represent the number of cases cleared by arrest or in which the perpetrators have been identified.

Criminal Activity	December 2009	December 2010
Residential Burglaries:	0(0)	5(1)
Commercial Burglaries:	0(0)	1(0)
Armed Robberies:	0(0)	1(0)
Strong-arm Robberies:	0(0)	1(0)